AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2026

7:30 PM

Location Ashfield Service Centre, 260 Liverpool Road, Ashfield

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. 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.

Accessibility

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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

1 Acknowledgement of Country

2 Apologies and Request for Remote Attendance

3 Statement of Ethical Obligations

4 Disclosures of Interest (Part 4 (Pecuniary Interests) and Part 5 (non-pecuniary conflicts of interest) of Council's Code of Conduct)

5 Moment of Quiet Contemplation

6 Confirmation of Minutes Page **Page**

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7 Condolence Motions

Nil at the time of printing.

8 Mayoral Minutes

Nil at the time of printing.

9 Reports for Council Decision

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10 Reports with Confidential Information

Reports appearing in this section of the Business Paper are confidential in their entirety.

The confidential information has been circulated separately.

ITEM

C0626(1) Item 24 Domestic Violence Hub Update

This matter is to be considered confidentially as it contains matters affecting the security of the council, councillors, council staff or council property (Section 10A(2)(f) of the Local Government Act 1993).

C0626(1) Item 25 RFT - 24 Callan Park All-Weather Sporting Ground Upgrade - Design & Construct Contract

This matter is to be considered confidentially as it contains 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.

C0626(1) Item 26 RFT - 29 Damun Inclusive Playground (Camperdown Park) Construction Contract

This matter is to be considered confidentially as it contains 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.

C0626(1) Item 27 RFT - 33 Ashfield Park & Camperdown Park Sporting Ground Upgrades Construction Contract

This matter is to be considered confidentially as it contains 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.

C0626(1) Item 28 Compulsory Acquisition of Ausgrid Property - 30 Brighton Street, Petersham

This matter is to be considered confidentially as it contains 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.

C0626(1) Item 29 Electricity Procurement (PEERS 4)

This matter is to be considered confidentially as it contains 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.

C0626(1) Item 30 Finalisation of Deed of Settlement with CivicRisk Mutual Limited

This matter is to be considered confidentially as it contains 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)(ii) of the

Local Government Act 1993) that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council.

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C0626(1) Item 55 Notice of Motion: Traffic study at Thomas and Edwin streets intersection, Croydon **737**

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C0626(1) Item 57 Question on Notice: Addressing resident concerns about Crystal Car Wash, Haberfield **741**

Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19 May 2026 at Ashfield Service Centre

Meeting commenced at 8:07 pm

Present:

Darcy Byrne	Mayor
Chloe Smith	Deputy Mayor
Izabella Antoniou	Councillor
Liz Atkins	Councillor
Olivia Barlow	Councillor
Andrew Blake	Councillor
Jo Carlisle	Councillor
Vicki Clay	Councillor
Jessica D'Arienzo	Councillor
Kerrie Fergusson	Councillor
Mat Howard	Councillor
Victor Macri	Councillor
Vittoria Raciti	Councillor (Entered the meeting at 8:11 pm)
Philippa Scott	Councillor (Entered the meeting at 8:10 pm)
Ismet Tastan	Councillor
Peter Gainsford	General Manager
Simone Plummer	Director Planning
Ruth Callaghan	Director Community
Sharon Bowman	Director Corporate
Peter Shields	Acting Director Property and Major Projects
Manod Wickramasinghe	Acting Director Engineering
Matthew Pearce	General Counsel
George Georgakis	Administration Manager
Sajjad Ali	Acting Chief Financial Officer
Manoj Singh	Manager Financial Partnering and Analytics
Scott Mullen	Strategic Investments & Property Manager
Aleksandar Spasenovski	Major Projects Manager
Katherine Paixao	Business Paper Coordinator
Tia Camelin	Business Paper Officer

APOLOGIES AND REQUEST FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION:

Nil.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST:

Councillor Barlow declared a significant, pecuniary interest in *Item 4 – Live Music and Major Events at Henson Park* as she has in the past performed contract work for Destroy All Lines. Out of an abundance of caution and to ensure no perception of impropriety, she will leave the meeting during discussion and voting on the matter.

Councillor Barlow declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 14 – Local Transport Forum Meeting - 20 April 2026 as she works in the Office of Kobi Shetty MP, who in her capacity as the Member for Balmain, has a representative on the Local Transport Forum. She will remain in the meeting during discussion and voting on the matter as the vote is exercised through a representative.

Motion: (Clay/Tastan)

That Council note the disclosures of interest.

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

Councillor Scott entered the Meeting at 8:10 pm.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Motion: (Carlisle/Smith)

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on Tuesday, 21 April 2026 and Extraordinary Council meeting held on Tuesday, 28 April 2026 be confirmed as a correct record.

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

Councillor Raciti entered the Meeting at 8:11 pm.

C0526(1) Item 41 Mayoral Minute: Condolence Motion - Aunty Ann Weldon AM

Motion: (Byrne/D'Arienzo)

That Council record our profound sorrow at the passing of prominent Aboriginal Elder, Aunty Ann Weldon AM, Wiradjuri matriarch, Redfern activist, Dulwich Hill local, and a driving force in the Aboriginal community for more than five decades.

Motion Carried

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

C0526(1) Item 42 Mayoral Minute: Condolence Motion - Rory O'Connell

Motion: (Byrne/Carlisle)

That Inner West Council acknowledges the passing of Rory O'Connell on 28 April 2026, following a brave battle with cancer.

Motion Carried

For Motion:	Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, 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 7 Public Exhibition - Draft Watercraft Management Policy**
2. **Item 13 Post Exhibition - Weed Management Policy**
3. **Item 15 Flood Management Advisory Committee Meeting - 4 March 2026**
4. **Item 16 Post Exhibition - Sponsorship Policy**
5. **Item 17 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee - 19 March 2026 Minutes**
6. **Item 21 Investment Report at 31 March 2026**
7. **Item 22 Local Democracy Group Bi-Yearly Report**
8. **Item 23 Tourism Action Plan Bi-monthly Update**
9. **Item 24 Microforests in Ashfield Ward**
10. **Item 26 Notice of Motion: 2SER**
11. **Item 27 Notice of Motion: Protecting swimming during the LPAC renovation**
12. **Item 28 Notice of Motion: Beautifying Macquarie Terrace Reserve, Balmain**
13. **Item 29 Notice of Motion: Support for Haberfield's 125th Anniversary Festival**
14. **Item 30 Notice of Motion: Improving the intersection of Marion Street, Darley Road and Foster Street, Leichhardt**
15. **Item 31 Notice of Motion: Cooks River Water Quality Testing**
16. **Item 32 Notice of Motion: Pedestrian Crossing - Victoria Road, Marrickville**
17. **Item 33 Notice of Motion: Safety on Carrington Road Cycleway**

18. **Item 34 Notice of Motion: Bicycle Valet Parking**
19. **Item 36 Notice of Motion: 100th Anniversary of Marrickville Croquet Club**
20. **Item 38 Notice of Motion: Lighting at Gadigal Greenway entry**
21. **Item 39 Notice of Motion: Vietnamese Refugee Memorial**

Motion Carried
For Motion: Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, 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 7 Public Exhibition - Draft Watercraft Management Policy**
2. **Item 13 Post Exhibition - Weed Management Policy**
3. **Item 15 Flood Management Advisory Committee Meeting - 4 March 2026**
4. **Item 16 Post Exhibition - Sponsorship Policy**
5. **Item 17 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee - 19 March 2026 Minutes**
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14. **Item 30 Notice of Motion: Improving the intersection of Marion Street, Darley Road and Foster Street, Leichhardt**
15. **Item 31 Notice of Motion: Cooks River Water Quality Testing**
16. **Item 32 Notice of Motion: Pedestrian Crossing - Victoria Road, Marrickville**
17. **Item 33 Notice of Motion: Safety on Carrington Road Cycleway**
18. **Item 34 Notice of Motion: Bicycle Valet Parking**
19. **Item 36 Notice of Motion: 100th Anniversary of Marrickville Croquet Club**
20. **Item 38 Notice of Motion: Lighting at Gadigal Greenway entry**
21. **Item 39 Notice of Motion: Vietnamese Refugee Memorial**

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

C0526(1) Item 7 Public Exhibition - Draft Watercraft Management Policy

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. **That Council publicly exhibit the Draft Watercraft Management Policy for a period of 28 days and seek community feedback on the proposed Policy.**

2. **That following the conclusion of the exhibition period, the Draft Watercraft Management Policy be brought back to Council in September 2026 for consideration.**

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

C0526(1) Item 13 Post Exhibition - Weed Management Policy

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council:

1. **Adopt the Weed Management Policy.**

2. **Update the Policy Register and publish, as applicable, internally, and externally the adopted Weed Management Policy.**

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

C0526(1) Item 15 Flood Management Advisory Committee Meeting - 4 March 2026

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council receive and adopt the recommendation of the Flood Management Advisory Committee meeting held 4 March 2026.

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

C0526(1) Item 16 Post Exhibition - Sponsorship Policy

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council:

1. **Adopt the revised Sponsorship Policy.**

2. **Update the Policy Register and publish the adopted Sponsorship Policy.**

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

C0526(1) Item 17 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee - 19 March 2026 Minutes

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council adopt the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 19 March 2026.

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

C0526(1) Item 21 Investment Report at 31 March 2026

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council receive the investment report for March 2026, noting that the $178m non-fossil fuel portfolio had an annualised marked to market return for the month of 4.53% pa (compared with the AusBond Bank Bill Index benchmark of 3.81% pa).

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

C0526(1) Item 22 Local Democracy Group Bi-Yearly Report

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council receive the report and note the 14 Local Democracy Groups' input to key initiatives included the Aboriginal Community Hub, Our Fairer Future Plan, draft Parking Strategy, Inner West Pride Walk and partnership with Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, and Youth Voice Summit.

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

C0526(1) Item 23 Tourism Action Plan Bi-monthly Update

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

1. **That Council receive and note the report which provides an update on the Tourism Advertising Strategy including three influencer collaborations that have launched in March/April 2026.**

2. **That Council notes the initial collaborations are a new communications tool for Inner West and acknowledges the success of this method shows it is something to continue exploring, including with the proposed upcoming content to highlight the Inner West Ale Trail, Inner West Distillery Trail and Special Entertainment Precincts.**

3. **That Council notes an outdoor advertising campaign focusing on street posters is being developed to compliment the digital campaign.**

4. **That Council notes the budget update provided in the report, which includes the proposed allocation of the remaining funds to an outdoor street poster campaign, additional influencer collaborations, external content creators and digital advertising.**

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

C0526(1) Item 24 Microforests in Ashfield Ward

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council receive and note the report that two microforests are planned for O'Dea Reserve and Bruce Street Reserve, with planting to take place before the end of June 2026.

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

C0526(1) Item 26 Notice of Motion: 2SER

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council:

1. **Acknowledges the importance of community radio stations, which serve to amplify local voices and artists, promote cultural diversity, foster community engagement, and provide grassroots information that is often overlooked by mainstream media.**

2. **Notes that 2SER FM (Sydney Educational Radio), which has operated successfully for 45 years, may be forced to close following Macquarie University's decision to withdraw funding.**

3. **Write to the Federal Minister for Communications the Hon Anika Wells MP, the NSW Minister for the Arts the Hon John Graham MLC, and the Vice Chancellors and CEOs of Macquarie University, UTS, UNSW, AFTRS, The University of Sydney and Western Sydney University, calling on them to urgently provide funding and support to ensure that 2SER FM can continue to operate and broadcast as a community and student run radio station.**

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

C0526(1) Item 27 Notice of Motion: Protecting swimming during the LPAC Renovation

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That:

1. **In order to ensure swimmers and clubs are not disadvantaged while Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre is being renovated, Council staff investigate:**
   a) **Opening the Inner West Council's year-round pools for longer hours at Ashfield Aquatic Centre and Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre;**
   b) **Introducing year round opening at Dawn Fraser Baths and Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre; and**
   c) **Negotiating reciprocal arrangements with neighbouring councils including Canada Bay Council for the possible use of Drummoyne Pool, Burwood Council for the use of Enfield Pool, Canterbury-Bankstown Council for the use of Canterbury Leisure and Aquatic Centre and City of Sydney for the use of Victoria Park Pool.**

2. **Council staff report back the results of their investigation at the next possible opportunity through the regular LPAC report to Council.**

Motion Carried

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

C0526(1) Item 28 Notice of Motion: Beautifying Macquarie Terrace Reserve, Balmain

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council:

1. **Staff:**
   a) **ensure that re-turfing done in Macquarie Terrace Reserve by Ausgrid following recent works thrives and is added to Council's maintenance program;**
   b) **investigate border planting to discourage parking on the reserve; and**
   c) **undertake pressure cleaning (or other cleaning as appropriate) of the memorial stone and garden bed around the stone.**

2. **Staff undertake an additional street cleansing of Macquarie Terrace, and ensure that bins are collected regularly, lawns mowed and plants tended to or replanted.**

3. **Staff review and report on measures that could be taken to improve pedestrian safety at the roundabout at the intersection of Macquarie Terrace and Rowntree Street.**

4. **Receive a report back to Council via briefing note.**

Motion Carried

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

C0526(1) Item 29 Notice of Motion: Support for Haberfield's 125th Anniversary Festival

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council resolves to provide the following support for a Haberfield 125th Anniversary Festival to be held on a weekend in October or November 2026 as follows:

1. **In-kind support, including:**
   a) **Access to Council's events team for planning advice and coordination;**
   b) **Assistance with required approvals, including road closures and bus diversions for Ramsay Street;**
   c) **Provision of Council-owned equipment such as barriers, bins and signage where available; and**
   d) **Promotion through Council's communication channels.**

2. **Develop a budget for a financial contribution toward core festival costs, including public liability insurance, staging, sound and essential infrastructure.**

3. **Liaise on the operational details with the organising committee, AshBiz and the Haberfield Association.**

4. **Report back to Council via briefing note.**

Motion Carried

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

C0526(1) Item 30 Notice of Motion: Improving the intersection of Marion Street, Darley Road and Foster Street, Leichhardt

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That:

1. **Council write to Transport for NSW advocating for the removal of recently installed "left lane must turn left" and "no right turn" signage in the south bound lanes of Darley Road.**

2. **Council monitor traffic conditions at the intersection.**

3. **If traffic conditions become poor, Council commence discussion with TfNSW, the developer and, if necessary, any development approval body, to return the south bound left lane of Foster Street to general traffic.**

Motion Carried

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

C0526(1) Item 31 Notice of Motion: Cooks River Water Quality Testing

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council:

1. **Notes that in July 2025 a potential algal bloom event was identified in the Cooks River catchment following notification from Water NSW.**

2. **Notes that during this event:**
   a) **councils in the catchment were advised to warn the public through signage;**
   b) **Follow-up water quality testing was available through NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) but would require cost recovery;**
   c) **The Cooks River Alliance does not currently have funds available for emergency water quality testing.**

3. **Notes that the subsequent laboratory analysis determined the algal bloom species were not considered toxic, but the event highlighted a lack of a clear protocol and resourcing for rapid testing and response across the catchment.**

4. **Notes that scientists from DCCEEW advised that many catchments maintain a small contingency fund to support emergency testing and response during potential algal bloom events as standard catchment management practice.**

5. **Recognises that the Cooks River is a shared waterway across multiple councils and that environmental risks such as algal blooms affect the whole catchment including areas within Inner West Council.**

6. **Resolves that Council:**
   a) **Advise on establishing a catchment-wide contingency fund for emergency water quality testing and response;**
   b) **Request a report to Council outlining options for Inner West Council to contribute to, or help establish, such a fund, including indicative annual contributions and governance arrangements; and**
   c) **Investigate and report on whether funding from the Sydney Airport fund can be directed toward catchment monitoring and water quality management in the Cooks River, in addition to infrastructure and other priorities along the River.**

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

C0526(1) Item 32 Notice of Motion: Pedestrian Crossing - Victoria Road, Marrickville

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council:

1. **Acknowledges Victoria Road, Marrickville, between Sydenham Road and Chalder Street is increasingly busy, posing additional safety risk to pedestrians and limiting safe pedestrian access.**

2. **Requests staff investigate installing a pedestrian crossing at this location and provides a report to an upcoming meeting of the Local Transport Forum before October 2026.**

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

C0526(1) Item 33 Notice of Motion: Safety on Carrington Road Cycleway

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council:

1. **Notes resident reports that the Carrington Road cycleway continues to pose safety risks to cyclists, including from vehicles parked in and across the cycleway, and vehicles failing to yield to cyclists at intersections.**

2. **Requests Council staff:**
   a) **Further review signage and markings along the cycleway, as well as kerb extensions and other traffic calming devices;**
   b) **Write to, and doorknock, all business owners on Carrington Road to inform them of their obligations to not park on the cycleway and to troubleshoot options to assist business owners with safe parking arrangements;**
   c) **Consult with Bike Marrickville on options to improve cyclist safety;**
   d) **Consider the installation of a pedestrian crossing across Carrington Road at Renwick Street, so as to improve pedestrian access, including for students at Tempe High School; and**
   e) **Provide a report to an upcoming meeting of the Local Transport Forum, prior to October 2026, including feasible options to improve safety along the cycleway.**

Motion Carried

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

C0526(1) Item 34 Notice of Motion: Bicycle Valet Parking

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council:

1. **Congratulates Bike Marrickville for its successful Bike Valet service at the Muddy River Festival in March.**

2. **Requests the staff within the traffic team and the events team meet with Bike Marrickville to discuss opportunities to trial an expansion of the service to other events across the Inner West to at least 3 other events in 2026-2027.**

3. **Request Council staff provide a report to the August 2026 Council meeting with a plan to trial the service at further council events, including any logistical, promotional or financial support that may be required to facilitate it.**

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

C0526(1) Item 36 Notice of Motion: 100th Anniversary of Marrickville Croquet Club

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council:

1. **Congratulates the Marrickville Croquet Club on reaching its 100th anniversary.**

2. **Thanks the Club's members, including President Roberta Flint, and writes to the Club to formally congratulate them on this significant milestone.**

3. **Acknowledges the anniversary in a future edition of Inner West Council's newsletter, Inner West News.**

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

C0526(1) Item 38 Notice of Motion: Lighting at Gadigal Greenway entry

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council resolves to investigate and implement appropriate lighting improvements at the Gadigal Greenway entry point accessed via Grosvenor Crescent, Summer Hill, to address identified safety concerns affecting pedestrians and cyclists, particularly when it is dark.

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

C0526(1) Item 39 Notice of Motion: Vietnamese Refugee Memorial

Motion: (Howard/Atkins)

That Council:

1. **Acknowledges the concern and hurt of the Vietnamese community about the consultation process undertaken by Council thus far on the plans for a memorial to commemorate Vietnamese refugees in Marrickville.**

2. **Requests:**
   a) **The General Manager and Director Community hold an urgent meeting with concerned residents, other stakeholders, and the Midjuburi ward councillors to discuss how Council can best support the development of a memorial that will be suitable for the Vietnamese refugee community;**
   b) **Establishment of a working relationship with the Bilingual Refugee Reference Group and other stakeholders from the Vietnamese community for community consultation on the memorial;**
   c) **Following consultation with the Bilingual Refugee Reference Group and other stakeholders, council staff prepare a report for the June council meeting outlining a renewed project scope and consultation plan prior to the commencement of an expression of interest process for an artist to produce the work; and**
   d) **Following consultation with the Bilingual Refugee Reference Group and other stakeholders, council staff prepare a future report to Council on developing a Vietnamese Refugee Heritage Day.**

Motion Carried

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

C0526(1) Item 1 Quarter 3 Report on Operational Plan and Budget 2025/26

Motion: (Scott/Clay)

1. **That Council endorse the Quarterly Progress Report for Quarter 3 on the Operational Plan 2025/26, noting that:**
   a) **95% of the actions were completed or on track, and 81% of measures were on target or within tolerance; and**
   b) **Highlights for the quarter included the official opening of the Henson Park redevelopment; Council's debut participation in Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras; various festivals, events and cultural celebrations including Bairro Português and Summer Hill social; FOGO expansion into schools and early learning centres; and launch of a new Inner West Council website.**

2. **That Council adopt the Quarterly Budget Review Statement including the recommended changes detailed therein for Quarter 3 2025/26, as follows:**
   a) **Increasing Council's net operating surplus excluding capital grants from $0.16m to $0.52m;**
   b) **Decreasing the Capital Works Program from $119.6 million to $100.1m, primarily to realign budget to future years in line with expected project timelines; and**
   c) **Increasing projected capital contributions by $12.2m.**

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

C0526(1) Item 2 Design Excellence LEP Amendment

Motion: (D'Arienzo/Byrne)

That Council defer the Planning Proposal (*Attachment 1*) – Clause 6.9 Design Excellence to amend the Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022 for a further report to June 2026 to include an explanation of the role of a Design Review Panel for residential development when Council is not the consent authority. Specifically, when an application is determined either as a State Significant Development or by the Independent Planning Commission.

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

C0526(1) Item 3 Inner West Return and Earn for public places, offices, venues and targeted Council events

Motion: (Howard/Antoniou)

That Council defer the Item to the June 2026 meeting, with the deferred report to include the following information as per the resolution of 28 October 2025:

1. **Options to support people relying on Return and Earn as an income supplement accessing containers in residential bins.**

2. **An update on a protocol for people who rely on return and earn as a source of supplemental income to access council venues and events and information on how options to support local organisations through Return and Earn might interact with this protocol.**

3. **Communications strategy to raise awareness among Inner West residents and community organisations about the expanded eligibility and about opportunities through the Return and Earn program.**

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

Councillor Barlow left the Meeting at 8:36 pm as she declared a significant, pecuniary interest in *Item 4* as she has in the past performed contract work for Destroy All Lines.

C0526(1) Item 4 Live Music and Major Events at Henson Park

Motion: (Byrne/Howard)

That Council endorse live music and major events at Henson Park, subject to the following actions:

1. **Complete a fire and life safety assessment for Henson Park and identify any required egress upgrades.**

2. **Implement stakeholder engagement and an event compliance framework (noise, traffic, crowd and operational controls).**

3. **Progress with a Venue Management and Operational Plan for Leichhardt Oval and Henson Park.**

4. **Review and update Fees and Charges for commercial live music and major events at Henson Park.**

5. **Schedule events around oval availability, seasonal sport and ground maintenance requirements.**

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

Councillor Barlow returned to the Meeting at 8:39 pm.
Councillor Macri left the Meeting at 8:49 pm.
Councillor Macri returned to the Meeting at 8:52 pm.
Councillor Raciti left the Meeting at 8:53pm
Councillor Raciti returned to the Meeting at 8:57 pm.

C0526(1) Item 5 Post Exhibition - Centenary Park Sporting Ground Upgrade

Motion: (Scott/Carlisle)

That Council endorses the proposed scope of works for the Centenary Park Sporting Ground Upgrade, which includes the renewal of turf areas, hybrid turf in the sports field goal mouths and centre circles, improved field drainage, additional trees and enhancements to cricket nets, furniture, fencing, signage, pathways and waste facilities.

Motion Carried

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

The amendment below was voted on prior to the above motion and was lost. Councillor Macri was absent for the vote on the amendment.

Amendment (Blake/Antoniou)

That Council endorses the proposed scope of works for the Centenary Park Sporting Ground Upgrade, which includes the renewal of turf areas to 100% natural turf, improved field drainage, additional trees and enhancements to cricket nets, furniture, fencing, signage, pathways and waste facilities.

Motion Lost

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

C0526(1) Item 6 Public Exhibition - Camperdown Memorial Rest Park - Draft Plan of Management and Draft Master Plan

Motion: (Smith/Clay)

That:

1. **Council publicly exhibit the Draft Plan of Management and Master Plan for Camperdown Memorial Rest Park subject to endorsement by the Crown Lands for a period of 28 days and seek community feedback on the proposed documents, and subject to inclusion of the following:**
   a) **Add in Table 6 Action Plan under 3. Increase pedestrian and visitor safety - 'Investigation of additional measures to reduce cycling speed, including go-slow and shared zones, separated cycleways, chicanes and speed bumps, and associated signage and wayfinding, including directing cyclists to use the external bike lane.'**

2. The public exhibition includes at least 2 onsite engagement sessions at the Park at times the Park is well utilised, notification in the Inner West News and on social media, clearly visible on-site promotional signage and letterbox flyers delivered to households within at least 75m of the Park.

3. Council refer the draft plans to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Access and Young Leaders Local Democracy Groups.

4. Following the conclusion of the exhibition period, a further report summarising outcomes and recommended next steps of the Camperdown Memorial Rest Park Draft Plan of Management and Master Plan be brought back to Council.

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

C0526(1) Item 8 New public plaza adjacent to Balmain Town Hall

Motion: (Byrne/Fergusson)

That Council consider the proposal at the June 2026 Council meeting pending:
a) A report on the commemoration for Rochelle Porteous and celebration of Mary Gaudron; and
b) More detailed designs of the commemoration of Neville Wran, including story boards and artwork to be located at the square.

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

C0526(1) Item 9 Dive In Events at Dawn Fraser Baths

Motion: (Smith/Fergusson)

That:

1. Council note the success of the trial Dive in Movie Night at Dawn Fraser Baths in April 2026.

2. A report on the proposed dates and activities for Dive in Movies and Sunday Sessions for Summer 2026/2027 be brought to the August 2026 Council meeting, including:

a) **a rotating schedule of Dive In Cinema and Sunday Sessions events across all five aquatic facilities;**
b) **a proposal for different types of musical acts for the Sunday Sessions considering local conditions at each facility; and**
c) **a communications/promotional plan for both the Dive In Cinema and Sunday Sessions.**

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

C0526(1) Item 10 Robyn Webster Upgrade

Motion: (Howard/Macri)

That a report be provided to the September 2026 Council meeting including preliminary concept drawings and initial costings for the upgrade of the Robyn Webster Sports Centre at Tempe, and that the concept drawings and initial costings incorporate the inclusion of a community space or meeting hall.

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

C0526(1) Item 11 Public Kerbside EV Chargers Utilisation

Motion: (Smith/Byrne)

That Council adopt the following recommendations:

1. **That Council continue planning for and working with Electric Vehicle (EV) charging partners to install public EV chargers to keep pace with increasing demand.**

2. **That charging providers should be requested to institute idle fees for AC chargers.**

3. **That Council gradually transition non-dedicated EV charging spaces to dedicated charging spaces, once overstay fees have been implemented and their impacts analysed.**

4. **That Council work with Council's kerbside charging providers to include DC fast chargers on the kerbside at strategic locations.**

5. **That Council undertake proactive mapping to identify priority sites for EV charger installation throughout the LGA, prioritising locations for pole-mounted chargers on existing poles and areas with low availability of off-street parking and higher density housing, to improve future EV readiness and rollout.**

6. **That Council investigate opportunities to partner with neighbouring councils for potential bulk installation of public chargers, including by region rather than LGA.**

7. **That Council receive a further report in six months to update on progress of public kerbside EV chargers installation, utilisation, and other initiatives in this report including impact of changes to fees and non-dedicated EV parking spaces.**

Motion Carried

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

C0526(1) Item 12 Greenway Activation

Motion: (Fergusson/Atkins)

That Council:

1. **Endorse the commencement of detailed planning for a 6km fun run event on the GreenWay. This will include detailed assessment of the route, operational requirements and community considerations.**

2. **Continue to support third party activations on the GreenWay such as cycling based events and bush care programs with schools.**

3. **Receive a further report to the August 2026 Council meeting detailing:**
   a) **confirmed delivery timeframes and next steps for the 6km GreenWay fun run; and**
   b) **proposed strategies to further increase participation by local schools and young people in GreenWay activations, including targets for new partnerships, programs and community participation opportunities such as "Walk or Ride to School" GreenWay days, Junior ranger programs, School cross-country partnerships using the GreenWay, Bike bus expansion programs, Youth Week outdoor recreation activities, Inter-school clean-up or ecology days.**

Motion Carried

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

C0526(1) Item 14 Local Transport Forum Meeting - 20 April 2026

Motion: (Fergusson/Tastan)

That Council receive and adopt the recommendations of the Local Transport Forum meeting held on 20 April 2026 subject to the following in relation to item 4 of those minutes:

1. **That Council reaffirms its commitment to deliver a safe cycleway on Lilyfield Road.**

2. **Notes that community consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Inner West Council Community Engagement Strategy between 9 March and 6 April 2026, and that:**
   a) **resident feedback and concerns were considered as part of the design; and**
   b) **any amendments arising during the detailed design phase that require localised consultation will be undertaken accordingly.**

3. **Acknowledges residents' concerns regarding the traffic impacts associated with the removal of the slip lane, including queuing and vehicle movements around the school precinct, and that:**
   a) **TfNSW has jurisdiction over traffic signals in NSW and council commits to advocating to TfNSW to maximise intersection efficiency as the project progresses; and**
   b) **advocates on behalf of residents by referring these concerns, together with the petition and supporting material provided, to TfNSW for consideration as the project progresses.**

4. **That Council guarantee that trees and green verges will be protected in the process wherever feasible for the duration of the project and if they are required to be removed - that these are replaced in the immediate vicinity and approximate maturity.**

Motion Carried

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

Procedural Motion: (Smith/Scott)

That Council enter into Confidential Session.

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

Council entered into Confidential Session at 9:32 pm.

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

C0526(1) Item 18 Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Upgrade – Monthly Update (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.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED DURING CLOSED SESSION

C0526(1) Item 18 Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Upgrade – Monthly Update

Motion: (Scott/Macri)

That Council:

1. **Receive and note the report which details the following progress since the last report:**
   a) **A contract for the delivery of the Leichhardt Aquatic Centre Stage 2 Project has been executed between Council and FDC Construction (NSW) Pty Limited ("FDC") for the Project Sum and Delivery Timing outlined in this report.**
   b) **The Review of Environmental Factors for the Stage 2 works has been finalised, based on the Project Scope.**
   c) **Plans for community engagement are being updated, to ensure the community remain informed of the Project Scope, Delivery Timing and interim arrangements that will operate whilst the aquatic centre is under development.**

2. **Consider the publication of this report on Council's website after the completion (end of defects liability period) of the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Stage 2 Upgrade, subject to consultation with affected parties.**

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

Council moved back into Open Session at 9:37 pm following the adoption of the Procedural Motion below:

Procedural Motion: Carlisle/Scott)

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

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

C0526(1) Item 19 Supporting Visual Artists and Writers to Find Affordable Spaces to Work in the Inner West

Motion: (Smith/Carlisle)

That Council receive and note the report and receive a report back before the end of 2026 on the Thirning Villa and Whites Creek Cottage EOIs (subject to any requirements under the Whites Creek Valley Park POM) including:

1. **Timeline and process for both EOIs.**
2. **Conditions for demonstrable public benefit in use of space.**
3. **Conditions for preferencing Inner West-based creatives.**
4. **Investigate trialling a space in Thirning Villa for bookings separate to the EOI lease process, in the model of the Creative Town Halls concierge service.**

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

C0526(1) Item 20 Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment - Project Status Update

Motion: (Byrne/Scott)

1. **That Council receive and note the report which details the following progress since the last report:**
   a) **The State Significant Development Application public exhibition has closed. A response has subsequently been provided to DPHI on all submissions received;**
   b) **The detailed design is progressing for the western grandstand, northern grandstand and lower bowl seating, supported by specialist consultants; and**
   c) **The procurement process to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced contractor to finalise the design and undertake the works continues, with three shortlisted tenderers determined through a public Expression of Interest.**

2. **That Council confirm that a free public concert is to be held at Leichhardt Oval in September to celebrate the commencement of the renovation of Leichhardt Oval. The event is to be funded from within the budget for the renovation.**

Motion Carried

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

Councillor D'Arienzo left the Meeting at 9:49 pm.

C0526(1) Item 25 Mandatory Reporting to Council of Reports Received from Fire & Rescue NSW for 2 Properties

Motion: (Scott/Carlisle)

That Council receive the report and note the following in regards to each property:

1. **21 Renwick Street Leichhardt – no action required; and**

2. **23 Renwick Street Leichhardt – a Development Control Order has been issued in order to ensure appropriate rectification of works as identified by FRNSW.**

Motion Carried

For Motion:	Crs Antoniou, Atkins, Barlow, Blake, 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 9:50 pm.

C0526(1) Item 35 Notice of Motion: Tillman Park Mural

Motion: (Howard/Byrne)

That:

1. **Council install a mural on the toilet block at Tillman Park, Tempe, following repeated incidents of graffiti at the park, funded through existing operational budgets.**

2. **Council request that this mural, once completed, be included in the Perfect Match Street Art program and be managed by operational staff in consultation with Community Directorate.**

3. **Council requests the Director Community report back to councillors via councillor briefing note as soon as practicable and following consultation with the Director Property and Major Projects, including a timeline for installation, artist information and concept.**

4. **The mural reflect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and connection to country, be delivered by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artist , and be designed in collaboration with the staff and students of Tillman Park Early Learning Centre.**

5. **Council investigate restoring the former signage, or similar signage, above the entryway to Tillman Park.**

Motion Carried

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

C0526(1) Item 37 Notice of Motion: Creating a Dulwich Hill Village Masterplan

Motion: (D'Arienzo/Carlisle)

That Council:

1. **Recognises the need to create a long term plan that guides improvements to Dulwich Hill village, its laneways, public spaces and commercial centre.**

2. **Commits to developing a public domain masterplan for Dulwich Hill Village that supports healthy communities and celebrates the vibrancy and character of the Dulwich Hill community.**

3. **Investigates options for a public plaza, new green open space and active transport links in Dulwich Hill Village as part of the masterplan process.**

4. **Notes that the Seaview Street carpark has been identified for potential social and affordable housing, a community centre and public plaza.**

5. **Acknowledges the community consultation and engagement undertaken for the Streets Alive draft masterplan in 2023, and notes that this work has not progressed to adoption, and should inform the development of the new masterplan.**

6. **Receives a report to Council at the August 2026 meeting on the strategy to develop a Dulwich Hill Village masterplan and includes:**
   a) **A consultation framework that embeds the Dulwich Hill Commercial Guild as a key stakeholder in the masterplan process, alongside the broader Dulwich Hill community with dedicated engagement sessions held before, during and after public exhibition; and**
   b) **A timeline to public exhibition and Council adoption of the masterplan.**

7. **Reconfirms Council's adopted policy at the September 2025 Council meeting in relation to the retention of car parking, "That Council commit that the conversion of carparks to social housing is to be premised on all existing public carparking being replaced in the development. There is to be no expansion of new parking meters at these locations, or any other location in the local government area.".**

8. **Commits that the future of the Loftus Street and Seaview Street Council-owned carparks will be planned through a genuine co-design process with the community, and local businesses, including community consultation on proposals for affordable housing and community infrastructure.**

9. **That Council in the master plan articulate a prioritised list of proposed active transport links surrounding the Dulwich Hill commercial centre.**

Motion Carried

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

The amendment below, to add an additional point to the motion, was voted on prior to the above motion and was lost.

Amendment (Antoniou/Barlow)

10. **That Council prepare an alternative parking plan to come into effect during the construction periods of Seaview Street and Loftus Street carparks.**

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

Meeting closed at 10:08 pm.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 1**

Title: **Code of Meeting Practice and Mayoral Election**

Author: Sharon Bowman - Director Corporate

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Rescind points 1-4 of its resolution of 9 December 2025 (C1225(1) Item 19) regarding the 2025 Model Meeting Code.**

2. **Immediately reinstate Council's previously adopted Code of Meeting Practice containing the mandatory provisions of the 2021 Model Meeting Code.**

3. **Continue to publish the agenda 11 days prior to the meeting.**

4. **Endorse a draft Code of Meeting Practice (based on the reinstated code with proposed amendments as follows) for public exhibition and invite submissions for a period of 42 days:**
    a) **Clause 3.9 – Amendment to specify that the deadline for Notices of Motion and Questions with Notice is 10am on the Monday of the week in which the agenda is to be published. If the public holiday falls on a Monday, then the deadline is extended to 10am on the Tuesday; and**
    b) **Clause 8.1 – Amendment to the Order of Business for Ordinary Council Meetings to enable Confidential Matters to be dealt with directly after Reports for Decision, as per Council's resolution on 9 December 2025.**

5. **Receive a further report following the conclusion of the exhibition and submission period, for consideration for adoption.**

6. **Receive a further report after the Office of Local Government issues a new Model Code of Meeting Practice.**

7. **Hold an Extraordinary Meeting at 6.30pm on Tuesday 1 September 2026 to hold a Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral Election in the Council Meeting Chambers at the Ashfield Service Centre.**

Executive Summary

- The *Local Government (General) Amendment* (Model Code of Meeting Practice) *Regulation 2025,* which prescribed the 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice for NSW councils, has been disallowed by the Legislative Council.

- As a result, the Office of Local Government has advised each council to rescind the resolution it made to adopt the 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice.
- This report recommends that Council rescind the resolution made at the 9 December 2025 Council Meeting, which adopted the 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice.
- The effect of rescinding the resolution made at the December 2025 Council Meeting is that the previous version of the Code of Meeting Practice, which was adopted on 19 August 2025, will immediately come into force.
- Officers recommend making two changes to the reinstated Code of Meeting Practice, which will require public exhibition of a draft Code of Meeting Practice. These changes are to enable consideration of Confidential Items earlier in the Order of Business at Council Meetings, and to change the deadline of Notices of Motion to enable the continued publication of Council Meeting agendas two weeks before the Council Meeting.
- Separately, this report also recommends holding an Extraordinary Meeting in September 2026 for the Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral Election.

Purpose

To reinstate Council's previous Code of Meeting Practice, seek endorsement of a draft containing changes to preserve some positive changes, and recommend holding an Extraordinary Meeting in September 2026 to conduct the Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral Election.

Strategic Direction

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

5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

Background

At the Council Meeting on 9 December 2025, Council resolved (C1225(1) Item 19):

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.*

On 28 May 2026 the Office of Local Government wrote to councils to advise that the *Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code of Meeting Practice) Regulation* 2025 (Amendment Regulation) which prescribed the 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice has been disallowed by the Legislative Council.

Discussion

The disallowance of the Amendment Regulation means that the 2025 Model Meeting Code is no longer prescribed for the purposes of section 360 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act) and the previous 2021 version of the Model Meeting Code now becomes the prescribed version.

Under section 360 of the LG Act, councils' adopted codes of meeting practice must not contain provisions that are inconsistent with the mandatory provisions of the prescribed Model Meeting Code. Council's current Code of Meeting Practice is based on the now disallowed 2025 Model Meeting Code.

Accordingly, to ensure compliance with section 360 of the Act, the Office of Local Government has provided the following advice:

- Council should rescind its resolution adopting the 2025 Model Meeting Code. This will have the effect of reinstating council's previous adopted code of meeting practice containing the mandatory provisions of the 2021 Model Meeting Code.
    - Because more than 3 months have passed since council adopted its current meeting code, the signatures of 3 Councillors are not required to rescind the resolution adopting the code.
- The disallowance of the Amendment Regulation does not prevent councils from including supplementary provisions in the reinstated version of their previous meeting code based on the provisions of the 2025 Model Meeting Code, provided they are not inconsistent with the mandatory provisions of the 2021 Model Meeting Code.
- If council wishes to make amendments to the reinstated version of its previous meeting code, it will be required to prepare and exhibit a draft code in accordance with the Act.
- Formal advice on a new code will be shared with councils when the drafting is complete.

It is therefore recommended that Council rescind its resolution adopting the 2025 Model Meeting Code, by rescinding points 1 – 4 of C1225(1) Item 19. This will have the effect of immediately reinstating Council's previous adopted Code of Meeting Practice, which was adopted on 19 August 2025 and complies with the 2021 Model Meeting Code.

If the recommendation is adopted, the remainder of this Council meeting will operate under the reinstated Code (*Attachment 1* of this report).

For future Council meetings, any Public Forums that are held will form part of the Council Meeting.

The General Manager will continue to:

- 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.
- Publish the Council Meeting agenda 11 days prior to the meeting.

In order to continue publishing the Council Meeting agenda 11 days prior to the meeting, Councillors will need to lodge any Notices of Motion on the Monday two weeks before the Council Meeting in question, in line with current practice. In order to include this timeline in the reinstated Code of Meeting Practice, Council would be required to make this change in the Code of Meeting Practice and publicly exhibit it. At the same time, Officers recommend publicly exhibiting a proposed change to the Order of Business, to enable the consideration of Confidential Items earlier in the Council Meeting agenda.

The proposed changes to the previous version of the Code of Meeting Practice which will need to be publicly exhibited are:

c) Clause 3.9 – Amendment to specify that the deadline for Notices of Motion and Questions with Notice is 10am on the Monday of the week in which the agenda is to be published. If the public holiday falls on a Monday, then the deadline is extended to 10am on the Tuesday.

d) Clause 8.1 – Amendment to the Order of Business for Ordinary Council Meetings to enable Confidential Matters to be dealt with directly after Reports for Decision, as per Council's resolution on 9 December 2025.

The draft Code proposed to be placed on exhibition for comment is included as *Attachment 2* and displays the proposed changes as track changes.

Mayoral election

This report seeks a resolution from Council to hold an Extraordinary Meeting on Tuesday 1 September 2026 to hold the Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral Election.

Legal and Risk Implications

The Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW is prescribed under section 360 of the LG Act and the *Local Government (General) Regulation* 2021.

Section 290 of the LG Act requires that the election of the Mayor by the Councillors be held during the month of September.

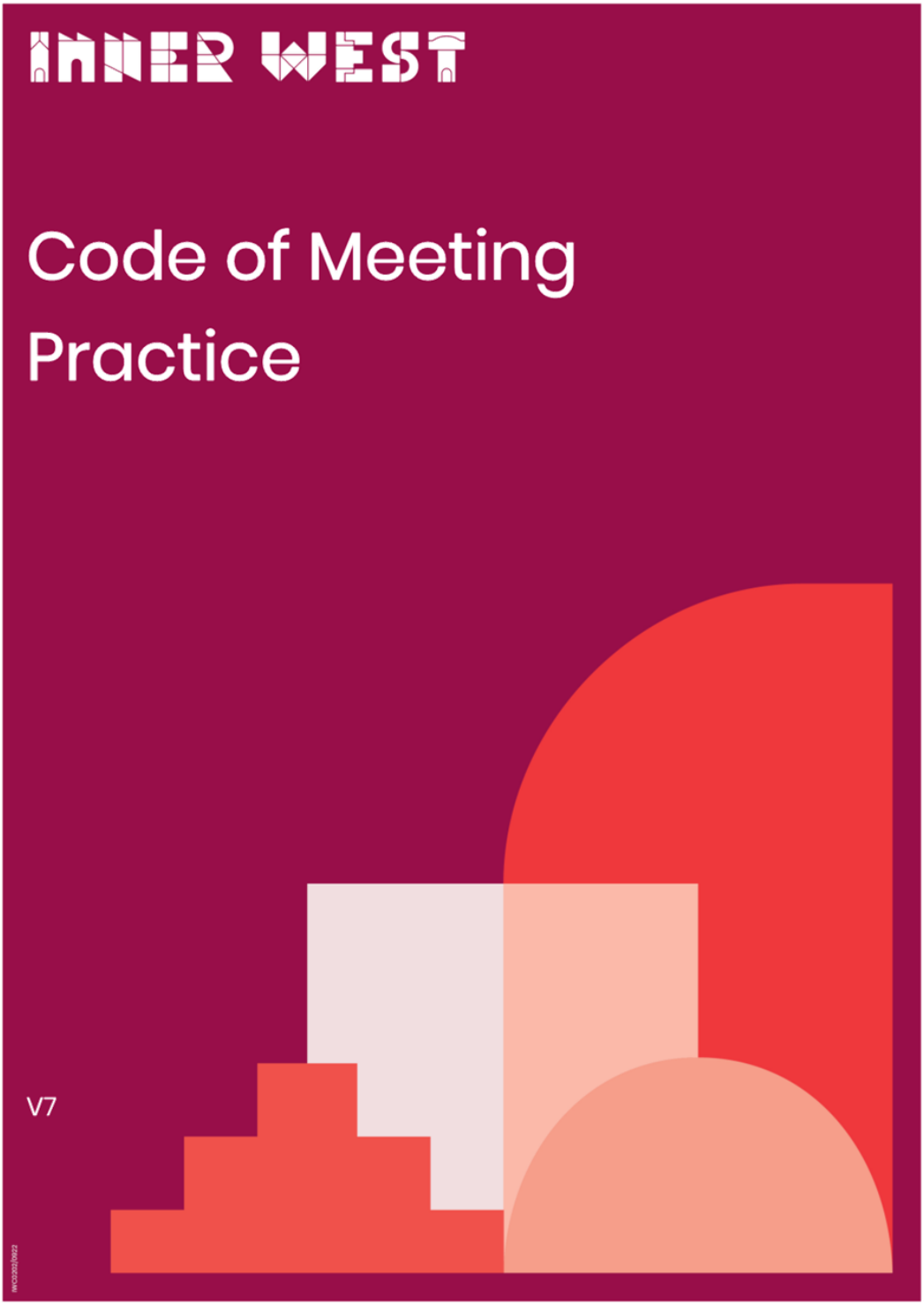
Financial Implications

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

Attachments

1.⇩ Reinstated Code of Meeting Practice

2.⇩ Draft Code of Meeting Practice for public exhibition


INNER WEST
Code of Meeting Practice
V7

Title	**Code of Meeting Practice**
Summary	The Code outlines the procedures for the conduct of Council and Committee Meetings.
Document Type	Code
Relevant Strategic Plan Objective	Strategic Direction 5: Progressive responsive and effective civic leadership.
Legislative Reference	• *Local Government Act 1993* • *Local Government General Regulation 2021*
Related Council Documents	Code of Conduct
Version Control	See last page

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW (the Model Meeting Code) is prescribed under section 360 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (the Regulation).

1.2 The Code applies to all meetings of Councils and committees of Councils of which all the members are Councillors (committees of Council). Council committees whose members include persons other than Councillors may adopt their own rules for meetings unless the Council determines otherwise.

1.3 A Council's adopted code of meeting practice may also incorporate the non-mandatory provisions of the Model Meeting Code and other supplementary provisions. However, a code of meeting practice adopted by a council must not contain provisions that are inconsistent with the mandatory provisions of the Model Meeting Code.

1.4 A Council and a committee of the Council of which all the members are Councillors must conduct its meetings in accordance with the code of meeting practice adopted by the Council.

2 MEETING PRINCIPLES

2.1 Council and committee meetings should be:

Transparent:	Decisions are made in a way that is open and accountable.
Informed:	Decisions are made based on relevant, quality information.
Inclusive:	Decisions respect the diverse needs and interests of the local community.
Principled:	Decisions are informed by the principles prescribed under Chapter 3 of the Act.

Trusted:	The community has confidence that Councillors and staff act ethically and make decisions in the interests of the whole community.
Respectful:	Councillors, staff and meeting attendees treat each other with respect.
Effective:	Meetings are well organised, effectively run and skillfully chaired.
Orderly:	Councillors, staff and meeting attendees behave in a way that contributes to the orderly conduct of the meeting.

Revision of the Code

2.2 The Council authorises the General Manager to reissue the Code without public exhibition to incorporate any amendments to relevant Acts, Regulations or formal advice from the NSW Office of Local Government.

Note: Clause 2.2 is a Supplementary Provision.

3 BEFORE THE MEETING

Timing of ordinary Council meetings

3.1 The Council shall, by resolution, set the frequency, time, date and place ofits ordinary meetings.

Note: Under section 365 of the Act, Councils are required to meet at leastten (10) times each year.

Extraordinary meetings

3.2 If the Mayor receives a request in writing, signed by at least two (2) Councillors, the Mayor must call an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held as soon as practicable, but in any event, no more than fourteen (14) days after receipt of the request. The Mayor can be one of the two Councillors requesting the meeting.

Note: Clause 3.2 reflects section 366 of the Act.

Notice to the public of Council meetings

3.3 The Council must give notice to the public of the time, date and place of each of its meetings, including extraordinary meetings and of each meeting of committees of the Council.

Note: Clause 3.3 reflects section 9(1) of the Act.

3.4 For the purposes of clause 3.3, notice of a meeting of the Council and of a committee of Council is to be published before the meeting takes place. The notice must be published on the Council's website, and in such other manner that the Council is satisfied is likely to bring notice of the meeting to the attention of as many people as possible.

3.5 For the purposes of clause 3.3, notice of more than one (1) meeting may be given in the same notice.

Notice to Councillors of ordinary Council meetings

3.6 The General Manager must send to each Councillor, at least three (3) days before each meeting of the Council, a notice specifying the time, date and place at which the meeting is to be held, and the business proposed to be considered at the meeting.

Note: Clause 3.6 reflects section 367(1) of the Act.

3.7 The notice and the agenda for, and the business papers relating to, the meeting may be given to Councillors in electronic form, but only if all Councillors have facilities to access the notice, agenda and business papers in that form.

Note: Clause 3.7 reflects section 367(3) of the Act.

Notice to Councillors of extraordinary meetings

3.8 Notice of less than three (3) days may be given to Councillors of an extraordinary meeting of the Council in cases of emergency.

Note: Clause 3.8 reflects section 367(2) of the Act.

Giving notice of business to be considered at Council meetings

3.9 A Councillor may give notice of any business they wish to be considered by the Council at its next ordinary meeting by way of a notice of motion. To be included on the agenda of the meeting, the

notice of motion must be in writing and must be submitted by 10am on the Monday, the week prior to the ordinary meeting. If a public holiday falls on this Monday, then the deadline is extended to 10am on the Tuesday in the week prior to the next ordinary Meeting.

3.10 A Councillor may, in writing to the General Manager, request the withdrawal of a notice of motion submitted by them prior to its inclusion in the agenda and business paper for the meeting at which it is to be considered.

3.11 If the General Manager considers that a notice of motion submitted by a Councillor for consideration at an ordinary meeting of the Council has legal, strategic, financial or policy implications which should be taken into consideration by the meeting, the General Manager may:

a. provide advice that the motion be deferred pending a report from officers

b. provide an officer's comment with the Notice of Motion on the business paper; or

c. if time permits, prepare a report in relation to the notice of motion for inclusion with the business papers for the meeting at which the notice of motion is to be considered by the Council.

3.12 A notice of motion for the expenditure of funds on works and/or services other than those already provided for in the council's current adopted operational plan must identify the source of funding for the expenditure that is the subject of the notice of motion. If the notice of motion does not identifya funding source, the general manager will refer the Notice of Motion back to the Councillor to identify the source of funding before it is placed on the agenda for the next Ordinary Council Meeting.

Questions with notice

3.13 A Councillor may, by way of a notice submitted under clause 3.9, ask a question for response by the General Manager about the performance oroperations of the Council.

3.14 A Councillor is not permitted to ask a question with notice under clause 3.13 that comprises a complaint against the General Manager

or a member of staff of the Council, or a question that implies wrongdoing by the General Manager or a member of staff of the Council.

3.15 The General Manager or their nominee may respond to a question with notice submitted under clause 3.13 by way of a report included in the business papers for the relevant meeting of the Council or orally at the meeting.

Agenda and business papers for ordinary meetings

3.16 The General Manager must cause the agenda for a meeting of the Councilor a committee of the Council to be prepared as soon as practicable beforethe meeting.

3.17 The General Manager must ensure that the agenda for an ordinary meeting ofthe Council states:

a. all matters to be dealt with arising out of the proceedings of previous meetings of the Council, and

b. if the Mayor is the chairperson – any matter or topic that the chairperson proposes, at the time when the agenda is prepared, to put to the meeting, and

c. all matters, including matters that are the subject of staff reports and reports of committees, to be considered at the meeting, and

d. any business of which due notice has been given under clause 3.9.

3.18 Nothing in clause 3.17 limits the powers of the Mayor to put a Mayoral minute to a meeting under clause 9.6.

3.19 The General Manager must not include in the agenda for a meeting of the Council any business of which due notice has been given if, in the opinion of the General Manager, the business is, or the implementation of the business would be, unlawful. The General Manager must report, without giving details of the item of business, any such exclusion to the next meeting of the Council.

3.20 Where the agenda includes the receipt of information or discussion of other matters that, in the opinion of the General Manager, is likely to take place when the meeting is closed to the public, the General

Manager must ensure that the agenda of the meeting:

a. identifies the relevant item of business and indicates that it is of such a nature (without disclosing details of the information to be considered when the meeting is closed to the public), and

b. states the grounds under section 10A (2) of the Act relevant to the item of business.

Note: Clause 3.20 reflects section 9(2A) (a) of the Act.

3.21 The General Manager must ensure that the details of any item of business which, in the opinion of the General Manager, is likely to be considered when the meeting is closed to the public, are included in a business paper provided to Councillors for the meeting concerned. Such details must not be included in the business papers made available to the public and must not be disclosed by a Councillor or by any other person to another person who is not authorised to have that information.

Statement of ethical obligations

3.22 Business papers for all ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the Council and committees of the Council must contain a statement reminding Councillors of their oath or affirmation of office made under section 233A of the Act and their obligations under the Council's code of conduct to discloseand appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

Availability of the agenda and business papers to the public

3.23 Copies of the agenda and the associated business papers, such as correspondence and reports for meetings of the Council and committees ofCouncil, are to be published on the Council's website, and must be made available to the public for inspection, or for taking away by any person free of charge at the offices of the Council, at the relevant meeting and at such other venues determined by the Council.

Note: Clause 3.23 reflects section 9(2) and (4) of the Act.

3.24 Clause 3.23 does not apply to the business papers for items of business that the General Manager has identified under clause 3.21 as being likely to be considered when the meeting is closed to the

public.

Note: Clause 3.24 reflects section 9(2A)(b) of the Act.

3.25 For the purposes of clause 3.23, copies of agendas and business papers must be published on the Council's website and made available to the public at a time that is as close as possible to the time they are available toCouncillors.

Note: Clause 3.25 reflects section 9(3) of the Act.

3.26 A copy of an agenda, or of an associated business paper made available under clause 3.23, may in addition be given or made available in electronicform.

Note: Clause 3.26 reflects section 9(5) of the Act.

Agenda and business papers for extraordinary meetings

3.27 The General Manager must ensure that the agenda for an extraordinary meeting of the Council deals only with the matters stated in the notice of the meeting.

3.28 Despite clause 3.27, business may be considered at an extraordinary meeting of the Council, even though due notice of the business has notbeen given, if:

a. a motion is passed to have the business considered at the meeting, and

b. the business to be considered is ruled by the chairperson to be of great urgency on the grounds that it requires a decision by the Council before the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the Council.

3.29 A motion moved under clause 3.28(a) can be moved without notice but only after the business notified in the agenda for the extraordinary meetinghas been dealt with.

3.30 Despite clauses 10.20–10.30, only the mover of a motion moved under clause 3.28(a) can speak to the motion before it is put.

3.31 A motion of dissent cannot be moved against a ruling of the chairpersonunder clause 3.28(b) on whether a matter is of great urgency.

Pre-meeting briefing sessions

3.32 Prior to each ordinary meeting of the Council, the General Manager may arrange a pre-meeting briefing session to brief Councillors on business to be considered at the meeting. Pre-meeting briefing sessions may also be held for extraordinary meetings of the Council and meetings of committeesof the Council.

3.33 Pre-meeting briefing sessions are to be held in the absence of the public.

3.34 Pre-meeting briefing sessions may be held by audio-visual link.

3.35 The General Manager or a member of staff nominated by the GeneralManager is to preside at pre-meeting briefing sessions.

3.36 Councillors must not use pre-meeting briefing sessions to debate or makepreliminary decisions on items of business they are being briefed on, and any debate and decision-making must be left to the formal Council or committee meeting at which the item of business is to be considered.

3.37 Councillors (including the Mayor) must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in relation to any item of business that is the subject of a briefing at a pre-meeting briefing session, in the same way that they arerequired to do so at a Council or committee meeting. The Council is to maintain a written record of all conflict of interest declarations made at pre- meeting briefing sessions and how the conflict of interest was managed by the Councillor who made the declaration.

3.38 The rules set out in clauses 15.11-15.17 for keeping order at a meeting apply to briefings.

4 PUBLIC FORUM

4.1 The Council may hold a public forum prior to the consideration of Condolence Motions and Mayoral Minutes for the purpose of hearing oral submissions from members of the public on items of business to be considered at the meeting.

4.2 Public forums may be held by audio-visual link.

4.3 Public forums are to be chaired in accordance with clauses 6.1 and

6.2.

4.4 To speak at a public forum, a person must first make an application to the Council in the approved form. Applications to speak at the public forum must be received by 2pm on the day of the Council meeting and must identify the item of business on the agenda of the Council meeting the person wishes to speak on, and whether they wish to speak 'for' or 'against' the item.

4.5 A person may apply to speak on no more than 3 items of business on the agenda of the Council meeting.

4.6 Legal representatives acting on behalf of others are not to be permitted to speak at a public forum unless they identify their status as a legal representative when applying to speak at the public forum.

4.7 The General Manager or their delegate may refuse an application to speak at a public forum. The General Manager or their delegate must give reasons in writing for a decision to refuse an application.

4.8 No more than 3 speakers are to be permitted to speak 'for' or 'against' each item of business on the agenda for the Council meeting.

4.9 If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to speak 'for' or 'against' any item of business, the General Manager or their delegate may request the speakers to nominate from among themselves the persons who are to address the Council on the item of business. If the speakers are not able to agree on whom to nominate to address the Council, the General Manager or their delegate is to determine who will address the Council at the public forum.

4.10 If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to speak 'for' or 'against' any item of business, the General Manager or their delegate may, in consultation with the Mayor or the Mayor's nominated chairperson, increase the number of speakers permitted to speak on an item of business, where they are satisfied that it is necessary to do so to allow the Council to hear a fuller range of views on the relevant item of business.

4.11 Approved speakers at the public forum are to register with the Council any written, visual or audio material to be presented in support of their address to the Council at the public forum, and to identify any equipment needs no later than 2.00pm on the day of the

public forum. The General Manager or their delegate may refuse to allow such material to be presented.

4.12 The General Manager or their delegate is to determine the order of speakers at the public forum.

4.13 Each speaker will be allowed 3 minutes to address the Council. This time is to be strictly enforced by the chairperson.

4.14 Speakers at public forums must not digress from the item on the agenda of the Council meeting they have applied to address the Council on. If a speaker digresses to irrelevant matters, the chairperson is to direct the speaker not to do so. If a speaker fails to observe a direction from the chairperson, the speaker will not be further heard.

4.15 A Councillor (including the chairperson) may, through the chairperson, ask questions of a speaker following their address at a public forum. Questions put to a speaker must be direct, succinct and without argument.

4.16 Speakers are under no obligation to answer a question put under clause 4.15. Answers by the speaker, to each question are to be limited to 2 minutes.

4.17 Speakers at public forums cannot ask questions of the Council, Councillors, or Council staff.

4.18 The General Manager or their nominee may, with the concurrence of the chairperson, address the Council for up to 2 minutes in response to an address to the Council at a public forum after the address and any subsequent questions and answers have been finalised.

4.19 Where an address made at a public forum raises matters that require further consideration by Council staff, the General Manager may recommend that the Council defer consideration of the matter pending the preparation of a further report on the matters.

4.20 When addressing the Council, speakers at public forums must comply with this code and all other relevant Council codes, policies, and procedures. Speakers must refrain from engaging in disorderly conduct, publicly alleging breaches of the Council's code of conduct or making other potentially defamatory statements.

4.21 If the chairperson considers that a speaker at a public forum has engaged in conduct of the type referred to in clause 4.20, the chairperson may request the person to refrain from the inappropriate behaviour and to withdraw and unreservedly apologise for any inappropriate comments. Where the speaker fails to comply with the chairperson's request, the chairperson may immediately require the person to stop speaking.

4.22 Clause 4.2 does not limit the ability of the chairperson to deal with disorderly conduct by speakers at public forums in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of this code.

4.23 Where a speaker engages in conduct of the type referred to in clause 4.20, the General Manager or their delegate may refuse further applications from that person to speak at public forums for such a period as the General Manager or their delegate considers appropriate.

4.24 Councillors (including the Mayor) must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in relation to any item of business that is the subject of an address at a public forum, in the same way that they are required to do so at a Council or committee meeting. The Council is to maintain a written record of all conflict of interest declarations made at public forums and how the conflict of interest was managed by the Councillor who made the declaration.

4.25 Where an item has been listed on a Council Meeting agenda, including Extraordinary Meetings and formed part of the public forum for that meeting, should those items be held over to a future meeting of Council, those items will not form part of another public forum at a future meeting.

Note: Public forums should not be held as part of a Council or committee meeting. Council or committee meetings should be reserved for decision-making by the Council or committee of Council. Where a public forum is held as part of a Council or committee meeting, it must be conducted in

accordance with the other requirements of this code relating to the conduct of Council and committee meetings.

5 COMING TOGETHER

Attendance by Councillors at meetings

5.1 All Councillors must make reasonable efforts to attend meetings of theCouncil and of committees of the Council of which they are members.

Note: A Councillor may not attend a meeting as a Councillor (other thanthe first meeting of the Council after the Councillor is elected or a meeting at which the Councillor takes an oath or makes an affirmation ofoffice) until they have taken an oath or made an affirmation of office in the form prescribed under section 233A of the Act.

5.2 A Councillor cannot participate in a meeting of the Council or of a committee of the Council unless personally present at the meeting, unlesspermitted to attend the meeting by audio-visual link under this code.

5.3 Where a Councillor is unable to attend one or more ordinary meetings of theCouncil, the Councillor should request that the Council grant them a leave of absence from those meetings. This clause does not prevent a Councillor from making an apology if they are unable to attend a meeting. However, the acceptance of such an apology does not constitute the granting of a leave of absence for the purposes of this code and the Act.

5.4 A Councillor's request for leave of absence from Council meetings should, ifpracticable, identify (by date) the meetings from which the Councillor intends to be absent and the grounds upon which the leave of absence is being sought.

5.5 The Council must act reasonably when considering whether to grant a Councillor's request for a leave of absence.

5.6 A Councillor's civic office will become vacant if the Councillor is absent fromthree (3) consecutive ordinary meetings of the Council without prior leave ofthe Council or leave granted by the Council at any of the meetings concerned, unless the holder is absent because

they have been suspendedfrom office under the Act, or because the Council has been suspended under the Act, or as a consequence of a compliance order under section 438HA.

Note: Clause 5.6 reflects section 234(1)(d) of the Act.

5.7 A Councillor who intends to attend a meeting of the Council despite having been granted a leave of absence should, if practicable, give the General Manager at least two (2) days' notice of their intention to attend.

The quorum for a meeting

5.8 The quorum for a meeting of the Council is a majority of the Councillors of the Council who hold office at that time and are not suspended from office.

Note: Clause 5.9 reflects section 368(1) of the Act.

5.9 Clause 5.7 does not apply if the quorum is required to be determined in accordance with directions of the Minister in a performance improvementorder issued in respect of the Council.

Note: Clause 5.10 reflects section 368(2) of the Act.

5.10 A meeting of the Council must be adjourned if a quorum is not present:

a. at the commencement of the meeting where the number of apologies received for the meeting indicates that there will not be a quorum for the meeting, or

b. within half an hour after the time designated for the holding of the meeting, or

c. at any time during the meeting.

d. In either case, the meeting must be adjourned to a time, date, and place fixed:

e. by the chairperson, or

f. in the chairperson's absence, by the majority of the Councillors present, or

g. failing that, by the General Manager.

5.11 The General Manager must record in the Council's minutes the

circumstances relating to the absence of a quorum (including the reasons for the absence of a quorum) at or arising during a meeting of the Council together with the names of the Councillors present.

5.12 Where, prior to the commencement of a meeting, it becomes apparent that a quorum may not be present at the meeting, or that the health, safety or welfare of Councillors, Council staff and members of the public may be put at risk by attending the meeting because of a natural disaster or a public health emergency, the Mayor may, in consultation with the General Manager and, as far as is practicable, with each Councillor, cancel the meeting. Where a meeting is cancelled, notice of the cancellation must be published on the Council's website and in such other manner that the Council is satisfied is likely to bring notice of the cancellation to the attentionof as many people as possible.

5.13 Where a meeting is cancelled under clause 5.12, the business to be considered at the meeting may instead be considered, where practicable, atthe next ordinary meeting of the Council or at an extraordinary meeting called under clause 3.2.

5.14 Where an item has been listed on a Council Meeting agenda, including Extraordinary Meetings and formed part of the public forum for that meeting, should those items be held over to a future meeting of Council, those items will not form part of another public forum at a future meeting.

Meetings held by audio-visual link

5.15 A meeting of the Council or a committee of the Council may be held by audio-visual link where the Mayor determines that the meeting should be held by audio-visual link because of a natural disaster or a public health emergency. The Mayor may only make a determination under this clause where they are satisfied that attendance at the meeting may put the healthand safety of Councillors and staff at risk. The Mayor must make a determination under this clause in consultation with the General Manager and, as far as is practicable, with each Councillor.

5.16 Where the Mayor determines under clause 5.16 that a meeting is to be heldby audio-visual link, the General Manager must:

a. give written notice to all Councillors that the meeting is to be held by audio-visual link, and

b. take all reasonable steps to ensure that all Councillors can participate in the meeting by audio-visual link, and

c. cause a notice to be published on the Council's website and in such other manner the General Manager is satisfied will bring it to the attention of as many people as possible, advising that the meeting is to be held by audio-visual link and providing information about where members of the public may view the meeting.

5.17 This code applies to a meeting held by audio-visual link under clause 5.16 in the same way it would if the meeting was held in person.

Note: Where a Council holds a meeting by audio-visual link under clause5.16, it is still required under section 10 of the Act to provide a physical venue for members of the public to attend in person and observe the meeting.

Attendance by Councillors at meetings by audio-visual link

5.18 Councillors may attend and participate in meetings of the Council andcommittees of the Council by audio-visual link with the approval of theCouncil or the relevant committee.

5.19 A request by a Councillor for approval to attend a meeting by audio-visual link must be made in writing to the General Manager prior to the meeting inquestion and must provide reasons why the Councillor will be prevented from attending the meeting in person.

5.20 Councillors may request approval to attend more than one meeting by audio-visual link. Where a Councillor requests approval to attend more thanone meeting by audio-visual link, the request must specify the meetings therequest relates to in addition to the information required under clause 5.19.

5.21 The Council must comply with the Health Privacy Principles prescribed under the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002* when collecting, holding, using and disclosing health information in connectionwith a request by a Councillor to attend a meeting by audio-visual link.

5.22 A Councillor who has requested approval to attend a meeting of the

Councilor a committee of the Council by audio-visual link may participate in the meeting by audio-visual link until the Council or committee determines whether to approve their request and is to be taken as present at the meeting. The Councillor may participate in a decision in relation to their request to attend the meeting by audio-visual link.

5.23 A decision whether to approve a request by a Councillor to attend a meetingof the Council or a committee of the Council by audio-visual link must be made by a resolution of the Council or the committee concerned. The resolution must state:

a. the meetings the resolution applies to, and

b. the reason why the Councillor is being permitted to attend the meetings by audio-visual link where it is on grounds other than illness, disability, or caring responsibilities.

5.24 If the Council or committee refuses a Councillor's request to attend a meeting by audio-visual link, their link to the meeting is to be terminated.

5.25 A decision whether to approve a Councillor's request to attend a meeting byaudio-visual link is at the Council's or the relevant committee's discretion. The Council and committees of the Council must act reasonably when considering requests by Councillors to attend meetings by audio-visual link.However, the Council and committees of the Council are under no obligation to approve a Councillor's request to attend a meeting by audio- visual link where the technical capacity does not exist to allow the Councillor to attend the meeting by these means.

5.26 The Council and committees of the Council may refuse a Councillor's request to attend a meeting by audio-visual link where the Council or committee is satisfied that the Councillor has failed to appropriately declareand manage conflicts of interest, observe confidentiality or to comply with this code on one or more previous occasions they have attended a meetingof the Council or a committee of the Council by audio-visual link.

5.27 This code applies to a Councillor attending a meeting by audio-visual link in the same way it would if the Councillor was attending the

meeting in person.Where a Councillor is permitted to attend a meeting by audio-visual link under this code, they are to be taken as attending the meeting in person for the purposes of the code and will have the same voting rights as if they were attending the meeting in person.

5.28 A Councillor must give their full attention to the business and proceedings ofthe meeting when attending a meeting by audio-visual link. The Councillor'scamera must be on at all times during the meeting except, except where it is impracticable to do so or, as may be otherwise provided for under this code.

5.29 A Councillor must be appropriately dressed when attending a meeting by audio-visual link and must ensure that no items are within sight of the meeting that are inconsistent with the maintenance of order at the meetingor that are likely to bring the Council or the committee into disrepute.

Entitlement of the public to attend Council meetings

5.30 Everyone is entitled to attend a meeting of the Council and committees ofthe Council. The Council must ensure that all meetings of the Council andcommittees of the Council are open to the public.

Note: Clause 5.31 reflects section 10(1) of the Act.

5.31 Clause 5.29 does not apply to parts of meetings that have been closed tothe public under section 10A of the Act.

5.32 A person (whether a Councillor or another person) is not entitled to be present at a meeting of the Council or a committee of the Council if expelledfrom the meeting:

a. by a resolution of the meeting, or

b. by the person presiding at the meeting if the Council has, by resolution, authorised the person presiding to exercise the power ofexpulsion.

Note: Clause 5.33 reflects section 10(2) of the Act.

Note: If adopted, clauses 15.14 and 15.15 confer a standing authorisationon all chairpersons of meetings of the Council and committees of the Council to expel persons from meetings. If adopted, clause 15.14 authorises

chairpersons to expel any person, including a Councillor, from a Council or committee meeting. Alternatively, if adopted, clause 15.15 authorises chairpersons to expel persons other than Councillors from a Council or committee meeting.

Webcasting of meetings

5.33 Each meeting of the council or a committee of the council is to be recordedby means of an audio or audio-visual device.

5.34 At the start of each meeting of the council or a committee of the council, thechairperson must inform the persons attending the meeting that:

a. the meeting is being recorded and made publicly available on thecouncil's website, and

b. persons attending the meeting should refrain from making any defamatory statements.

5.35 The recording of a meeting is to be made publicly available on the council'swebsite:

a. at the same time as the meeting is taking place, or

b. as soon as practicable after the meeting.

5.36 The recording of a meeting is to be made publicly available on the council'swebsite for at least 12 months after the meeting.

5.37 Clauses 5.35 and 5.36 do not apply to any part of a meeting that has beenclosed to the public in accordance with section 10A of the Act.

Note: Clauses 5.32 – 5.36 reflect section 236 of the Regulation.

5.38 Recordings of meetings may be disposed of in accordance with the State Roads Act 1998.

Attendance of the General Manager and other staff at meetings

5.39 The General Manager is entitled to attend, but not to vote at, a meeting ofthe Council or a meeting of a committee of the Council of which all of the members are Councillors.

Note: Clause 5.39 reflects section 376(1) of the Act.

5.40 The General Manager is entitled to attend a meeting of any other committeeof the Council and may, if a member of the committee,

exercise a vote.

Note: Clause 5.40 reflects section 376(2) of the Act.

5.41 The General Manager may be excluded from a meeting of the Council or a committee while the Council or committee deals with a matter relating to thestandard of performance of the General Manager or the terms of employment of the General Manager.

Note: Clause 5.41 reflects section 376(3) of the Act.

5.42 The attendance of other Council staff at a meeting, (other than as membersof the public) shall be with the approval of the General Manager.

5.43 The General Manager and other Council staff may attend meetings of the Council and committees of the Council by audio-visual-link. Attendance by Council staff at meetings by audio-visual link (other than as members of thepublic) shall be with the approval of the General Manager.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON

The chairperson at meetings

6.1 The Mayor, or at the request of or in the absence of the Mayor, the deputy Mayor (if any) presides at meetings of the Council.

Note: Clause 6.1 reflects section 369(1) of the Act.

6.2 If the Mayor and the deputy Mayor (if any) are absent, a Councillor elected to chair the meeting by the Councillors present presides at a meeting of the Council.

Note: Clause 6.2 reflects section 369(2) of the Act.

Election of the chairperson in the absence of the Mayor and deputy Mayor

6.3 If no chairperson is present at a meeting of the Council at the time designated for the holding of the meeting, the first business of the meetingmust be the election of a chairperson to preside at the meeting.

6.4 The election of a chairperson must be conducted:

a. by the General Manager or, in their absence, an employee of the Council designated by the General Manager to conduct the election,or

b. by the person who called the meeting or a person acting on their behalf if neither the General Manager nor a designated employee ispresent at the meeting, or if there is no General Manager or designated employee.

6.5 If, at an election of a chairperson, two (2) or more candidates receive the same number of votes and no other candidate receives a greater number ofvotes, the chairperson is to be the candidate whose name is chosen by lot.

6.6 For the purposes of clause 6.5, the person conducting the election must:

a. arrange for the names of the candidates who have equal numbers ofvotes to be written on similar slips, and

b. then fold the slips so as to prevent the names from being seen, mixthe slips and draw one of the slips at random.

6.7 The candidate whose name is on the drawn slip is the candidate who is to be the chairperson.

6.8 Any election conducted under clause 6.3, and the outcome of the vote, are to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Chairperson to have precedence

6.9 When the chairperson rises or speaks during a meeting of the Council:

a. any Councillor then speaking or seeking to speak must cease speaking and, if standing, immediately resume their seat, and

b. every Councillor present must be silent to enable the chairperson tobe heard without interruption.

7 MODES OF ADDRESS

7.1 If the chairperson is the Mayor, they are to be addressed as 'Mr Mayor' or 'Madam Mayor'.

7.2 Where the chairperson is not the Mayor, they are to be addressed as either 'Mr Chairperson' or 'Madam Chairperson'.

7.3 A Councillor is to be addressed as 'Councillor [surname]'.

7.4 A Council officer is to be addressed by their official designation or as Mr/Ms [surname].

8 ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS

8.1 The general order of business for an ordinary meeting of the Council shall be:

1. Opening Meeting
2. Acknowledgment of Country
3. Apologies and requests for leave of absence or attendance by audio-visuallink by Councillors
4. Statement of Ethical Obligations (see Clause 8.4 below)
5. Disclosures of Interests
6. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings
7. Moment of Quiet Contemplation
8. Public Forum (hearing from registered speakers only)
9. Condolence Motions
10. Mayoral Minute(s)
11. Reports to Council
12. Notice of Motions/Questions with Notice
13. Confidential Matters
14. Urgency Motions (If required)
15. Conclusion of the meeting

8.2 The order of business as fixed under clause 8.1 may be altered for a particular meeting of the Council if a motion to that effect is passed at thatmeeting. Such a motion can be moved without notice.

Note: Part 13 allows Council to deal with items of business by exception.

8.3 Despite clauses 10.20–10.30, only the mover of a motion referred to in clause 8.2 may speak to the motion before it is put.

8.4 The Statement of Ethical Obligations to be read by the Mayor (or Chair of the Ordinary Council Meetings) is:

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.

9 CONSIDERATION OF BUSINESS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Business that can be dealt with at a Council meeting

9.1 The Council must not consider business at a meeting of the Council:

a. unless a Councillor has given notice of the business, as required by clause 3.9, and

b. unless notice of the business has been sent to the Councillors in accordance with clause 3.6 in the case of an ordinary meeting orclause 3.8 in the case of an extraordinary meeting called in an emergency.

9.2 Clause 9.1 does not apply to the consideration of business at a meeting, if the business:

a. is already before, or directly relates to, a matter that is already beforethe Council, or

b. is the election of a chairperson to preside at the meeting, or

c. subject to clause 9.9, is a matter or topic put to the meeting by wayof a Mayoral minute, or

d. is a motion for the adoption of recommendations of a committee,including, but not limited to, a committee of the Council.

9.3 Despite clause 9.1, business may be considered at a meeting of the Councileven though due notice of the business has not been given to the Councillors if:

a. a motion is passed to have the business considered at the meeting,and

b. the business to be considered is ruled by the chairperson to be of great urgency on the grounds that it requires a decision by the Council before the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the Council.

9.4 A motion moved under clause 9.3(a) can be moved without notice. Despite clauses 10.20–10.30, only the mover of a motion referred to in clause 9.3(a)can speak to the motion before it is put.

9.5 A motion of dissent cannot be moved against a ruling by the chairpersonunder clause 9.3(b).

Mayoral minutes

9.6 Subject to clause 9.9, if the Mayor is the chairperson at a meeting of the Council, the Mayor may, by minute signed by the Mayor, put to the meetingwithout notice any matter or topic that is within the jurisdiction of the Council, or of which the Council has official knowledge.

9.7 A Mayoral minute, when put to a meeting, takes precedence over all business on the Council's agenda for the meeting. The chairperson (but only if the chairperson is the Mayor) may move the adoption of a Mayoralminute without the motion being seconded.

9.8 A recommendation made in a Mayoral minute put by the Mayor is, so far asit is adopted by the Council, a resolution of the Council.

9.9 A Mayoral minute must not be used to put without notice matters that are routine and not urgent or matters for which proper notice should be given because of their complexity. For the purpose of this clause, a matter will beurgent where it requires a decision by the Council before the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the Council.

9.10 Where a Mayoral minute makes a recommendation which, if adopted, wouldrequire the expenditure of funds on works and/or services other than those already provided for in the Council's current adopted operational plan, it must identify the source of funding for the expenditure that is the subject of the recommendation.

Staff reports

9.11 A recommendation made in a staff report is, so far as it is adopted by theCouncil, a resolution of the Council.

Reports of committees of Council

9.12 The recommendations of a committee of the Council are, so far as they areadopted by the Council, resolutions of the Council.

9.13 If in a report of a committee of the Council distinct recommendations are made, the Council may make separate decisions on each recommendation.

Questions

9.14 Question must not be asked at a meeting of the Council unless it concerns amatter on the agenda of the meeting or notice has been given of the question in accordance with clauses 3.9 and 3.13.

9.15 A Councillor may, through the chairperson, put a question to another Councillor about a matter on the agenda.

9.16 A Councillor may, through the General Manager, put a question to a Councilemployee about a matter on the agenda. Council employees are only obliged to answer a question put to them through the General Manager at the direction of the General Manager.

9.17 A Councillor or Council employee to whom a question is put is entitled to begiven reasonable notice of the question and, in particular, sufficient notice toenable reference to be made to other persons or to information. Where a Councillor or Council employee to whom a question is put is unable to respond to the question at the meeting at which it is put, they may take it onnotice and report the response to the next meeting of the Council.

9.18 Councillors must put questions directly, succinctly, respectfully and

withoutargument.

9.19 A Councillor may ask up to 3 questions per item on the agenda.

9.20 The chairperson must not permit discussion on any reply to, or refusal to reply to, a question put to a Councillor or Council employee.

10 RULES OF DEBATE

Motions to be seconded

10.1 Unless otherwise specified in this code, a motion or an amendment cannot be debated unless or until it has been seconded.

Notices of motion

10.2 A Councillor who has submitted a notice of motion under clause 3.9 is to move the motion the subject of the notice of motion at the meeting at whichit is to be considered.

10.3 If a Councillor who has submitted a notice of motion under clause 3.9 wishes to withdraw it after the agenda and business paper for the meeting at which it is to be considered have been sent to Councillors, the Councillormay request the withdrawal of the motion when it is before the Council.

10.4 In the absence of a Councillor who has placed a notice of motion on the agenda for a meeting of the Council:

a. any other Councillor may, with the leave of the chairperson, move the motion at the meeting, or

b. the chairperson may defer consideration of the motion until the nextmeeting of the Council.

Chairperson's duties with respect to motions

10.5 It is the duty of the chairperson at a meeting of the Council to receive and put to the meeting any lawful motion that is brought before the meeting.

10.6 The chairperson must rule out of order any motion or amendment to a motion that is unlawful or the implementation of which would be unlawful.

10.7 Before ruling out of order a motion or an amendment to a motion

under clause 10.6, the chairperson is to give the mover an opportunity to clarify oramend the motion or amendment.

10.8 Any motion, amendment, or other matter that the chairperson has ruled outof order is taken to have been lost.

Motions requiring the expenditure of funds

10.9 A motion or an amendment to a motion which if passed would require the expenditure of funds on works and/or services other than those already provided for in the Council's current adopted operational plan must identify the source of funding for the expenditure that is the subject of the motion. Ifthe motion does not identify a funding source, the Council must defer consideration of the matter, pending the identification of the funding source.

Amendments to motions

10.10 An amendment to a motion must be moved and seconded before it can be debated.

10.11 An amendment to a motion must relate to the matter being dealt with in the original motion before the Council and must not be a direct negative of the original motion. An amendment to a motion which does not relate to the matter being dealt with in the original motion, or which is a direct negative ofthe original motion, must be ruled out of order by the chairperson.

10.12 The mover of an amendment is to be given the opportunity to explain anyuncertainties in the proposed amendment before a seconder is called for.

10.13 If an amendment has been lost, a further amendment can be moved to themotion to which the lost amendment was moved, and so on, but no more than one (1) motion and one (1) proposed amendment can be before Council at any one time.

10.14 While an amendment is being considered, debate must only occur in relation to the amendment and not the original motion. Debate on the original motion is to be suspended while the amendment to the originalmotion is being debated.

10.15 If the amendment is carried, it becomes the motion and is to be debated. Ifthe amendment is lost, debate is to resume on the original

motion.

10.16 An amendment may become the motion without debate or a vote where it isaccepted by the Councillor who moved the original motion.

Foreshadowed motions

10.17 A Councillor may propose a foreshadowed motion in relation to the matter the subject of the original motion before the Council, without a seconder during debate on the original motion. The foreshadowed motion is only to be considered if the original motion is lost or withdrawn and the foreshadowed motion is then moved and seconded. If the original motion iscarried, the foreshadowed motion lapses.

10.18 Where an amendment has been moved and seconded, a Councillor may, without a seconder, foreshadow a further amendment that they propose to move after the first amendment has been dealt with. There is no limit to thenumber of foreshadowed amendments that may be put before the Council at any time. However, no discussion can take place on foreshadowed amendments until the previous amendment has been dealt with and the foreshadowed amendment has been moved and seconded.

10.19 Foreshadowed motions and foreshadowed amendments are to be considered in the order in which they are proposed. However, foreshadowed motions cannot be considered until all foreshadowed amendments have been dealt with.

Limitations on the number and duration of speeches

10.20 A Councillor who, during a debate at a meeting of the Council, moves an original motion, has the right to speak on each amendment to the motion and a right of general reply to all observations that are made during the debate in relation to the motion, and any amendment to it at the conclusionof the debate before the motion (whether amended or not) is finally put.

10.21 A Councillor, other than the mover of an original motion, has the right to speak once on the motion and once on each amendment to it.

10.22 A Councillor must not, without the consent of the Council, speak more than once on a motion or an amendment, or for longer than 2

minutes at any onetime.

10.23 Despite clause 10.22, the chairperson may permit a Councillor who claims to have been misrepresented or misunderstood to speak more than once ona motion or an amendment, and for longer than 3 minutes on that motion or amendment to enable the Councillor to make a statement limited to explaining the misrepresentation or misunderstanding.

10.24 Despite clause 10.22, the Council may resolve to shorten the duration of speeches to expedite the consideration of business at a meeting.

10.25 Despite clauses 10.20 and 10.21, a Councillor may move that a motion or an amendment be now put:

a. if the mover of the motion or amendment has spoken in favour of it and no Councillor expresses an intention to speak against it,

b. if at least two (2) Councillors have spoken in favour of the motion oramendment and at least two (2) Councillors have spoken against it.

10.26 The chairperson must immediately put to the vote, without debate, a motion moved under clause 10.25. A seconder is not required for such a motion.

10.27 If a motion that the original motion or an amendment be now put is passed,the chairperson must, without further debate, put the original motion or amendment to the vote immediately after the mover of the original motion has exercised their right of reply under clause 10.20.

10.28 If a motion that the original motion or an amendment be now put is lost, thechairperson must allow the debate on the original motion or the amendment to be resumed.

10.29 All Councillors must be heard without interruption and all other Councillorsmust, unless otherwise permitted under this code, remain silent while another Councillor is speaking.

10.30 Once the debate on a matter has concluded and a matter has been dealt with, the chairperson must not allow further debate on the matter.

Examples of procedural motions are shown in the following table:

Motion	Moved without Notice	Requires Seconder	Speakers/ Debate Permitted	Rightof Reply
Change the orderof Business	Yes	Yes	Mover of motion only	No
Business without Notice (matter ofurgency)	Yes	Yes	Mover of motion only	No
Dissent from Chairpersons' ruling (on point oforder)	Yes	Yes	Mover and Chairperson only may speak	No
Adjournment ofmeeting	Yes	Yes	No debate permitted	No
Limitation to number of speakers (questions be now put)	Yes *but only after at least 2 have spoken in favour and 2 have spoken against the motion or there are no Councillors who wish to speak against*	No	No debate permitted. Question must be put immediately.	No
Deferment of amatter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vote on points ofa resolution separately	Yes	Yes	Mover of motion only	No

11 VOTING

Voting entitlements of Councillors

11.1 Each Councillor is entitled to one (1) vote.

Note: Clause 11.1 reflects section 370(1) of the Act.

11.2 The person presiding at a meeting of the Council has, in the event of an equality of votes, a second or casting vote.

Note: Clause 11.2 reflects section 370(2) of the Act.

11.3 Where the chairperson declines to exercise, or fails to exercise, their second or casting vote, in the event of an equality of votes, the motionbeing voted upon is lost.

Voting at Council meetings

11.4 or amendment, (including the use of the casting vote), being recorded A Councillor who is present at a meeting of the Council but who fails to voteon a motion put to the meeting is taken to have voted against the motion.

11.5 Voting at a meeting, including voting in an election at a meeting, is to be byopen means (such as on the voices, by show of hands or by a visible electronic voting system). However, the Council may resolve that the votingin any election by Councillors for Mayor or deputy Mayor is to be by secret ballot.

11.6 All voting at Council meetings, (including meetings that are closed to thepublic), must be recorded in the minutes of meetings with the names of Councillors who voted for and against each motion.

Voting on planning decisions

11.7 The General Manager must keep a register containing, for each planning decision made at a meeting of the Council or a Council committee (including, but not limited to a committee of the Council), the names of theCouncillors who supported the decision and the names of any Councillorswho opposed (or are taken to have opposed) the decision.

11.8 Each decision recorded in the register is to be described in the register oridentified in a manner that enables the description to be obtained from another publicly available document.

11.9 Clauses 11.7 and 11.8 also apply to meetings that are closed to the public.

Note: Clauses 11.7 - 11.9 reflect section 375A of the Act.

Note: The requirements of clause 11.8 may be satisfied by maintaining a register of the minutes of each planning decision.

12 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

12.1 The Council may resolve itself into a committee to consider any matterbefore the Council.

Note: Clause 12.1 reflects section 373 of the Act.

12.2 All the provisions of this code relating to meetings of the Council, so far as they are applicable, extend to and govern the proceedings of the Council when in committee of the whole, except the provisions limiting the numberand duration of speeches.

Note: Clauses 10.20–10.30 limit the number and duration of speeches.

12.3 The General Manager or, in the absence of the General Manager, an employee of the Council designated by the General Manager, is responsiblefor reporting to the Council the proceedings of the committee of the whole. Itis not necessary to report the proceedings in full, but any recommendations of the committee must be reported.

12.4 The Council must ensure that a report of the proceedings (including any recommendations of the committee) is recorded in the Council's minutes. However, the Council is not taken to have adopted the report until a motionfor adoption has been made and passed.

13 DEALING WITH ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

13.1 The Council or a committee of Council may, at any time, resolve to adopt multiple items of business on the agenda together by way of a single resolution.

13.2 Before the Council or committee resolves to adopt multiple items of business on the agenda together under clause 13.1, the chairperson must list the items of business to be adopted and ask Councillors to identify any individual items of business listed by the chairperson that they intend to vote against the recommendation made in the business paper or that they wish to speak on.

13.3 The Council or committee must not resolve to adopt any item of business under clause 13.1 that a Councillor has identified as being one they intendto vote against the recommendation made in the business paper or to speak on.

13.4 Where the consideration of multiple items of business together under clause involves a variation to the order of business for the meeting, theCouncil or committee must resolve to alter the order of business in accordance with clause 8.2.

13.5 A motion to adopt multiple items of business together under clause 13.1 must identify each of the items of business to be adopted and state that they are to be adopted as recommended in the business paper.

13.6 Items of business adopted under clause 13.1 are to be taken to have been adopted unanimously.

13.7 Councillors must ensure that they declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in relation to items of business considered together under clause 13.1 in accordance with the requirements of the Council's code of conduct.

14 CLOSURE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS TO THE PUBLIC

Grounds on which meetings can be closed to the public

14.1 The Council or a committee of the Council may close to the public so muchof its meeting as comprises the discussion or the receipt of any of the following types of matters:

a. personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors),

b. the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer,

c. information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantageon a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business,

d. commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:

i. prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it or

ii. confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council,or

iii. reveal a trade secret,

e. information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law,

f. matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property,

g. advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege,

h. information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land,

i. alleged contraventions of the Council's code of conduct.

Note: Clause 14.1 reflects section 10A(1) and (2) of the Act.

14.2 The Council or a committee of the Council may also close to the public somuch of its meeting as comprises a motion to close another part of the meeting to the public.

Note: Clause 14.2 reflects section 10A(3) of the Act.

Matters to be considered when closing meetings to the public

14.3 A meeting is not to remain closed during the discussion of anything referredto in clause 14.1:

a. except for so much of the discussion as is necessary to preserve therelevant confidentiality, privilege or security, and

b. if the matter concerned is a matter other than a personnel matter concerning particular individuals, the personal hardship of a residentor ratepayer or a trade secret – unless the Council or committee concerned is satisfied that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

Note: Clause 14.3 reflects section 10B(1) of the Act.

14.4 A meeting is not to be closed during the receipt and consideration of information or advice referred to in clause 14.1(g) unless the advice concerns legal matters that:

a. are substantial issues relating to a matter in which the Council orcommittee is involved, and

b. are clearly identified in the advice, and

c. are fully discussed in that advice.

Note: Clause 14.4 reflects section 10B(2) of the Act.

14.5 If a meeting is closed during the discussion of a motion to close another part of the meeting to the public (as referred to in clause 14.2), the consideration of the motion must not include any consideration of the matteror information to be discussed in that other part of the meeting other than consideration of whether the matter concerned is a matter referred to in clause 14.1.

Note: Clause 14.5 reflects section 10B(3) of the Act.

14.6 For the purpose of determining whether the discussion of a matter in an open meeting would be contrary to the public interest, it is irrelevant that:

a. a person may misinterpret or misunderstand the discussion, or

b. the discussion of the matter may:

i. cause embarrassment to the Council or committee concerned, or to Councillors or to employees of the Council, or

ii. cause a loss of confidence in the Council or committee.

Note: Clause 14.6 reflects section 10B(4) of the Act.

14.7 In deciding whether part of a meeting is to be closed to the public, the Council or committee concerned must consider any relevant guidelinesissued by the Departmental Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government.

Note: Clause 14.7 reflects section 10B(5) of the Act.

Notice of likelihood of closure not required in urgent cases

14.8 Part of a meeting of the Council, or of a committee of the Council, may be closed to the public while the Council or committee considers a matter that has not been identified in the agenda for the meeting under clause 3.20 as a matter that is likely to be considered when the meeting is closed, but onlyif:

a. it becomes apparent during the discussion of a particular matter

thatthe matter is a matter referred to in clause 14.1, and

b. the Council or committee, after considering any representations made under clause 14.9, resolves that further discussion of the matter:

i. should not be deferred (because of the urgency of the matter),and

ii. should take place in a part of the meeting that is closed to thepublic.

Note: Clause 14.8 reflects section 10C of the Act.

Representations by members of the public

14.9 The Council, or a committee of the Council, may allow members of the public to make representations to or at a meeting, before any part of themeeting is closed to the public, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed.

Note: Clause 14.9 reflects section 10A(4) of the Act.

14.10 A representation under clause 14.9 is to be made after the motion to close the part of the meeting is moved and seconded.

14.11 Where the matter has been identified in the agenda of the meeting under clause 3.20 as a matter that is likely to be considered when the meeting isclosed to the public, in order to make representations under clause 14.9, members of the public must first make an application to the Council in theapproved form. Applications must be received by 2pm on the day of the meeting at which the matter is to be considered.

14.12 The General Manager (or their delegate) may refuse an application madeunder clause 14.11. The General Manager or their delegate must give reasons in writing for a decision to refuse an application.

14.13 No more than 3 speakers are to be permitted to make representationsunder clause 14.9.

14.14 If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to make representations under clause 14.9, the General Manager or their delegate may request the speakers to nominate from among themselves the personswho are to make representations to the Council. If the speakers are not ableto agree on whom to nominate to

make representations under clause 14.9, the General Manager or their delegate is to determine who will make representations to the Council.

14.15 The General Manager (or their delegate) is to determine the order of speakers.

14.16 Where the Council or a committee of the Council proposes to close a meeting or part of a meeting to the public in circumstances where the matter has not been identified in the agenda for the meeting under clause 3.21 as a matter that is likely to be considered when the meeting is closed to the public, the chairperson is to invite representations from the public under clause 14.9 after the motion to close the part of the meeting is moved and seconded. The chairperson is to permit no more than 3 speakers to make representations in such order as determined by the chairperson.

14.17 Each speaker will be allowed 3 minutes to make representations, and this time limit is to be strictly enforced by the chairperson. Speakers must confine their representations to whether the meeting should be closed to thepublic. If a speaker digresses to irrelevant matters, the chairperson is to direct the speaker not to do so. If a speaker fails to observe a direction fromthe chairperson, the speaker will not be further heard.

Expulsion of non-Councillors from meetings closed to the public

14.18 If a meeting or part of a meeting of the Council or a committee of the Council is closed to the public in accordance with section 10A of the Act and this code, any person who is not a Councillor and who fails to leave themeeting when requested, may be expelled from the meeting as provided bysection 10(2)(a) or (b) of the Act.

14.19 If any such person, after being notified of a resolution or direction expelling them from the meeting, fails to leave the place where the meeting is being held, a police officer, or any person authorised for the purpose by the Council or person presiding, may, by using only such force as is necessary,remove the first-mentioned person from that place and, if necessary restrainthat person from re-entering that place for the remainder of the meeting.

Obligations of Councillors attending meetings by audio-visual link

14.20 Councillors attending a meeting by audio-visual link must ensure that no other person is within sight or hearing of the meeting at any time that themeeting is closed to the public under section 10A of the Act.

Information to be disclosed in resolutions closing meetings to the public

14.21 The grounds on which part of a meeting is closed must be stated in thedecision to close that part of the meeting and must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The grounds must specify the following:

a. the relevant provision of section 10A (2) of the Act,

b. the matter that is to be discussed during the closed part of the meeting,

c. the reasons why the part of the meeting is being closed, including (ifthe matter concerned is a matter other than a personnel matter concerning particular individuals, the personal hardship of a residentor ratepayer or a trade secret) an explanation of the way in which discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

Note: Clause 14.21 reflects section 10D of the Act.

Resolutions passed at closed meetings to be made public

14.22 If the Council passes a resolution during a meeting, or a part of a meeting, that is closed to the public, the chairperson must make the resolution public as soon as practicable after the meeting, or the relevant part of the meeting,has ended, and the resolution must be recorded in the publicly available minutes of the meeting.

14.23 Resolutions passed during a meeting, or a part of a meeting, that is closedto the public must be made public by the chairperson under clause 14.22 during a part of the meeting that is webcast.

15 KEEPING ORDER AT MEETINGS

Points of order

15.1 A Councillor may draw the attention of the chairperson to an alleged breachof this code by raising a point of order. A point of order does not require a seconder.

15.2 A point of order cannot be made with respect to adherence to the principlescontained in clause 2.1.

15.3 A point of order must be taken immediately it is raised. The chairperson must suspend the business before the meeting and permit the Councillor raising the point of order to state the provision of this code they believe hasbeen breached. The chairperson must then rule on the point of order – either by upholding it or by overruling it.

Questions of order

15.4 The chairperson, without the intervention of any other Councillor, may callany Councillor to order whenever, in the opinion of the chairperson, it is necessary to do so.

15.5 A Councillor who claims that another Councillor has committed an act of disorder, or is out of order, may call the attention of the chairperson to thematter.

15.6 The chairperson must rule on a question of order immediately after it is raised but, before doing so, may invite the opinion of the Council.

15.7 The chairperson's ruling must be obeyed unless a motion dissenting from the ruling is passed.

Motions of dissent

15.8 A Councillor can, without notice, move to dissent from a ruling of the chairperson on a point of order or a question of order. If that happens, the chairperson must suspend the business before the meeting until a decision is made on the motion of dissent.

15.9 If a motion of dissent is passed, the chairperson must proceed with the suspended business as though the ruling dissented from had not been given. If, as a result of the ruling, any motion or business has been rejectedas out of order, the chairperson must restore the

motion or business to the agenda and proceed with it in due course.

15.10 Despite any other provision of this code, only the mover of a motion of dissent and the chairperson can speak to the motion before it is put. The mmover of the motion does not have a right of general reply.

Acts of disorder

15.11 A Councillor commits an act of disorder if the Councillor, at a meeting of theCouncil or a committee of the Council:

a. contravenes the Act, the Regulation or this code, or

b. assaults or threatens to assault another Councillor or person presentat the meeting, or

c. moves or attempts to move a motion or an amendment that has an unlawful purpose or that deals with a matter that is outside the jurisdiction of the Council or the committee, or addresses or attemptsto address the Council or the committee on such a motion, amendment or matter, or

d. insults, or makes unfavourable personal remarks about, or imputes improper motives to any other Council official, or alleges a breach ofthe Council's code of conduct, or

e. says or does anything that is inconsistent with maintaining order atthe meeting or is likely to bring the Council or the committee into disrepute.

Note: Clause 15.11 reflects section 182 of the Regulation.

15.12 The chairperson may require a Councillor:

a. to apologise without reservation for an act of disorder referred to inclauses 15.11(a), (b), or (e), or

b. to withdraw a motion or an amendment referred to in clause 15.11(c)and, where appropriate, to apologise without reservation, or

c. to retract and apologise without reservation for any statement that constitutes an act of disorder referred to in clauses 15.11(d) and (e).

Note: Clause 15.12 reflects section 233 of the Regulation.

How disorder at a meeting may be dealt with

15.13 If disorder occurs at a meeting of the Council, the chairperson may adjourn the meeting for a period of not more than fifteen (15) minutes and leave thechair. The Council, on reassembling, must, on a question put from the chairperson, decide without debate whether the business is to be proceeded with or not. This clause applies to disorder arising from the conduct of members of the public as well as disorder arising from the conduct of Councillors.

Expulsion from meetings

15.14 All chairpersons of meetings of the Council and committees of the Council are authorised under this code to expel any person other than a Councillor, from a Council or committee meeting, for the purposes of section 10(2)(b) ofthe Act. Councillors may only be expelled by resolution of the Council or thecommittee of the Council.

15.15 Clause 15.14, does not limit the ability of the Council or a committee of the Council to resolve to expel a person, including a Councillor, from a Councilor committee meeting, under section 10(2)(a) of the Act.

15.16 A Councillor may, as provided by section 10(2)(a) or (b) of the Act, be expelled from a meeting of the Council for having failed to comply with a requirement under clause 15.12. The expulsion of a Councillor from the meeting for that reason does not prevent any other action from being takenagainst the Councillor for the act of disorder concerned.

Note: Clause 15.16 reflects section 233(2) of the Regulation.

15.17 A member of the public may, as provided by section 10(2)(a) or (b) of the Act, be expelled from a meeting of the Council for engaging in or having engaged in disorderly conduct at the meeting.

15.18 Where a Councillor or a member of the public is expelled from a meeting,the expulsion and the name of the person expelled, if known, are to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

15.19 If a Councillor or a member of the public fails to leave the place where a meeting of the Council is being held immediately after they have been expelled, a police officer, or any person authorised for the purpose by the Council or person presiding, may, by using only such force as is necessary,remove the Councillor or member of the public

from that place and, if necessary, restrain the Councillor or member of the public from re-entering that place for the remainder of the meeting.

How disorder by Councillors attending meetings by audio-visual link may be dealt with

15.20 Where a Councillor is attending a meeting by audio-visual link, the chairperson or a person authorised by the chairperson may mute the Councillor's audio link to the meeting for the purposes of enforcing compliance with this code.

15.21 If a Councillor attending a meeting by audio-visual link is expelled from a meeting for an act of disorder, the chairperson of the meeting or a person authorised by the chairperson, may terminate the Councillor's audio-visuallink to the meeting.

Use of mobile phones and the unauthorised recording of meetings

15.22 Councillors, Council staff and members of the public must ensure thatmobile phones are turned to silent during meetings of the Council andcommittees of the Council.

15.23 A person must not live stream or use an audio recorder, video camera, mobile phone or any other device to make a recording of the proceedings ofa meeting of the Council or a committee of the Council without the prior authorisation of the Council or the committee.

15.24 Without limiting clause 15.17, a contravention of clause 15.23or an attempt to contravene that clause, constitutes disorderly conduct for the purposes ofclause 15.17. Any person who contravenes or attempts to contravene clause 15.23, may be expelled from the meeting as provided for under section 10(2) of the Act.

15.25 If any such person, after being notified of a resolution or direction expellingthem from the meeting, fails to leave the place where the meeting is being held, a police officer, or any person authorised for the purpose by the Council or person presiding, may, by using only such force as is necessary,remove the first-mentioned person from that place and, if necessary, restrain that person from re-entering that place for the remainder of the meeting.

16 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

16.1 All Councillors and, where applicable, all other persons, must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at meetings of the Council and committees of the Council in accordance with the Council's code of conduct. All declarations of conflicts of interest and how the conflict of interest was managed by the person who made the declaration must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the declaration was made.

16.2 Councillors attending a meeting by audio-visual link must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being consideredat the meeting in accordance with the Council's code of conduct. Where a Councillor has declared a pecuniary or significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter being discussed at the meeting, the Councillor's audio- visual link to the meeting must be suspended or terminated and the Councillor must not be in sight or hearing of the meeting at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by the Council or committee, or at any time during which the Council or committee is voting on the matter.

Disclosures made at the meeting should be stated as follows:

Disclosure	What to say	Action to take
PecuniaryInterest	I declare a pecuniary interest in item XX, due to *(detail reason of the conflict)*	*Councillor must leave the meeting, be out of sight of the meeting and not participate indiscussions or voting on the matter.*
Significant, non-pecuniary interest	I declare a significant, non-pecuniary interest in item XX, dueto *(detail reason of the conflict)*	*Councillor must leave the meeting, be out of sight of the meeting and not participate indiscussions or voting on the matter.*
Less than significant, non-pecuniary	I declare a less than significant non-pecuniary interest in item XX due to *(detail reason of the*	*No action needed, Councillor can remain at the meeting, partake in the discussions*

interest	*conflictand explanation of why the conflictrequires no further action)*	*andvote on the matter.*

17 DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Council decisions

17.1 A decision supported by a majority of the votes at a meeting of the Councilat which a quorum is present is a decision of the Council.

Note: Clause 17.1 reflects section 371 of the Act.

17.2 17.2 Decisions made by the Council must be accurately recorded in the minutesof the meeting at which the decision is made.

Rescinding or altering Council decisions

17.3 A resolution passed by the Council may not be altered or rescinded exceptby a motion to that effect of which notice has been given under clause 3.9.

Note: Clause 17.3 reflects section 372(1) of the Act.

17.4 If a notice of motion to rescind a resolution is given at the meeting at whichthe resolution is carried, the resolution must not be carried into effect until the motion of rescission has been dealt with.

Note: Clause 17.4 reflects section 372(2) of the Act.

17.5 If a motion has been lost, a motion having the same effect must not beconsidered unless notice of it has been duly given in accordance with clause 3.9.

Note: Clause 17.5 reflects section 372(3) of the Act.

17.6 A notice of motion to alter or rescind a resolution, and a notice of motion which has the same effect as a motion which has been lost, must be signedby three (3) Councillors if less than three (3) months has elapsed since the resolution was passed, or the motion was lost.

Note: Clause 17.6 reflects section 372(4) of the Act.

17.7 If a motion to alter or rescind a resolution has been lost, or if a motion whichhas the same effect as a previously lost motion is lost, no

similar motion may be brought forward within three (3) months of the meeting at which it was lost. This clause may not be evaded by substituting a motion differentlyworded, but in principle the same.

Note: Clause 17.7 reflects section 372(5) of the Act.

17.8 The provisions of clauses 17.5–17.7 concerning lost motions do not apply tomotions of adjournment.

Note: Clause 17.8 reflects section 372(7) of the Act.

17.9 A notice of motion submitted in accordance with clause 17.6 may only be withdrawn under clause 3.10 with the consent of all signatories to the noticeof motion.

17.10 A motion to alter or rescind a resolution of the Council may be moved onthe report of a committee of the Council and any such report must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Council.

Note: Clause 17.10 reflects section 372(6) of the Act.

17.11 Subject to clause 17.6, in cases of urgency, a motion to alter or rescind a resolution of the Council may be moved at the same meeting at which theresolution was adopted, where:

a. a notice of motion signed by three Councillors is submitted to the chairperson, and

b. a motion to have the motion considered at the meeting is passed,and

c. the chairperson rules the business that is the subject of the motion isof great urgency on the grounds that it requires a decision by the Council before the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the Council.

17.12 A motion moved under clause 17.11(b) can be moved without notice. Despite clauses 10.20–10.30, only the mover of a motion referred to in clause 17.11(b) can speak to the motion before it is put.

17.13 A motion of dissent cannot be moved against a ruling by the chairpersonunder clause 17.11(c).

Recommitting resolutions to correct an error

17.14 Despite the provisions of this Part, a Councillor may, with the leave of thechairperson, move to recommit a resolution adopted at the same

meeting:

a. to correct any error, ambiguity or imprecision in the Council's resolution, or

b. to confirm the voting on the resolution.

17.15 In seeking the leave of the chairperson to move to recommit a resolution forthe purposes of clause 17.14(a), the Councillor is to propose alternative wording for the resolution.

17.16 The chairperson must not grant leave to recommit a resolution for the purposes of clause 17.14(a), unless they are satisfied that the proposed alternative wording of the resolution would not alter the substance of theresolution previously adopted at the meeting.

17.17 A motion moved under clause 17.14 can be moved without notice. Despite clauses 10.20–10.30, only the mover of a motion referred to in clause 17.14can speak to the motion before it is put.

17.18 A motion of dissent cannot be moved against a ruling by the chairpersonunder clause 17.14.

17.19 A motion moved under clause 17.14 with the leave of the chairperson cannot be voted on unless or until it has been seconded.

18 TIME LIMITS ON COUNCIL MEETINGS

18.1 Meetings of the Council and committees of the Council are to conclude no later than 11pm.

18.2 If the business of the meeting is unfinished at 11pm, the Council or the committee may, by resolution, extend the time of the meeting.

18.3 If the business of the meeting is unfinished at 11pm, and the Council doesnot resolve to extend the meeting, the chairperson must either:

a. defer consideration of the remaining items of business on the agenda to the next ordinary meeting of the Council, or

b. adjourn the meeting to a time, date and place fixed by the chairperson.

18.4 Clause 18.3 does not limit the ability of the Council or a committee of the Council to resolve to adjourn a meeting at any time. The resolution adjourning the meeting must fix the time, date and place

that the meeting isto be adjourned to.

18.5 Where a meeting is adjourned under clause 18.3 or 18.4, the General Manager must:

a. individually notify each Councillor of the time, date and place at which the meeting will reconvene, and

b. publish the time, date and place at which the meeting will reconvene on the Council's website and in such other manner that the General Manager is satisfied is likely to bring notice of the time, date and place of the reconvened meeting to the attention of as many people as possible.

19 AFTER THE MEETING

Minutes of meetings

19.1 The Council is to keep full and accurate minutes of the proceedings of meetings of the Council.

Note: Clause 19.1 reflects section 375(1) of the Act.

19.2 At a minimum, the General Manager must ensure that the following mattersare recorded in the Council's minutes:

a. the names of the mover and seconder of the motion or amendment,

b. details of each motion moved at a council meeting and of any amendments moved to it,

c. the names of the mover and seconder of the motion or amendment,

d. whether the motion or amendment was passed or lost, and

e. such other matters specifically required under this code.

19.3 The minutes of a Council meeting must be confirmed at a subsequent meeting of the Council.

Note: Clause 19.3 reflects section 375(2) of the Act.

19.4 Any debate on the confirmation of the minutes is to be confined to whether the minutes are a full and accurate record of the meeting they relate to.

19.5 When the minutes have been confirmed, they are to be signed by the person presiding at the subsequent meeting.

Note: Clause 19.5 reflects section 375(2) of the Act.

19.6 The confirmed minutes of a meeting may be amended to correct typographical or administrative errors after they have been confirmed. Any amendment made under this clause must not alter the substance of any decision made at the meeting.

19.7 The confirmed minutes of a Council meeting must be published on the Council's website. This clause does not prevent the Council from also publishing unconfirmed minutes of its meetings on its website prior to theirconfirmation.

Access to correspondence and reports laid on the table at, or submitted to, a meeting

19.8 The Council and committees of the Council must, during or at the close of a meeting, or during the business day following the meeting, give reasonable access to any person to inspect correspondence and reports laid on the table at, or submitted to, the meeting.

Note: Clause 19.8 reflects section 11(1) of the Act.

19.9 Clause 19.8 does not apply if the correspondence or reports relate to a matter that was received or discussed or laid on the table at, or submitted to, the meeting when the meeting was closed to the public.

Note: Clause 19.9 reflects section 11(2) of the Act.

19.10 Clause 19.8 does not apply if the Council or the committee resolves at the meeting, when open to the public, that the correspondence or reports are to be treated as confidential because they relate to a matter specified in section 10A(2) of the Act.

Note: Clause 19.10 reflects section 11(3) of the Act.

19.11 Correspondence or reports to which clauses 19.9 and 19.10 apply are to be marked with the relevant provision of section 10A(2) of the Act that applies to the correspondence or report.

Implementation of decisions of the Council

19.12 The General Manager is to implement, without undue delay, lawful

decisions of the Council.

Note: Clause 19.12 reflects section 335(b) of the Act.

20 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Application of this Part

20.1 This Part only applies to committees of the Council whose members are all Councillors.

Council committees whose members are all Councillors

20.2 The Council may, by resolution, establish such committees as it considers necessary.

20.3 A committee of the Council is to consist of the Mayor and such other Councillors as are elected by the Councillors or appointed by the Council.

20.4 The quorum for a meeting of a committee of the Council is to be:

a. such number of members as the Council decides, or

b. if the Council has not decided a number – a majority of the members of the committee.

Functions of committees

20.5 The Council must specify the functions of each of its committees when the committee is established but may from time to time amend those functions.

Notice of committee meetings

20.6 The General Manager must send to each Councillor, regardless of whether they are a committee member, at least three (3) days before each meeting of the committee, a notice specifying:

a. the time, date and place of the meeting, and

b. the business proposed to be considered at the meeting.

20.7 Notice of less than three (3) days may be given of a committee meeting called in an emergency.

Attendance at committee meetings

20.8 A committee member (other than the Mayor) ceases to be a member of a committee if the committee member:

a. has been absent from three (3) consecutive meetings of the committee without having given reasons acceptable to the committee for the member's absences, or

b. has been absent from at least half of the meetings of the committee held during the immediately preceding year without having given to the committee acceptable reasons for the member's absences.

20.9 Clause 20.8 does not apply if all of the members of the Council are members of the committee.

Non-members entitled to attend committee meetings

20.10 A Councillor who is not a member of a committee of the Council is entitled to attend, and to speak at a meeting of the committee. However, the Councillor is not entitled:

a. to give notice of business for inclusion in the agenda for the meeting, or

b. to move or second a motion at the meeting, or

c. to vote at the meeting.

Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of Council committees

20.11 The chairperson of each committee of the Council must be:

a. the Mayor, or

b. if the Mayor does not wish to be the chairperson of a committee, a member of the committee elected by the Council, or

c. if the Council does not elect such a member, a member of the committee elected by the committee.

20.12 The Council may elect a member of a committee of the Council as deputychairperson of the committee. If the Council does not elect a deputy chairperson of such a committee, the committee may elect a deputy chairperson.

20.13 If neither the chairperson nor the deputy chairperson of a committee

of the Council is able or willing to preside at a meeting of the committee, the committee must elect a member of the committee to be acting chairperson of the committee.

20.14 The chairperson is to preside at a meeting of a committee of the Council. Ifthe chairperson is unable or unwilling to preside, the deputy chairperson (ifany) is to preside at the meeting, but if neither the chairperson nor the deputy chairperson is able or willing to preside, the acting chairperson is topreside at the meeting.

Procedure in committee meetings

20.15 Subject to any specific requirements of this code, each committee of the Council may regulate its own procedure. The provisions of this code are to be taken to apply to all committees of the Council unless the Council or the committee determines otherwise in accordance with this clause.

20.16 Whenever the voting on a motion put to a meeting of the committee is equal, the chairperson of the committee is to have a casting vote as well as an original vote unless the Council or the committee determines otherwise in accordance with clause 20.15.

20.17 Voting at a Council committee meeting is to be by open means (such as on the voices, by show of hands or by a visible electronic voting system).

Closure of committee meetings to the public

20.18 The provisions of the Act and Part 14 of this code apply to the closure ofmeetings of committees of the Council to the public in the same way theyapply to the closure of meetings of the Council to the public.

20.19 If a committee of the Council passes a resolution, or makes a recommendation, during a meeting, or a part of a meeting that is closed tothe public, the chairperson must make the resolution or recommendation public as soon as practicable after the meeting or part of the meeting has ended and report the resolution or recommendation to the next meeting ofthe Council. The resolution or recommendation must also be recorded in the publicly available minutes of the meeting.

20.20 Resolutions passed during a meeting, or a part of a meeting that is

closed to the public must be made public by the chairperson under clause 20.20 during a part of the meeting that is webcast.

Disorder in committee meetings

20.21 The provisions of the Act and this code relating to the maintenance of orderin Council meetings apply to meetings of committees of the Council in the same way as they apply to meetings of the Council.

Minutes of Council committee meetings

20.22 Each committee of the Council is to keep full and accurate minutes of theproceedings of its meetings. At a minimum, a committee must ensure that the following matters are recorded in the committee's minutes:

a. The names of Councillors attending a Council meeting and whether they attended the meeting in person or by audio-visual link,

b. details of each motion moved at a council meeting and of any amendments moved to it,

c. the names of the mover and seconder of the motion or amendment,

d. whether the motion or amendment was passed or lost, and

e. such other matters specifically required under this code.

20.23 All voting at meetings of committees of the Council (including meetings that are closed to the public), must be recorded in the minutes of meetings with the names of Councillors who voted for and against each motion or amendment, (including the use of the casting vote), being recorded.

20.24 The minutes of meetings of each committee of the Council must be confirmed at a subsequent meeting of the committee.

20.25 Any debate on the confirmation of the minutes is to be confined to whether the minutes are a full and accurate record of the meeting they relate to.

20.26 When the minutes have been confirmed, they are to be signed by the person presiding at that subsequent meeting.

20.27 The confirmed minutes of a meeting may be amended to correct

typographical or administrative errors after they have been confirmed. Anyamendment made under this clause must not alter the substance of any decision made at the meeting.

20.28 The confirmed minutes of a meeting of a committee of the Council must be published on the Council's website. This clause does not prevent the Council from also publishing unconfirmed minutes of meetings of committees of the Council on its website prior to their confirmation.

21 IRREGULARITES

21.1 Proceedings at a meeting of a Council or a Council committee are not invalidated because of:

a. a vacancy in a civic office, or

b. a failure to give notice of the meeting to any Councillor or committee member, or

c. any defect in the election or appointment of a Councillor or committee member, or

d. a failure of a Councillor or a committee member to declare a conflict of interest, or to refrain from the consideration or discussion of, or vote on, the relevant matter, at a Council or committee meeting in accordance with the Council's code of conduct, or

e. a failure to comply with this code.

Note: Clause 21.1 reflects section 374 of the Act.

22 DEFINITIONS

the Act	means the *Local Government Act 1993*
act of disorder	means an act of disorder as defined in clause 15.11 of this code
amendment	in relation to an original motion, means a motion moving anamendment to that motion
audio recorder	any device capable of recording speech

audio-visual link	means a facility that enables audio and visual communicationbetween persons at different places
business day	means any day except Saturday or Sunday or any other day thewhole or part of which is observed as a public holiday throughoutNew South Wales
chairperson	in relation to a meeting of the Council – means the person presiding at the meeting as provided by section 369 of the Act and clauses 6.1 and 6.2 of this code, and in relation to a meeting of a committee – means the person presiding at the meeting as provided by clause 20.11 of this code
this code	means the Council's adopted code of meeting practice
committee of the Council	means a committee established by the Council in accordance with clause 20.2 of this code (being a committee consisting onlyof Councillors) or the Council when it has resolved itself into committee of the whole under clause 12.1
Council official	has the same meaning it has in the Model Code of Conduct forLocal Councils in NSW
day	means calendar day
division	means a request by two Councillors under clause 11.7 of this code requiring the recording of the names of the Councillors whovoted both for and against a motion
foreshadowed amendment	means a proposed amendment foreshadowed by a Councillor under clause 10.18 of this code during debate on the firstamendment
foreshadowed motion	means a motion foreshadowed by a Councillor under clause 10.17 of this code during debate on an original motion
open voting	means voting on the voices or by a show of hands or by a visibleelectronic voting system or similar means
planning decision	means a decision made in the exercise of a function of a Council under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* including any decision relating to a development application, anenvironmental planning instrument, a development control plan or a development contribution plan under that Act, but not

including the making of an order under Division 9.3 of Part 9 of that Act

performance improvementorder	means an order issued under section 438A of the Act
quorum	means the minimum number of Councillors or committeemembers necessary to conduct a meeting
the Regulation	means the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*
webcast	a video or audio broadcast of a meeting transmitted across theinternet either concurrently with the meeting or at a later time
year	means the period beginning 1 July and ending the following 30June

23 BREACHES OF THIS POLICY

Breaches of this policy may result in an investigation of the alleged breach in line with relevant Council policies including the Model Code of Conduct.

Any alleged criminal offence or allegation of corrupt conduct will be referred to the relevant external agency.

24 ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

From time-to-time circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made including branding, Council Officer titles or department changes and legislative name or title changes are considered minor in nature, so can be made by the Risk and Audit Manager.

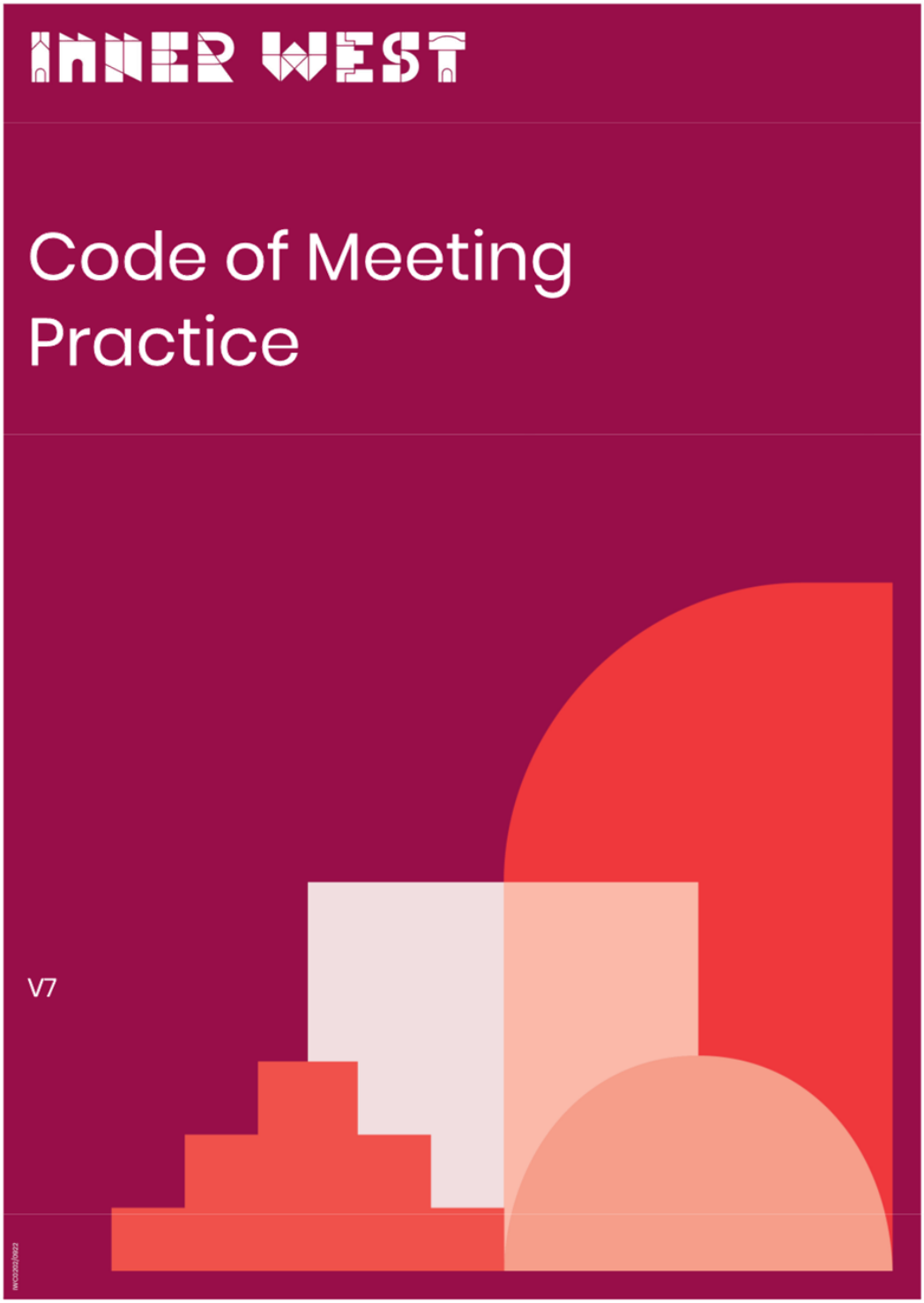
25 VERSION CONTROL– Policy History

This policy will be reviewed within 12 months of the Council election (next election on 14/9/2024) as required by the Local Government Act 1993.

Governance use only:

Document	Code of Meeting Practice	***Uncontrolled Copy When Printed***	
Custodian	Senior Manager Governance & Risk	**Version #**	Version 7
Approved By	Council	**ECM Document #**	34765531
Next Review Date	Within 12 months of the Council election (next election 14/9/2024)		

Amended By	Changes Made	Date
Governance and Risk	New policy	21 November 2017
Governance and Risk	Updated policy	26 March 2019
Governance and Risk	Updated policy	25 August 2020
Governance and Risk	Amended Clause 4.24	9 February 2021
Governance and Risk	Updated Policy	10 May 2022
Council	Amended public forum section	14 February 2023
Council	Amended Order of Business to include a Statement of Ethical Obligations	13 February 2024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Code of Meeting Practice
V7

Title	Code of Meeting Practice
Summary	The Code outlines the procedures for the conduct of Council and Committee Meetings.
Document Type	Code
Relevant Strategic Plan Objective	Strategic Direction 5: Progressive responsive and effective civic leadership.
Legislative Reference	• *Local Government Act 1993* • *Local Government General Regulation 2021*
Related Council Documents	Code of Conduct
Version Control	See last page

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW (the Model Meeting Code) is prescribed under section 360 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (the Regulation).

1.2 The Code applies to all meetings of Councils and committees of Councils of which all the members are Councillors (committees of Council). Council committees whose members include persons other than Councillors may adopt their own rules for meetings unless the Council determines otherwise.

1.3 A Council's adopted code of meeting practice may also incorporate the non-mandatory provisions of the Model Meeting Code and other supplementary provisions. However, a code of meeting practice adopted by a council must not contain provisions that are inconsistent with the mandatory provisions of the Model Meeting Code.

1.4 A Council and a committee of the Council of which all the members are Councillors must conduct its meetings in accordance with the code of meeting practice adopted by the Council.

2 MEETING PRINCIPLES

2.1 Council and committee meetings should be:

Transparent:	Decisions are made in a way that is open and accountable.
Informed:	Decisions are made based on relevant, quality information.
Inclusive:	Decisions respect the diverse needs and interests of the local community.
Principled:	Decisions are informed by the principles prescribed under Chapter 3 of the Act.

Trusted:	The community has confidence that Councillors and staff act ethically and make decisions in the interests of the whole community.
Respectful:	Councillors, staff and meeting attendees treat each other with respect.
Effective:	Meetings are well organised, effectively run and skillfully chaired.
Orderly:	Councillors, staff and meeting attendees behave in a way that contributes to the orderly conduct of the meeting.

Revision of the Code

2.2 The Council authorises the General Manager to reissue the Code without public exhibition to incorporate any amendments to relevant Acts, Regulations or formal advice from the NSW Office of Local Government.

Note: Clause 2.2 is a Supplementary Provision.

3 BEFORE THE MEETING

Timing of ordinary Council meetings

3.1 The Council shall, by resolution, set the frequency, time, date and place ofits ordinary meetings.

Note: Under section 365 of the Act, Councils are required to meet at least ten (10) times each year.

Extraordinary meetings

3.2 If the Mayor receives a request in writing, signed by at least two (2) Councillors, the Mayor must call an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held as soon as practicable, but in any event, no more than fourteen (14) days after receipt of the request. The Mayor can be one of the two Councillors requesting the meeting.

Note: Clause 3.2 reflects section 366 of the Act.

Notice to the public of Council meetings

3.3 The Council must give notice to the public of the time, date and place of each of its meetings, including extraordinary meetings and of each meeting of committees of the Council.

Note: Clause 3.3 reflects section 9(1) of the Act.

3.4 For the purposes of clause 3.3, notice of a meeting of the Council and of a committee of Council is to be published before the meeting takes place. The notice must be published on the Council's website, and in such other manner that the Council is satisfied is likely to bring notice of the meeting to the attention of as many people as possible.

3.5 For the purposes of clause 3.3, notice of more than one (1) meeting may be given in the same notice.

Notice to Councillors of ordinary Council meetings

3.6 The General Manager must send to each Councillor, at least three (3) days before each meeting of the Council, a notice specifying the time, date and place at which the meeting is to be held, and the business proposed to be considered at the meeting.

Note: Clause 3.6 reflects section 367(1) of the Act.

3.7 The notice and the agenda for, and the business papers relating to, the meeting may be given to Councillors in electronic form, but only if all Councillors have facilities to access the notice, agenda and business papers in that form.

Note: Clause 3.7 reflects section 367(3) of the Act.

Notice to Councillors of extraordinary meetings

3.8 Notice of less than three (3) days may be given to Councillors of an extraordinary meeting of the Council in cases of emergency.

Note: Clause 3.8 reflects section 367(2) of the Act.

Giving notice of business to be considered at Council meetings

3.9 A Councillor may give notice of any business they wish to be considered by the Council at its next ordinary meeting by way of a notice of motion. To be included on the agenda of the meeting, the

notice of motion must be in writing and must be submitted by 10am on the Monday~~,~~ of the week in which the agenda is to be published. ~~prior to the ordinary meeting.~~ If a public holiday falls on ~~this~~the Monday, then the deadline is extended to 10am on the Tuesday~~, in the week prior to the next ordinary Meeting.~~

3.10 A Councillor may, in writing to the General Manager, request the withdrawal of a notice of motion submitted by them prior to its inclusion in the agenda and business paper for the meeting at which it is to be considered.

3.11 If the General Manager considers that a notice of motion submitted by a Councillor for consideration at an ordinary meeting of the Council has legal, strategic, financial or policy implications which should be taken into consideration by the meeting, the General Manager may:

a. provide advice that the motion be deferred pending a report from officers

b. provide an officer's comment with the Notice of Motion on the business paper; or

c. if time permits, prepare a report in relation to the notice of motion for inclusion with the business papers for the meeting at which the notice of motion is to be considered by the Council.

3.12 A notice of motion for the expenditure of funds on works and/or services other than those already provided for in the council's current adopted operational plan must identify the source of funding for the expenditure that is the subject of the notice of motion. If the notice of motion does not identify a funding source, the general manager will refer the Notice of Motion back to the Councillor to identify the source of funding before it is placed on the agenda for the next Ordinary Council Meeting.

Questions with notice

3.13 A Councillor may, by way of a notice submitted under clause 3.9, ask a question for response by the General Manager about the performance or operations of the Council.

3.14 A Councillor is not permitted to ask a question with notice under clause 3.13 that comprises a complaint against the General Manager

or a member of staff of the Council, or a question that implies wrongdoing by the General Manager or a member of staff of the Council.

3.15 The General Manager or their nominee may respond to a question with notice submitted under clause 3.13 by way of a report included in the business papers for the relevant meeting of the Council or orally at the meeting.

Agenda and business papers for ordinary meetings

3.16 The General Manager must cause the agenda for a meeting of the Councilor a committee of the Council to be prepared as soon as practicable before the meeting.

3.17 The General Manager must ensure that the agenda for an ordinary meeting of the Council states:

a. all matters to be dealt with arising out of the proceedings of previous meetings of the Council, and

b. if the Mayor is the chairperson – any matter or topic that the chairperson proposes, at the time when the agenda is prepared, to put to the meeting, and

c. all matters, including matters that are the subject of staff reports and reports of committees, to be considered at the meeting, and

d. any business of which due notice has been given under clause 3.9.

3.18 Nothing in clause 3.17 limits the powers of the Mayor to put a Mayoral minute to a meeting under clause 9.6.

3.19 The General Manager must not include in the agenda for a meeting of the Council any business of which due notice has been given if, in the opinion of the General Manager, the business is, or the implementation of the business would be, unlawful. The General Manager must report, without giving details of the item of business, any such exclusion to the next meeting of the Council.

3.20 Where the agenda includes the receipt of information or discussion of other matters that, in the opinion of the General Manager, is likely to take place when the meeting is closed to the public, the General

Manager must ensure that the agenda of the meeting:

a. identifies the relevant item of business and indicates that it is of such a nature (without disclosing details of the information to be considered when the meeting is closed to the public), and

b. states the grounds under section 10A (2) of the Act relevant to the item of business.

Note: Clause 3.20 reflects section 9(2A) (a) of the Act.

3.21 The General Manager must ensure that the details of any item of business which, in the opinion of the General Manager, is likely to be considered when the meeting is closed to the public, are included in a business paper provided to Councillors for the meeting concerned. Such details must not be included in the business papers made available to the public and must not be disclosed by a Councillor or by any other person to another person who is not authorised to have that information.

Statement of ethical obligations

3.22 Business papers for all ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the Council and committees of the Council must contain a statement reminding Councillors of their oath or affirmation of office made under section 233A of the Act and their obligations under the Council's code of conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

Availability of the agenda and business papers to the public

3.23 Copies of the agenda and the associated business papers, such as correspondence and reports for meetings of the Council and committees of Council, are to be published on the Council's website, and must be made available to the public for inspection, or for taking away by any person free of charge at the offices of the Council, at the relevant meeting and at such other venues determined by the Council.

Note: Clause 3.23 reflects section 9(2) and (4) of the Act.

3.24 Clause 3.23 does not apply to the business papers for items of business that the General Manager has identified under clause 3.21 as being likely to be considered when the meeting is closed to the

public.

Note: Clause 3.24 reflects section 9(2A)(b) of the Act.

3.25 For the purposes of clause 3.23, copies of agendas and business papers must be published on the Council's website and made available to the public at a time that is as close as possible to the time they are available to Councillors.

Note: Clause 3.25 reflects section 9(3) of the Act.

3.26 A copy of an agenda, or of an associated business paper made available under clause 3.23, may in addition be given or made available in electronic form.

Note: Clause 3.26 reflects section 9(5) of the Act.

Agenda and business papers for extraordinary meetings

3.27 The General Manager must ensure that the agenda for an extraordinary meeting of the Council deals only with the matters stated in the notice of the meeting.

3.28 Despite clause 3.27, business may be considered at an extraordinary meeting of the Council, even though due notice of the business has not been given, if:

a. a motion is passed to have the business considered at the meeting, and

b. the business to be considered is ruled by the chairperson to be of great urgency on the grounds that it requires a decision by the Council before the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the Council.

3.29 A motion moved under clause 3.28(a) can be moved without notice but only after the business notified in the agenda for the extraordinary meeting has been dealt with.

3.30 Despite clauses 10.20–10.30, only the mover of a motion moved under clause 3.28(a) can speak to the motion before it is put.

3.31 A motion of dissent cannot be moved against a ruling of the chairperson under clause 3.28(b) on whether a matter is of great urgency.

Pre-meeting briefing sessions

3.32 Prior to each ordinary meeting of the Council, the General Manager may arrange a pre-meeting briefing session to brief Councillors on business to be considered at the meeting. Pre-meeting briefing sessions may also be held for extraordinary meetings of the Council and meetings of committees of the Council.

3.33 Pre-meeting briefing sessions are to be held in the absence of the public.

3.34 Pre-meeting briefing sessions may be held by audio-visual link.

3.35 The General Manager or a member of staff nominated by the General Manager is to preside at pre-meeting briefing sessions.

3.36 Councillors must not use pre-meeting briefing sessions to debate or make preliminary decisions on items of business they are being briefed on, and any debate and decision-making must be left to the formal Council or committee meeting at which the item of business is to be considered.

3.37 Councillors (including the Mayor) must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in relation to any item of business that is the subject of a briefing at a pre-meeting briefing session, in the same way that they are required to do so at a Council or committee meeting. The Council is to maintain a written record of all conflict of interest declarations made at pre- meeting briefing sessions and how the conflict of interest was managed by the Councillor who made the declaration.

3.38 The rules set out in clauses 15.11-15.17 for keeping order at a meeting apply to briefings.

4 PUBLIC FORUM

4.1 The Council may hold a public forum prior to the consideration of Condolence Motions and Mayoral Minutes for the purpose of hearing oral submissions from members of the public on items of business to be considered at the meeting.

4.2 Public forums may be held by audio-visual link.

4.3 Public forums are to be chaired in accordance with clauses 6.1 and

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6.2.

4.4 To speak at a public forum, a person must first make an application to the Council in the approved form. Applications to speak at the public forum must be received by 2pm on the day of the Council meeting and must identify the item of business on the agenda of the Council meeting the person wishes to speak on, and whether they wish to speak 'for' or 'against' the item.

4.5 A person may apply to speak on no more than 3 items of business on the agenda of the Council meeting.

4.6 Legal representatives acting on behalf of others are not to be permitted to speak at a public forum unless they identify their status as a legal representative when applying to speak at the public forum.

4.7 The General Manager or their delegate may refuse an application to speak at a public forum. The General Manager or their delegate must give reasons in writing for a decision to refuse an application.

4.8 No more than 3 speakers are to be permitted to speak 'for' or 'against' each item of business on the agenda for the Council meeting.

4.9 If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to speak 'for' or 'against' any item of business, the General Manager or their delegate may request the speakers to nominate from among themselves the persons who are to address the Council on the item of business. If the speakers are not able to agree on whom to nominate to address the Council, the General Manager or their delegate is to determine who will address the Council at the public forum.

4.10 If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to speak 'for' or 'against' any item of business, the General Manager or their delegate may, in consultation with the Mayor or the Mayor's nominated chairperson, increase the number of speakers permitted to speak on an item of business, where they are satisfied that it is necessary to do so to allow the Council to hear a fuller range of views on the relevant item of business.

4.11 Approved speakers at the public forum are to register with the Council any written, visual or audio material to be presented in support of their address to the Council at the public forum, and to identify any equipment needs no later than 2.00pm on the day of the

public forum. The General Manager or their delegate may refuse to allow such material to be presented.

4.12 The General Manager or their delegate is to determine the order of speakers at the public forum.

4.13 Each speaker will be allowed 3 minutes to address the Council. This time is to be strictly enforced by the chairperson.

4.14 Speakers at public forums must not digress from the item on the agenda of the Council meeting they have applied to address the Council on. If a speaker digresses to irrelevant matters, the chairperson is to direct the speaker not to do so. If a speaker fails to observe a direction from the chairperson, the speaker will not be further heard.

4.15 A Councillor (including the chairperson) may, through the chairperson, ask questions of a speaker following their address at a public forum. Questions put to a speaker must be direct, succinct and without argument.

4.16 Speakers are under no obligation to answer a question put under clause 4.15. Answers by the speaker, to each question are to be limited to 2 minutes.

4.17 Speakers at public forums cannot ask questions of the Council, Councillors, or Council staff.

4.18 The General Manager or their nominee may, with the concurrence of the chairperson, address the Council for up to 2 minutes in response to an address to the Council at a public forum after the address and any subsequent questions and answers have been finalised.

4.19 Where an address made at a public forum raises matters that require further consideration by Council staff, the General Manager may recommend that the Council defer consideration of the matter pending the preparation of a further report on the matters.

4.20 When addressing the Council, speakers at public forums must comply with this code and all other relevant Council codes, policies, and procedures. Speakers must refrain from engaging in disorderly conduct, publicly alleging breaches of the Council's code of conduct or making other potentially defamatory statements.

4.21 If the chairperson considers that a speaker at a public forum has engaged in conduct of the type referred to in clause 4.20, the chairperson may request the person to refrain from the inappropriate behaviour and to withdraw and unreservedly apologise for any inappropriate comments. Where the speaker fails to comply with the chairperson's request, the chairperson may immediately require the person to stop speaking.

4.22 Clause 4.2 does not limit the ability of the chairperson to deal with disorderly conduct by speakers at public forums in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of this code.

4.23 Where a speaker engages in conduct of the type referred to in clause 4.20, the General Manager or their delegate may refuse further applications from that person to speak at public forums for such a period as the General Manager or their delegate considers appropriate.

4.24 Councillors (including the Mayor) must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in relation to any item of business that is the subject of an address at a public forum, in the same way that they are required to do so at a Council or committee meeting. The Council is to maintain a written record of all conflict of interest declarations made at public forums and how the conflict of interest was managed by the Councillor who made the declaration.

4.25 Where an item has been listed on a Council Meeting agenda, including Extraordinary Meetings and formed part of the public forum for that meeting, should those items be held over to a future meeting of Council, those items will not form part of another public forum at a future meeting.

Note: Public forums should not be held as part of a Council or committee meeting. Council or committee meetings should be reserved for decision-making by the Council or committee of Council. Where a public forum is held as part of a Council or committee meeting, it must be conducted in

accordance with the other requirements of this code relating to the conduct of Council and committee meetings.

5 COMING TOGETHER

Attendance by Councillors at meetings

5.1 All Councillors must make reasonable efforts to attend meetings of the Council and of committees of the Council of which they are members.

Note: A Councillor may not attend a meeting as a Councillor (other than the first meeting of the Council after the Councillor is elected or a meeting at which the Councillor takes an oath or makes an affirmation of office) until they have taken an oath or made an affirmation of office in the form prescribed under section 233A of the Act.

5.2 A Councillor cannot participate in a meeting of the Council or of a committee of the Council unless personally present at the meeting, unless permitted to attend the meeting by audio-visual link under this code.

5.3 Where a Councillor is unable to attend one or more ordinary meetings of the Council, the Councillor should request that the Council grant them a leave of absence from those meetings. This clause does not prevent a Councillor from making an apology if they are unable to attend a meeting. However, the acceptance of such an apology does not constitute the granting of a leave of absence for the purposes of this code and the Act.

5.4 A Councillor's request for leave of absence from Council meetings should, if practicable, identify (by date) the meetings from which the Councillor intends to be absent and the grounds upon which the leave of absence is being sought.

5.5 The Council must act reasonably when considering whether to grant a Councillor's request for a leave of absence.

5.6 A Councillor's civic office will become vacant if the Councillor is absent from three (3) consecutive ordinary meetings of the Council without prior leave of the Council or leave granted by the Council at any of the meetings concerned, unless the holder is absent because

they have been suspended from office under the Act, or because the Council has been suspended under the Act, or as a consequence of a compliance order under section 438HA.

Note: Clause 5.6 reflects section 234(1)(d) of the Act.

5.7 A Councillor who intends to attend a meeting of the Council despite having been granted a leave of absence should, if practicable, give the General Manager at least two (2) days' notice of their intention to attend.

The quorum for a meeting

5.8 The quorum for a meeting of the Council is a majority of the Councillors of the Council who hold office at that time and are not suspended from office.

Note: Clause 5.9 reflects section 368(1) of the Act.

5.9 Clause 5.7 does not apply if the quorum is required to be determined in accordance with directions of the Minister in a performance improvement order issued in respect of the Council.

Note: Clause 5.10 reflects section 368(2) of the Act.

5.10 A meeting of the Council must be adjourned if a quorum is not present:

a. at the commencement of the meeting where the number of apologies received for the meeting indicates that there will not be a quorum for the meeting, or

b. within half an hour after the time designated for the holding of the meeting, or

c. at any time during the meeting.

d. In either case, the meeting must be adjourned to a time, date, and place fixed:

e. by the chairperson, or

f. in the chairperson's absence, by the majority of the Councillors present, or

g. failing that, by the General Manager.

5.11 The General Manager must record in the Council's minutes the

circumstances relating to the absence of a quorum (including the reasons for the absence of a quorum) at or arising during a meeting of the Council together with the names of the Councillors present.

5.12 Where, prior to the commencement of a meeting, it becomes apparent that a quorum may not be present at the meeting, or that the health, safety or welfare of Councillors, Council staff and members of the public may be put at risk by attending the meeting because of a natural disaster or a public health emergency, the Mayor may, in consultation with the General Manager and, as far as is practicable, with each Councillor, cancel the meeting. Where a meeting is cancelled, notice of the cancellation must be published on the Council's website and in such other manner that the Council is satisfied is likely to bring notice of the cancellation to the attention of as many people as possible.

5.13 Where a meeting is cancelled under clause 5.12, the business to be considered at the meeting may instead be considered, where practicable, at the next ordinary meeting of the Council or at an extraordinary meeting called under clause 3.2.

5.14 Where an item has been listed on a Council Meeting agenda, including Extraordinary Meetings and formed part of the public forum for that meeting, should those items be held over to a future meeting of Council, those items will not form part of another public forum at a future meeting.

Meetings held by audio-visual link

5.15 A meeting of the Council or a committee of the Council may be held by audio-visual link where the Mayor determines that the meeting should be held by audio-visual link because of a natural disaster or a public health emergency. The Mayor may only make a determination under this clause where they are satisfied that attendance at the meeting may put the health and safety of Councillors and staff at risk. The Mayor must make a determination under this clause in consultation with the General Manager and, as far as is practicable, with each Councillor.

5.16 Where the Mayor determines under clause 5.16 that a meeting is to be held by audio-visual link, the General Manager must:

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a. give written notice to all Councillors that the meeting is to be held by audio-visual link, and

b. take all reasonable steps to ensure that all Councillors can participate in the meeting by audio-visual link, and

c. cause a notice to be published on the Council's website and in such other manner the General Manager is satisfied will bring it to the attention of as many people as possible, advising that the meeting is to be held by audio-visual link and providing information about where members of the public may view the meeting.

5.17 This code applies to a meeting held by audio-visual link under clause 5.16 in the same way it would if the meeting was held in person.

Note: Where a Council holds a meeting by audio-visual link under clause5.16, it is still required under section 10 of the Act to provide a physical venue for members of the public to attend in person and observe the meeting.

Attendance by Councillors at meetings by audio-visual link

5.18 Councillors may attend and participate in meetings of the Council and committees of the Council by audio-visual link with the approval of the Council or the relevant committee.

5.19 A request by a Councillor for approval to attend a meeting by audio-visual link must be made in writing to the General Manager prior to the meeting in question and must provide reasons why the Councillor will be prevented from attending the meeting in person.

5.20 Councillors may request approval to attend more than one meeting by audio-visual link. Where a Councillor requests approval to attend more than one meeting by audio-visual link, the request must specify the meetings the request relates to in addition to the information required under clause 5.19.

5.21 The Council must comply with the Health Privacy Principles prescribed under the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002* when collecting, holding, using and disclosing health information in connection with a request by a Councillor to attend a meeting by audio-visual link.

5.22 A Councillor who has requested approval to attend a meeting of the

Councilor a committee of the Council by audio-visual link may participate in the meeting by audio-visual link until the Council or committee determines whether to approve their request and is to be taken as present at the meeting. The Councillor may participate in a decision in relation to their request to attend the meeting by audio-visual link.

5.23 A decision whether to approve a request by a Councillor to attend a meeting of the Council or a committee of the Council by audio-visual link must be made by a resolution of the Council or the committee concerned. The resolution must state:

a. the meetings the resolution applies to, and

b. the reason why the Councillor is being permitted to attend the meetings by audio-visual link where it is on grounds other than illness, disability, or caring responsibilities.

5.24 If the Council or committee refuses a Councillor's request to attend a meeting by audio-visual link, their link to the meeting is to be terminated.

5.25 A decision whether to approve a Councillor's request to attend a meeting by audio-visual link is at the Council's or the relevant committee's discretion. The Council and committees of the Council must act reasonably when considering requests by Councillors to attend meetings by audio-visual link. However, the Council and committees of the Council are under no obligation to approve a Councillor's request to attend a meeting by audio- visual link where the technical capacity does not exist to allow the Councillor to attend the meeting by these means.

5.26 The Council and committees of the Council may refuse a Councillor's request to attend a meeting by audio-visual link where the Council or committee is satisfied that the Councillor has failed to appropriately declare and manage conflicts of interest, observe confidentiality or to comply with this code on one or more previous occasions they have attended a meeting of the Council or a committee of the Council by audio-visual link.

5.27 This code applies to a Councillor attending a meeting by audio-visual link in the same way it would if the Councillor was attending the

meeting in person. Where a Councillor is permitted to attend a meeting by audio-visual link under this code, they are to be taken as attending the meeting in person for the purposes of the code and will have the same voting rights as if they were attending the meeting in person.

5.28 A Councillor must give their full attention to the business and proceedings of the meeting when attending a meeting by audio-visual link. The Councillor's camera must be on at all times during the meeting except, except where it is impracticable to do so or, as may be otherwise provided for under this code.

5.29 A Councillor must be appropriately dressed when attending a meeting by audio-visual link and must ensure that no items are within sight of the meeting that are inconsistent with the maintenance of order at the meeting or that are likely to bring the Council or the committee into disrepute.

Entitlement of the public to attend Council meetings

5.30 Everyone is entitled to attend a meeting of the Council and committees of the Council. The Council must ensure that all meetings of the Council and committees of the Council are open to the public.

Note: Clause 5.31 reflects section 10(1) of the Act.

5.31 Clause 5.29 does not apply to parts of meetings that have been closed to the public under section 10A of the Act.

5.32 A person (whether a Councillor or another person) is not entitled to be present at a meeting of the Council or a committee of the Council if expelled from the meeting:

a. by a resolution of the meeting, or

b. by the person presiding at the meeting if the Council has, by resolution, authorised the person presiding to exercise the power of expulsion.

Note: Clause 5.33 reflects section 10(2) of the Act.

Note: If adopted, clauses 15.14 and 15.15 confer a standing authorization on all chairpersons of meetings of the Council and committees of the Council to expel persons from meetings. If adopted, clause 15.14 authorises

chairpersons to expel any person, including a Councillor, from a Council or committee meeting. Alternatively, if adopted, clause 15.15 authorises chairpersons to expel persons other than Councillors from a Council or committee meeting.

Webcasting of meetings

5.33 Each meeting of the council or a committee of the council is to be recorded by means of an audio or audio-visual device.

5.34 At the start of each meeting of the council or a committee of the council, the chairperson must inform the persons attending the meeting that:

a. the meeting is being recorded and made publicly available on the council's website, and

b. persons attending the meeting should refrain from making any defamatory statements.

5.35 The recording of a meeting is to be made publicly available on the council's website:

a. at the same time as the meeting is taking place, or

b. as soon as practicable after the meeting.

5.36 The recording of a meeting is to be made publicly available on the council's website for at least 12 months after the meeting.

5.37 Clauses 5.35 and 5.36 do not apply to any part of a meeting that has been closed to the public in accordance with section 10A of the Act.

Note: Clauses 5.32 – 5.36 reflect section 236 of the Regulation.

5.38 Recordings of meetings may be disposed of in accordance with the State Roads Act 1998.

Attendance of the General Manager and other staff at meetings

5.39 The General Manager is entitled to attend, but not to vote at, a meeting of the Council or a meeting of a committee of the Council of which all of the members are Councillors.

Note: Clause 5.39 reflects section 376(1) of the Act.

5.40 The General Manager is entitled to attend a meeting of any other committee of the Council and may, if a member of the committee,

exercise a vote.

Note: Clause 5.40 reflects section 376(2) of the Act.

5.41 The General Manager may be excluded from a meeting of the Council or a committee while the Council or committee deals with a matter relating to the standard of performance of the General Manager or the terms of employment of the General Manager.

Note: Clause 5.41 reflects section 376(3) of the Act.

5.42 The attendance of other Council staff at a meeting, (other than as members of the public) shall be with the approval of the General Manager.

5.43 The General Manager and other Council staff may attend meetings of the Council and committees of the Council by audio-visual-link. Attendance by Council staff at meetings by audio-visual link (other than as members of the public) shall be with the approval of the General Manager.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON

The chairperson at meetings

6.1 The Mayor, or at the request of or in the absence of the Mayor, the deputy Mayor (if any) presides at meetings of the Council.

Note: Clause 6.1 reflects section 369(1) of the Act.

6.2 If the Mayor and the deputy Mayor (if any) are absent, a Councillor elected to chair the meeting by the Councillors present presides at a meeting of the Council.

Note: Clause 6.2 reflects section 369(2) of the Act.

Election of the chairperson in the absence of the Mayor and deputy Mayor

6.3 If no chairperson is present at a meeting of the Council at the time designated for the holding of the meeting, the first business of the meeting must be the election of a chairperson to preside at the meeting.

6.4 The election of a chairperson must be conducted:

a. by the General Manager or, in their absence, an employee of the Council designated by the General Manager to conduct the election, or

b. by the person who called the meeting or a person acting on their behalf if neither the General Manager nor a designated employee is present at the meeting, or if there is no General Manager or designated employee.

6.5 If, at an election of a chairperson, two (2) or more candidates receive the same number of votes and no other candidate receives a greater number of votes, the chairperson is to be the candidate whose name is chosen by lot.

6.6 For the purposes of clause 6.5, the person conducting the election must:

a. arrange for the names of the candidates who have equal numbers of votes to be written on similar slips, and

b. then fold the slips so as to prevent the names from being seen, mix the slips and draw one of the slips at random.

6.7 The candidate whose name is on the drawn slip is the candidate who is to be the chairperson.

6.8 Any election conducted under clause 6.3, and the outcome of the vote, are to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Chairperson to have precedence

6.9 When the chairperson rises or speaks during a meeting of the Council:

a. any Councillor then speaking or seeking to speak must cease speaking and, if standing, immediately resume their seat, and

b. every Councillor present must be silent to enable the chairperson to be heard without interruption.

7 MODES OF ADDRESS

7.1 If the chairperson is the Mayor, they are to be addressed as 'Mr Mayor' or 'Madam Mayor'.

7.2 Where the chairperson is not the Mayor, they are to be addressed as either 'Mr Chairperson' or 'Madam Chairperson'.

7.3 A Councillor is to be addressed as 'Councillor [surname]'.

7.4 A Council officer is to be addressed by their official designation or as Mr/Ms [surname].

8 ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS

8.1 The general order of business for an ordinary meeting of the Council shall be:

1. Opening Meeting
2. Acknowledgment of Country
3. Apologies and requests for leave of absence or attendance by audio-visual link by Councillors
4. Notice of Webcasting
5. Statement of Ethical Obligations (see Clause 8.4 below)
6. Disclosures of Interests
7. Moment of Quiet Contemplation
8. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings
9. ~~Moment of Quiet Contemplation~~
9. Public Forum (hearing from registered speakers only)
10. Condolence Motions
11. Mayoral Minute(s)
12. ~~Reports to Council~~ Reports for Decision
13. Confidential Matters
14. Reports for Noting
15. Notice of Motions/Questions with Notice
16. ~~Confidential Matters~~
16. Urgency Motions (If required)
17. Conclusion of the meeting

8.2 The order of business as fixed under clause 8.1 may be altered for a particular meeting of the Council if a motion to that effect is passed at that meeting. Such a motion can be moved without notice.

Note: Part 13 allows Council to deal with items of business by exception.

8.3 Despite clauses 10.20–10.30, only the mover of a motion referred to in clause 8.2 may speak to the motion before it is put.

8.4 The Statement of Ethical Obligations to be read by the Mayor (or Chair of the Ordinary Council Meetings) is:

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.

9 CONSIDERATION OF BUSINESS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Business that can be dealt with at a Council meeting

9.1 The Council must not consider business at a meeting of the Council:

a. unless a Councillor has given notice of the business, as required by clause 3.9, and

b. unless notice of the business has been sent to the Councillors in accordance with clause 3.6 in the case of an ordinary meeting or clause 3.8 in the case of an extraordinary meeting called in an emergency.

9.2 Clause 9.1 does not apply to the consideration of business at a meeting, if the business:

a. is already before, or directly relates to, a matter that is already before the Council, or

b. is the election of a chairperson to preside at the meeting, or

c. subject to clause 9.9, is a matter or topic put to the meeting by way of a Mayoral minute, or

d. is a motion for the adoption of recommendations of a committee, including, but not limited to, a committee of the Council.

9.3 Despite clause 9.1, business may be considered at a meeting of the Council even though due notice of the business has not been given to the Councillors if:

a. a motion is passed to have the business considered at the meeting, and

b. the business to be considered is ruled by the chairperson to be of great urgency on the grounds that it requires a decision by the Council before the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the Council.

9.4 A motion moved under clause 9.3(a) can be moved without notice. Despite clauses 10.20–10.30, only the mover of a motion referred to in clause 9.3(a)can speak to the motion before it is put.

9.5 A motion of dissent cannot be moved against a ruling by the chairperson under clause 9.3(b).

Mayoral minutes

9.6 Subject to clause 9.9, if the Mayor is the chairperson at a meeting of the Council, the Mayor may, by minute signed by the Mayor, put to the meeting without notice any matter or topic that is within the jurisdiction of the Council, or of which the Council has official knowledge.

9.7 A Mayoral minute, when put to a meeting, takes precedence over all business on the Council's agenda for the meeting. The chairperson (but only if the chairperson is the Mayor) may move the adoption of a Mayoral minute without the motion being seconded.

9.8 A recommendation made in a Mayoral minute put by the Mayor is, so far as it is adopted by the Council, a resolution of the Council.

9.9 A Mayoral minute must not be used to put without notice matters that are routine and not urgent or matters for which proper notice should be given because of their complexity. For the purpose of this clause, a matter will be urgent where it requires a decision by the Council before the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the Council.

9.10 Where a Mayoral minute makes a recommendation which, if adopted, would require the expenditure of funds on works and/or services other than those already provided for in the Council's current adopted operational plan, it must identify the source of funding for the expenditure that is the subject of the recommendation.

Staff reports

9.11 A recommendation made in a staff report is, so far as it is adopted by the Council, a resolution of the Council.

Reports of committees of Council

9.12 The recommendations of a committee of the Council are, so far as they are adopted by the Council, resolutions of the Council.

9.13 If in a report of a committee of the Council distinct recommendations are made, the Council may make separate decisions on each recommendation.

Questions

9.14 Question must not be asked at a meeting of the Council unless it concerns a matter on the agenda of the meeting or notice has been given of the question in accordance with clauses 3.9 and 3.13.

9.15 A Councillor may, through the chairperson, put a question to another Councillor about a matter on the agenda.

9.16 A Councillor may, through the General Manager, put a question to a Council employee about a matter on the agenda. Council employees are only obliged to answer a question put to them through the General Manager at the direction of the General Manager.

9.17 A Councillor or Council employee to whom a question is put is entitled to begiven reasonable notice of the question and, in particular, sufficient notice to enable reference to be made to other persons or to information. Where a Councillor or Council employee to whom a question is put is unable to respond to the question at the meeting at which it is put, they may take it on notice and report the response to the next meeting of the Council.

9.18 Councillors must put questions directly, succinctly, respectfully and

without argument.

9.19 A Councillor may ask up to 3 questions per item on the agenda.

9.20 The chairperson must not permit discussion on any reply to, or refusal to reply to, a question put to a Councillor or Council employee.

10 RULES OF DEBATE

Motions to be seconded

10.1 Unless otherwise specified in this code, a motion or an amendment cannot be debated unless or until it has been seconded.

Notices of motion

10.2 A Councillor who has submitted a notice of motion under clause 3.9 is to move the motion the subject of the notice of motion at the meeting at which it is to be considered.

10.3 If a Councillor who has submitted a notice of motion under clause 3.9 wishes to withdraw it after the agenda and business paper for the meeting at which it is to be considered have been sent to Councillors, the Councillor may request the withdrawal of the motion when it is before the Council.

10.4 In the absence of a Councillor who has placed a notice of motion on the agenda for a meeting of the Council:

a. any other Councillor may, with the leave of the chairperson, move the motion at the meeting, or

b. the chairperson may defer consideration of the motion until the next meeting of the Council.

Chairperson's duties with respect to motions

10.5 It is the duty of the chairperson at a meeting of the Council to receive and put to the meeting any lawful motion that is brought before the meeting.

10.6 The chairperson must rule out of order any motion or amendment to a motion that is unlawful or the implementation of which would be unlawful.

10.7 Before ruling out of order a motion or an amendment to a motion

under clause 10.6, the chairperson is to give the mover an opportunity to clarify or amend the motion or amendment.

10.8 Any motion, amendment, or other matter that the chairperson has ruled out of order is taken to have been lost.

Motions requiring the expenditure of funds

10.9 A motion or an amendment to a motion which if passed would require the expenditure of funds on works and/or services other than those already provided for in the Council's current adopted operational plan must identify the source of funding for the expenditure that is the subject of the motion. If the motion does not identify a funding source, the Council must defer consideration of the matter, pending the identification of the funding source.

Amendments to motions

10.10 An amendment to a motion must be moved and seconded before it can be debated.

10.11 An amendment to a motion must relate to the matter being dealt with in the original motion before the Council and must not be a direct negative of the original motion. An amendment to a motion which does not relate to the matter being dealt with in the original motion, or which is a direct negative of the original motion, must be ruled out of order by the chairperson.

10.12 The mover of an amendment is to be given the opportunity to explain any uncertainties in the proposed amendment before a seconder is called for.

10.13 If an amendment has been lost, a further amendment can be moved to the motion to which the lost amendment was moved, and so on, but no more than one (1) motion and one (1) proposed amendment can be before Council at any one time.

10.14 While an amendment is being considered, debate must only occur in relation to the amendment and not the original motion. Debate on the original motion is to be suspended while the amendment to the original motion is being debated.

10.15 If the amendment is carried, it becomes the motion and is to be debated. If the amendment is lost, debate is to resume on the original motion.

10.16 An amendment may become the motion without debate or a vote where it is accepted by the Councillor who moved the original motion.

Foreshadowed motions

10.17 A Councillor may propose a foreshadowed motion in relation to the matter the subject of the original motion before the Council, without a seconder during debate on the original motion. The foreshadowed motion is only to be considered if the original motion is lost or withdrawn and the foreshadowed motion is then moved and seconded. If the original motion is carried, the foreshadowed motion lapses.

10.18 Where an amendment has been moved and seconded, a Councillor may, without a seconder, foreshadow a further amendment that they propose to move after the first amendment has been dealt with. There is no limit to the number of foreshadowed amendments that may be put before the Council at any time. However, no discussion can take place on foreshadowed amendments until the previous amendment has been dealt with and the foreshadowed amendment has been moved and seconded.

10.19 Foreshadowed motions and foreshadowed amendments are to be considered in the order in which they are proposed. However, foreshadowed motions cannot be considered until all foreshadowed amendments have been dealt with.

Limitations on the number and duration of speeches

10.20 A Councillor who, during a debate at a meeting of the Council, moves an original motion, has the right to speak on each amendment to the motion and a right of general reply to all observations that are made during the debate in relation to the motion, and any amendment to it at the conclusion of the debate before the motion (whether amended or not) is finally put.

10.21 A Councillor, other than the mover of an original motion, has the right to speak once on the motion and once on each amendment to it.

10.22 A Councillor must not, without the consent of the Council, speak more than once on a motion or an amendment, or for longer than 2

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minutes at any one time.

10.23 Despite clause 10.22, the chairperson may permit a Councillor who claims to have been misrepresented or misunderstood to speak more than once on a motion or an amendment, and for longer than 3 minutes on that motion or amendment to enable the Councillor to make a statement limited to explaining the misrepresentation or misunderstanding.

10.24 Despite clause 10.22, the Council may resolve to shorten the duration of speeches to expedite the consideration of business at a meeting.

10.25 Despite clauses 10.20 and 10.21, a Councillor may move that a motion or an amendment be now put:

a. if the mover of the motion or amendment has spoken in favour of it and no Councillor expresses an intention to speak against it,

b. if at least two (2) Councillors have spoken in favour of the motion or amendment and at least two (2) Councillors have spoken against it.

10.26 The chairperson must immediately put to the vote, without debate, a motion moved under clause 10.25. A seconder is not required for such a motion.

10.27 If a motion that the original motion or an amendment be now put is passed, the chairperson must, without further debate, put the original motion or amendment to the vote immediately after the mover of the original motion has exercised their right of reply under clause 10.20.

10.28 If a motion that the original motion or an amendment be now put is lost, the chairperson must allow the debate on the original motion or the amendment to be resumed.

10.29 All Councillors must be heard without interruption and all other Councillors must, unless otherwise permitted under this code, remain silent while another Councillor is speaking.

10.30 Once the debate on a matter has concluded and a matter has been dealt with, the chairperson must not allow further debate on the matter.

Examples of procedural motions are shown in the following table:

Motion	Moved without Notice	Requires Seconder	Speakers/ Debate Permitted	Rightof Reply
Change the order of Business	Yes	Yes	Mover of motion only	No
Business without Notice (matter of urgency)	Yes	Yes	Mover of motion only	No
Dissent from Chairpersons' ruling (on point of order)	Yes	Yes	Mover and Chairperson only may speak	No
Adjournment of meeting	Yes	Yes	No debate permitted	No
Limitation to number of speakers (questions be now put)	Yes *but only after at least 2 have spoken in favour and 2 have spoken against the motion or there are no Councillors who wish to speak against*	No	No debate permitted. Question must be put immediately.	No
Deferment of a matter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vote on points of a resolution separately	Yes	Yes	Mover of motion only	No

11 VOTING

Voting entitlements of Councillors

11.1 Each Councillor is entitled to one (1) vote.

Note: Clause 11.1 reflects section 370(1) of the Act.

11.2 The person presiding at a meeting of the Council has, in the event of an equality of votes, a second or casting vote.

Note: Clause 11.2 reflects section 370(2) of the Act.

11.3 Where the chairperson declines to exercise, or fails to exercise, their second or casting vote, in the event of an equality of votes, the motion being voted upon is lost.

Voting at Council meetings

11.4 or amendment, (including the use of the casting vote), being recorded A Councillor who is present at a meeting of the Council but who fails to vote on a motion put to the meeting is taken to have voted against the motion.

11.5 Voting at a meeting, including voting in an election at a meeting, is to be by open means (such as on the voices, by show of hands or by a visible electronic voting system). However, the Council may resolve that the voting in any election by Councillors for Mayor or deputy Mayor is to be by secret ballot.

11.6 All voting at Council meetings, (including meetings that are closed to the public), must be recorded in the minutes of meetings with the names of Councillors who voted for and against each motion.

Voting on planning decisions

11.7 The General Manager must keep a register containing, for each planning decision made at a meeting of the Council or a Council committee (including, but not limited to a committee of the Council), the names of the Councillors who supported the decision and the names of any Councillors who opposed (or are taken to have opposed) the decision.

11.8 Each decision recorded in the register is to be described in the register or identified in a manner that enables the description to be obtained from another publicly available document.

11.9 Clauses 11.7 and 11.8 also apply to meetings that are closed to the public.

Note: Clauses 11.7 - 11.9 reflect section 375A of the Act.

Note: The requirements of clause 11.8 may be satisfied by maintaining a register of the minutes of each planning decision.

12 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

12.1 The Council may resolve itself into a committee to consider any matter before the Council.

Note: Clause 12.1 reflects section 373 of the Act.

12.2 All the provisions of this code relating to meetings of the Council, so far as they are applicable, extend to and govern the proceedings of the Council when in committee of the whole, except the provisions limiting the number and duration of speeches.

Note: Clauses 10.20–10.30 limit the number and duration of speeches.

12.3 The General Manager or, in the absence of the General Manager, an employee of the Council designated by the General Manager, is responsible for reporting to the Council the proceedings of the committee of the whole. It is not necessary to report the proceedings in full, but any recommendations of the committee must be reported.

12.4 The Council must ensure that a report of the proceedings (including any recommendations of the committee) is recorded in the Council's minutes. However, the Council is not taken to have adopted the report until a motion for adoption has been made and passed.

13 DEALING WITH ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

13.1 The Council or a committee of Council may, at any time, resolve to adopt multiple items of business on the agenda together by way of a single resolution.

13.2 Before the Council or committee resolves to adopt multiple items of business on the agenda together under clause 13.1, the chairperson must list the items of business to be adopted and ask Councillors to identify any individual items of business listed by the chairperson that they intend to vote against the recommendation made in the business paper or that they wish to speak on.

13.3 The Council or committee must not resolve to adopt any item of business under clause 13.1 that a Councillor has identified as being one they intend to vote against the recommendation made in the business paper or to speak on.

13.4 Where the consideration of multiple items of business together under clause involves a variation to the order of business for the meeting, the Council or committee must resolve to alter the order of business in accordance with clause 8.2.

13.5 A motion to adopt multiple items of business together under clause 13.1 must identify each of the items of business to be adopted and state that they are to be adopted as recommended in the business paper.

13.6 Items of business adopted under clause 13.1 are to be taken to have been adopted unanimously.

13.7 Councillors must ensure that they declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in relation to items of business considered together under clause 13.1 in accordance with the requirements of the Council's code of conduct.

14 CLOSURE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS TO THE PUBLIC

Grounds on which meetings can be closed to the public

14.1 The Council or a committee of the Council may close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises the discussion or the receipt of any of the following types of matters:

a. personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors),

b. the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer,

c. information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business,

d. commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:

i. prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it or

ii. confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council, or

iii. reveal a trade secret,

e. information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law,

f. matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property,

g. advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege,

h. information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land,

i. alleged contraventions of the Council's code of conduct.

Note: Clause 14.1 reflects section 10A(1) and (2) of the Act.

14.2 The Council or a committee of the Council may also close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises a motion to close another part of the meeting to the public.

Note: Clause 14.2 reflects section 10A(3) of the Act.

Matters to be considered when closing meetings to the public

14.3 A meeting is not to remain closed during the discussion of anything referred to in clause 14.1:

a. except for so much of the discussion as is necessary to preserve the relevant confidentiality, privilege or security, and

b. if the matter concerned is a matter other than a personnel matter concerning particular individuals, the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer or a trade secret – unless the Council or committee concerned is satisfied that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

Note: Clause 14.3 reflects section 10B(1) of the Act.

14.4 A meeting is not to be closed during the receipt and consideration of information or advice referred to in clause 14.1(g) unless the advice concerns legal matters that:

a. are substantial issues relating to a matter in which the Council or committee is involved, and

b. are clearly identified in the advice, and

c. are fully discussed in that advice.

Note: Clause 14.4 reflects section 10B(2) of the Act.

14.5 If a meeting is closed during the discussion of a motion to close another part of the meeting to the public (as referred to in clause 14.2), the consideration of the motion must not include any consideration of the matter or information to be discussed in that other part of the meeting other than consideration of whether the matter concerned is a matter referred to in clause 14.1.

Note: Clause 14.5 reflects section 10B(3) of the Act.

14.6 For the purpose of determining whether the discussion of a matter in an open meeting would be contrary to the public interest, it is irrelevant that:

a. a person may misinterpret or misunderstand the discussion, or

b. the discussion of the matter may:

i. cause embarrassment to the Council or committee concerned, or to Councillors or to employees of the Council, or

ii. cause a loss of confidence in the Council or committee.

Note: Clause 14.6 reflects section 10B(4) of the Act.

14.7 In deciding whether part of a meeting is to be closed to the public, the Council or committee concerned must consider any relevant guidelines issued by the Departmental Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government.

Note: Clause 14.7 reflects section 10B(5) of the Act.

Notice of likelihood of closure not required in urgent cases

14.8 Part of a meeting of the Council, or of a committee of the Council, may be closed to the public while the Council or committee considers a matter that has not been identified in the agenda for the meeting under clause 3.20 as a matter that is likely to be considered when the meeting is closed, but only if:

a. it becomes apparent during the discussion of a particular matter

That the matter is a matter referred to in clause 14.1, and

b. the Council or committee, after considering any representations made under clause 14.9, resolves that further discussion of the matter:

i. should not be deferred (because of the urgency of the matter),and

ii. should take place in a part of the meeting that is closed to the public.

Note: Clause 14.8 reflects section 10C of the Act.

Representations by members of the public

14.9 The Council, or a committee of the Council, may allow members of the public to make representations to or at a meeting, before any part of the meeting is closed to the public, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed.

Note: Clause 14.9 reflects section 10A(4) of the Act.

14.10 A representation under clause 14.9 is to be made after the motion to close the part of the meeting is moved and seconded.

14.11 Where the matter has been identified in the agenda of the meeting under clause 3.20 as a matter that is likely to be considered when the meeting is closed to the public, in order to make representations under clause 14.9, members of the public must first make an application to the Council in the approved form. Applications must be received by 2pm on the day of the meeting at which the matter is to be considered.

14.12 The General Manager (or their delegate) may refuse an application made under clause 14.11. The General Manager or their delegate must give reasons in writing for a decision to refuse an application.

14.13 No more than 3 speakers are to be permitted to make representations under clause 14.9.

14.14 If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to make representations under clause 14.9, the General Manager or their delegate may request the speakers to nominate from among themselves the persons who are to make representations to the Council. If the speakers are not able to agree on whom to nominate

to make representations under clause 14.9, the General Manager or their delegate is to determine who will make representations to the Council.

14.15 The General Manager (or their delegate) is to determine the order of speakers.

14.16 Where the Council or a committee of the Council proposes to close a meeting or part of a meeting to the public in circumstances where the matter has not been identified in the agenda for the meeting under clause 3.21 as a matter that is likely to be considered when the meeting is closed to the public, the chairperson is to invite representations from the public under clause 14.9 after the motion to close the part of the meeting is moved and seconded. The chairperson is to permit no more than 3 speakers to make representations in such order as determined by the chairperson.

14.17 Each speaker will be allowed 3 minutes to make representations, and this time limit is to be strictly enforced by the chairperson. Speakers must confine their representations to whether the meeting should be closed to the public. If a speaker digresses to irrelevant matters, the chairperson is to direct the speaker not to do so. If a speaker fails to observe a direction from the chairperson, the speaker will not be further heard.

Expulsion of non-Councillors from meetings closed to the public

14.18 If a meeting or part of a meeting of the Council or a committee of the Council is closed to the public in accordance with section 10A of the Act and this code, any person who is not a Councillor and who fails to leave the meeting when requested, may be expelled from the meeting as provided by section 10(2)(a) or (b) of the Act.

14.19 If any such person, after being notified of a resolution or direction expelling them from the meeting, fails to leave the place where the meeting is being held, a police officer, or any person authorised for the purpose by the Council or person presiding, may, by using only such force as is necessary, remove the first-mentioned person from that place and, if necessary restrain that person from re-entering that place for the remainder of the meeting.

Obligations of Councillors attending meetings by audio-visual link

14.20 Councillors attending a meeting by audio-visual link must ensure that no other person is within sight or hearing of the meeting at any time that the meeting is closed to the public under section 10A of the Act.

Information to be disclosed in resolutions closing meetings to the public

14.21 The grounds on which part of a meeting is closed must be stated in the decision to close that part of the meeting and must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The grounds must specify the following:

a. the relevant provision of section 10A (2) of the Act,

b. the matter that is to be discussed during the closed part of the meeting,

c. the reasons why the part of the meeting is being closed, including (if the matter concerned is a matter other than a personnel matter concerning particular individuals, the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer or a trade secret) an explanation of the way in which discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

Note: Clause 14.21 reflects section 10D of the Act.

Resolutions passed at closed meetings to be made public

14.22 If the Council passes a resolution during a meeting, or a part of a meeting, that is closed to the public, the chairperson must make the resolution public as soon as practicable after the meeting, or the relevant part of the meeting, has ended, and the resolution must be recorded in the publicly available minutes of the meeting.

14.23 Resolutions passed during a meeting, or a part of a meeting, that is closed to the public must be made public by the chairperson under clause 14.22 during a part of the meeting that is webcast.

15 KEEPING ORDER AT MEETINGS

Points of order

15.1 A Councillor may draw the attention of the chairperson to an alleged breach of this code by raising a point of order. A point of order does not require a seconder.

15.2 A point of order cannot be made with respect to adherence to the principles contained in clause 2.1.

15.3 A point of order must be taken immediately it is raised. The chairperson must suspend the business before the meeting and permit the Councillor raising the point of order to state the provision of this code they believe has been breached. The chairperson must then rule on the point of order – either by upholding it or by overruling it.

Questions of order

15.4 The chairperson, without the intervention of any other Councillor, may call any Councillor to order whenever, in the opinion of the chairperson, it is necessary to do so.

15.5 A Councillor who claims that another Councillor has committed an act of disorder, or is out of order, may call the attention of the chairperson to the matter.

15.6 The chairperson must rule on a question of order immediately after it is raised but, before doing so, may invite the opinion of the Council.

15.7 The chairperson's ruling must be obeyed unless a motion dissenting from the ruling is passed.

Motions of dissent

15.8 A Councillor can, without notice, move to dissent from a ruling of the chairperson on a point of order or a question of order. If that happens, the chairperson must suspend the business before the meeting until a decision is made on the motion of dissent.

15.9 If a motion of dissent is passed, the chairperson must proceed with the suspended business as though the ruling dissented from had not been given. If, as a result of the ruling, any motion or business has been rejected as out of order, the chairperson must restore the

motion or business to the agenda and proceed with it in due course.

15.10 Despite any other provision of this code, only the mover of a motion of dissent and the chairperson can speak to the motion before it is put. The mover of the motion does not have a right of general reply.

Acts of disorder

15.11 A Councillor commits an act of disorder if the Councillor, at a meeting of the Council or a committee of the Council:

a. contravenes the Act, the Regulation or this code, or

b. assaults or threatens to assault another Councillor or person present at the meeting, or

c. moves or attempts to move a motion or an amendment that has an unlawful purpose or that deals with a matter that is outside the jurisdiction of the Council or the committee, or addresses or attempts to address the Council or the committee on such a motion, amendment or matter, or

d. insults, or makes unfavourable personal remarks about, or imputes improper motives to any other Council official, or alleges a breach of the Council's code of conduct, or

e. says or does anything that is inconsistent with maintaining order at the meeting or is likely to bring the Council or the committee into disrepute.

Note: Clause 15.11 reflects section 182 of the Regulation.

15.12 The chairperson may require a Councillor:

a. to apologise without reservation for an act of disorder referred to in clauses 15.11(a), (b), or (e), or

b. to withdraw a motion or an amendment referred to in clause 15.11(c)and, where appropriate, to apologise without reservation, or

c. to retract and apologise without reservation for any statement that constitutes an act of disorder referred to in clauses 15.11(d) and (e).

Note: Clause 15.12 reflects section 233 of the Regulation.

How disorder at a meeting may be dealt with

15.13 If disorder occurs at a meeting of the Council, the chairperson may adjourn the meeting for a period of not more than fifteen (15) minutes and leave the chair. The Council, on reassembling, must, on a question put from the chairperson, decide without debate whether the business is to be proceeded with or not. This clause applies to disorder arising from the conduct of members of the public as well as disorder arising from the conduct of Councillors.

Expulsion from meetings

15.14 All chairpersons of meetings of the Council and committees of the Council are authorised under this code to expel any person other than a Councillor, from a Council or committee meeting, for the purposes of section 10(2)(b) of the Act. Councillors may only be expelled by resolution of the Council or the committee of the Council.

15.15 Clause 15.14, does not limit the ability of the Council or a committee of the Council to resolve to expel a person, including a Councillor, from a Councilor committee meeting, under section 10(2)(a) of the Act.

15.16 A Councillor may, as provided by section 10(2)(a) or (b) of the Act, be expelled from a meeting of the Council for having failed to comply with a requirement under clause 15.12. The expulsion of a Councillor from the meeting for that reason does not prevent any other action from being taken against the Councillor for the act of disorder concerned.

Note: Clause 15.16 reflects section 233(2) of the Regulation.

15.17 A member of the public may, as provided by section 10(2)(a) or (b) of the Act, be expelled from a meeting of the Council for engaging in or having engaged in disorderly conduct at the meeting.

15.18 Where a Councillor or a member of the public is expelled from a meeting, the expulsion and the name of the person expelled, if known, are to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

15.19 If a Councillor or a member of the public fails to leave the place where a meeting of the Council is being held immediately after they have been expelled, a police officer, or any person authorised for the purpose by the Council or person presiding, may, by using only such force as is necessary, remove the Councillor or member of the public

from that place and, if necessary, restrain the Councillor or member of the public from re-entering that place for the remainder of the meeting.

How disorder by Councillors attending meetings by audio-visual link may be dealt with

15.20 Where a Councillor is attending a meeting by audio-visual link, the chairperson or a person authorised by the chairperson may mute the Councillor's audio link to the meeting for the purposes of enforcing compliance with this code.

15.21 If a Councillor attending a meeting by audio-visual link is expelled from a meeting for an act of disorder, the chairperson of the meeting or a person authorised by the chairperson, may terminate the Councillor's audio-visual link to the meeting.

Use of mobile phones and the unauthorised recording of meetings

15.22 Councillors, Council staff and members of the public must ensure that mobile phones are turned to silent during meetings of the Council and committees of the Council.

15.23 A person must not live stream or use an audio recorder, video camera, mobile phone or any other device to make a recording of the proceedings of a meeting of the Council or a committee of the Council without the prior authorisation of the Council or the committee.

15.24 Without limiting clause 15.17, a contravention of clause 15.23or an attempt to contravene that clause, constitutes disorderly conduct for the purposes of clause 15.17. Any person who contravenes or attempts to contravene clause 15.23, may be expelled from the meeting as provided for under section 10(2) of the Act.

15.25 If any such person, after being notified of a resolution or direction expelling them from the meeting, fails to leave the place where the meeting is being held, a police officer, or any person authorised for the purpose by the Council or person presiding, may, by using only such force as is necessary, remove the first-mentioned person from that place and, if necessary, restrain that person from re-entering that place for the remainder of the meeting.

16 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

16.1 All Councillors and, where applicable, all other persons, must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at meetings of the Council and committees of the Council in accordance with the Council's code of conduct. All declarations of conflicts of interest and how the conflict of interest was managed by the person who made the declaration must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the declaration was made.

16.2 Councillors attending a meeting by audio-visual link must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting in accordance with the Council's code of conduct. Where a Councillor has declared a pecuniary or significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter being discussed at the meeting, the Councillor's audio- visual link to the meeting must be suspended or terminated and the Councillor must not be in sight or hearing of the meeting at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by the Council or committee, or at any time during which the Council or committee is voting on the matter.

Disclosures made at the meeting should be stated as follows:

Disclosure	What to say	Action to take
PecuniaryInterest	I declare a pecuniary interest in item XX, due to *(detail reason of the conflict)*	*Councillor must leave the meeting, be out of sight of the meeting and not participate indiscussions or voting on the matter.*
Significant, non-pecuniary interest	I declare a significant, non-pecuniary interest in item XX, dueto *(detail reason of the conflict)*	*Councillor must leave the meeting, be out of sight of the meeting and not participate indiscussions or voting on the matter.*
Less than significant, non-Pecuniary	I declare a less than significant non-pecuniary interest in item XX due to *(detail reason of the*	*No action needed, Councillor can remain at the meeting, partake in the discussions*

interest	*conflict and explanation of why the conflict requires no further action)*	*and vote on the matter.*

17 DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Council decisions

17.1 A decision supported by a majority of the votes at a meeting of the Council which a quorum is present is a decision of the Council.

Note: Clause 17.1 reflects section 371 of the Act.

17.2 17.2 Decisions made by the Council must be accurately recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the decision is made.

Rescinding or altering Council decisions

17.3 A resolution passed by the Council may not be altered or rescinded except by a motion to that effect of which notice has been given under clause 3.9.

Note: Clause 17.3 reflects section 372(1) of the Act.

17.4 If a notice of motion to rescind a resolution is given at the meeting at which the resolution is carried, the resolution must not be carried into effect until the motion of rescission has been dealt with.

Note: Clause 17.4 reflects section 372(2) of the Act.

17.5 If a motion has been lost, a motion having the same effect must not be considered unless notice of it has been duly given in accordance with clause 3.9.

Note: Clause 17.5 reflects section 372(3) of the Act.

17.6 A notice of motion to alter or rescind a resolution, and a notice of motion which has the same effect as a motion which has been lost, must be signed by three (3) Councillors if less than three (3) months has elapsed since the resolution was passed, or the motion was lost.

Note: Clause 17.6 reflects section 372(4) of the Act.

17.7 If a motion to alter or rescind a resolution has been lost, or if a motion which has the same effect as a previously lost motion is lost, no

similar motion may be brought forward within three (3) months of the meeting at which it was lost. This clause may not be evaded by substituting a motion differently worded, but in principle the same.

Note: Clause 17.7 reflects section 372(5) of the Act.

17.8 The provisions of clauses 17.5–17.7 concerning lost motions do not apply to motion of adjournment.

Note: Clause 17.8 reflects section 372(7) of the Act.

17.9 A notice of motion submitted in accordance with clause 17.6 may only be withdrawn under clause 3.10 with the consent of all signatories to the notice of motion.

17.10 A motion to alter or rescind a resolution of the Council may be moved on the report of a committee of the Council and any such report must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Council.

Note: Clause 17.10 reflects section 372(6) of the Act.

17.11 Subject to clause 17.6, in cases of urgency, a motion to alter or rescind a resolution of the Council may be moved at the same meeting at which the resolution was adopted, where:

a. a notice of motion signed by three Councillors is submitted to the chairperson, and

b. a motion to have the motion considered at the meeting is passed, and

c. the chairperson rules the business that is the subject of the motion is of great urgency on the grounds that it requires a decision by the Council before the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the Council.

17.12 A motion moved under clause 17.11(b) can be moved without notice. Despite clauses 10.20–10.30, only the mover of a motion referred to in clause 17.11(b) can speak to the motion before it is put.

17.13 A motion of dissent cannot be moved against a ruling by the chairperson under clause 17.11(c).

Recommitting resolutions to correct an error

17.14 Despite the provisions of this Part, a Councillor may, with the leave of the chairperson, move to recommit a resolution adopted at the same

meeting:

a. to correct any error, ambiguity or imprecision in the Council's resolution, or

b. to confirm the voting on the resolution.

17.15 In seeking the leave of the chairperson to move to recommit a resolution for the purposes of clause 17.14(a), the Councillor is to propose alternative wording for the resolution.

17.16 The chairperson must not grant leave to recommit a resolution for the purposes of clause 17.14(a), unless they are satisfied that the proposed alternative wording of the resolution would not alter the substance of the resolution previously adopted at the meeting.

17.17 A motion moved under clause 17.14 can be moved without notice. Despite clauses 10.20–10.30, only the mover of a motion referred to in clause 17.14can speak to the motion before it is put.

17.18 A motion of dissent cannot be moved against a ruling by the chairperson under clause 17.14.

17.19 A motion moved under clause 17.14 with the leave of the chairperson cannot be voted on unless or until it has been seconded.

18 TIME LIMITS ON COUNCIL MEETINGS

18.1 Meetings of the Council and committees of the Council are to conclude no later than 11pm.

18.2 If the business of the meeting is unfinished at 11pm, the Council or the committee may, by resolution, extend the time of the meeting.

18.3 If the business of the meeting is unfinished at 11pm, and the Council does not resolve to extend the meeting, the chairperson must either:

a. defer consideration of the remaining items of business on the agenda to the next ordinary meeting of the Council, or

b. adjourn the meeting to a time, date and place fixed by the chairperson.

18.4 Clause 18.3 does not limit the ability of the Council or a committee of the Council to resolve to adjourn a meeting at any time. The resolution adjourning the meeting must fix the time, date and place

that the meeting is to be adjourned to.

18.5 Where a meeting is adjourned under clause 18.3 or 18.4, the General Manager must:

a. individually notify each Councillor of the time, date and place at which the meeting will reconvene, and

b. publish the time, date and place at which the meeting will reconvene on the Council's website and in such other manner that the General Manager is satisfied is likely to bring notice of the time, date and place of the reconvened meeting to the attention of as many people as possible.

19 AFTER THE MEETING

Minutes of meetings

19.1 The Council is to keep full and accurate minutes of the proceedings of meetings of the Council.

Note: Clause 19.1 reflects section 375(1) of the Act.

19.2 At a minimum, the General Manager must ensure that the following matters are recorded in the Council's minutes:

a. the names of the mover and seconder of the motion or amendment,

b. details of each motion moved at a council meeting and of any amendments moved to it,

c. the names of the mover and seconder of the motion or amendment,

d. whether the motion or amendment was passed or lost, and

e. such other matters specifically required under this code.

19.3 The minutes of a Council meeting must be confirmed at a subsequent meeting of the Council.

Note: Clause 19.3 reflects section 375(2) of the Act.

19.4 Any debate on the confirmation of the minutes is to be confined to whether the minutes are a full and accurate record of the meeting they relate to.

19.5 When the minutes have been confirmed, they are to be signed by the person presiding at the subsequent meeting.

Note: Clause 19.5 reflects section 375(2) of the Act.

19.6 The confirmed minutes of a meeting may be amended to correct typographical or administrative errors after they have been confirmed. Any amendment made under this clause must not alter the substance of any decision made at the meeting.

19.7 The confirmed minutes of a Council meeting must be published on the Council's website. This clause does not prevent the Council from also publishing unconfirmed minutes of its meetings on its website prior to their confirmation.

Access to correspondence and reports laid on the table at, or submitted to, a meeting

19.8 The Council and committees of the Council must, during or at the close of a meeting, or during the business day following the meeting, give reasonable access to any person to inspect correspondence and reports laid on the table at, or submitted to, the meeting.

Note: Clause 19.8 reflects section 11(1) of the Act.

19.9 Clause 19.8 does not apply if the correspondence or reports relate to a matter that was received or discussed or laid on the table at, or submitted to, the meeting when the meeting was closed to the public.

Note: Clause 19.9 reflects section 11(2) of the Act.

19.10 Clause 19.8 does not apply if the Council or the committee resolves at the meeting, when open to the public, that the correspondence or reports are to be treated as confidential because they relate to a matter specified in section 10A(2) of the Act.

Note: Clause 19.10 reflects section 11(3) of the Act.

19.11 Correspondence or reports to which clauses 19.9 and 19.10 apply are to be marked with the relevant provision of section 10A(2) of the Act that applies to the correspondence or report.

Implementation of decisions of the Council

19.12 The General Manager is to implement, without undue delay, lawful

decisions of the Council.

Note: Clause 19.12 reflects section 335(b) of the Act.

20 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Application of this Part

20.1 This Part only applies to committees of the Council whose members are all Councillors.

Council committees whose members are all Councillors

20.2 The Council may, by resolution, establish such committees as it considers necessary.

20.3 A committee of the Council is to consist of the Mayor and such other Councillors as are elected by the Councillors or appointed by the Council.

20.4 The quorum for a meeting of a committee of the Council is to be:

a. such number of members as the Council decides, or

b. if the Council has not decided a number – a majority of the members of the committee.

Functions of committees

20.5 The Council must specify the functions of each of its committees when the committee is established but may from time to time amend those functions.

Notice of committee meetings

20.6 The General Manager must send to each Councillor, regardless of whether they are a committee member, at least three (3) days before each meeting of the committee, a notice specifying:

a. the time, date and place of the meeting, and

b. the business proposed to be considered at the meeting.

20.7 Notice of less than three (3) days may be given of a committee meeting called in an emergency.

Attendance at committee meetings

20.8 A committee member (other than the Mayor) ceases to be a member of a committee if the committee member:

a. has been absent from three (3) consecutive meetings of the committee without having given reasons acceptable to the committee for the member's absences, or

b. has been absent from at least half of the meetings of the committee held during the immediately preceding year without having given to the committee acceptable reasons for the member's absences.

20.9 Clause 20.8 does not apply if all of the members of the Council are members of the committee.

Non-members entitled to attend committee meetings

20.10 A Councillor who is not a member of a committee of the Council is entitled to attend, and to speak at a meeting of the committee. However, the Councillor is not entitled:

a. to give notice of business for inclusion in the agenda for the meeting, or

b. to move or second a motion at the meeting, or

c. to vote at the meeting.

Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of Council committees

20.11 The chairperson of each committee of the Council must be:

a. the Mayor, or

b. if the Mayor does not wish to be the chairperson of a committee, a member of the committee elected by the Council, or

c. if the Council does not elect such a member, a member of the committee elected by the committee.

20.12 The Council may elect a member of a committee of the Council as deputy chairperson of the committee. If the Council does not elect a deputy chairperson of such a committee, the committee may elect a deputy chairperson.

20.13 If neither the chairperson nor the deputy chairperson of a committee

of the Council is able or willing to preside at a meeting of the committee, the committee must elect a member of the committee to be acting chairperson of the committee.

20.14 The chairperson is to preside at a meeting of a committee of the Council. If the chairperson is unable or unwilling to preside, the deputy chairperson (if any) is to preside at the meeting, but if neither the chairperson nor the deputy chairperson is able or willing to preside, the acting chairperson is to preside at the meeting.

Procedure in committee meetings

20.15 Subject to any specific requirements of this code, each committee of the Council may regulate its own procedure. The provisions of this code are to be taken to apply to all committees of the Council unless the Council or the committee determines otherwise in accordance with this clause.

20.16 Whenever the voting on a motion put to a meeting of the committee is equal, the chairperson of the committee is to have a casting vote as well as an original vote unless the Council or the committee determines otherwise in accordance with clause 20.15.

20.17 Voting at a Council committee meeting is to be by open means (such as on the voices, by show of hands or by a visible electronic voting system).

Closure of committee meetings to the public

20.18 The provisions of the Act and Part 14 of this code apply to the closure of meetings of committees of the Council to the public in the same way they apply to the closure of meetings of the Council to the public.

20.19 If a committee of the Council passes a resolution, or makes a recommendation, during a meeting, or a part of a meeting that is closed to the public, the chairperson must make the resolution or recommendation public as soon as practicable after the meeting or part of the meeting has ended and report the resolution or recommendation to the next meeting of the Council. The resolution or recommendation must also be recorded in the publicly available minutes of the meeting.

20.20 Resolutions passed during a meeting, or a part of a meeting that is

closed to the public must be made public by the chairperson under clause 20.20 during a part of the meeting that is webcast.

Disorder in committee meetings

20.21 The provisions of the Act and this code relating to the maintenance of orderin Council meetings apply to meetings of committees of the Council in the same way as they apply to meetings of the Council.

Minutes of Council committee meetings

20.22 Each committee of the Council is to keep full and accurate minutes of the proceedings of its meetings. At a minimum, a committee must ensure that the following matters are recorded in the committee's minutes:

a. The names of Councillors attending a Council meeting and whether they attended the meeting in person or by audio-visual link,

b. details of each motion moved at a council meeting and of any amendments moved to it,

c. the names of the mover and seconder of the motion or amendment,

d. whether the motion or amendment was passed or lost, and

e. such other matters specifically required under this code.

20.23 All voting at meetings of committees of the Council (including meetings that are closed to the public), must be recorded in the minutes of meetings with the names of Councillors who voted for and against each motion or amendment, (including the use of the casting vote), being recorded.

20.24 The minutes of meetings of each committee of the Council must be confirmed at a subsequent meeting of the committee.

20.25 Any debate on the confirmation of the minutes is to be confined to whether the minutes are a full and accurate record of the meeting they relate to.

20.26 When the minutes have been confirmed, they are to be signed by the person presiding at that subsequent meeting.

20.27 The confirmed minutes of a meeting may be amended to correct

typographical or administrative errors after they have been confirmed. Any amendment made under this clause must not alter the substance of any decision made at the meeting.

20.28 The confirmed minutes of a meeting of a committee of the Council must be published on the Council's website. This clause does not prevent the Council from also publishing unconfirmed minutes of meetings of committees of the Council on its website prior to their confirmation.

21 IRREGULARITES

21.1 Proceedings at a meeting of a Council or a Council committee are not invalidated because of:

a. a vacancy in a civic office, or

b. a failure to give notice of the meeting to any Councillor or committee member, or

c. any defect in the election or appointment of a Councillor or committee member, or

d. a failure of a Councillor or a committee member to declare a conflict of interest, or to refrain from the consideration or discussion of, or vote on, the relevant matter, at a Council or committee meeting in accordance with the Council's code of conduct, or

e. a failure to comply with this code.

Note: Clause 21.1 reflects section 374 of the Act.

22 DEFINITIONS

the Act	means the *Local Government Act 1993*
act of disorder	means an act of disorder as defined in clause 15.11 of this code
amendment	in relation to an original motion, means a motion moving an amendment to that motion
audio recorder	any device capable of recording speech

audio-visual link	means a facility that enables audio and visual communication between persons at different places
business day	means any day except Saturday or Sunday or any other day the whole or part of which is observed as a public holiday throughout New South Wales
chairperson	in relation to a meeting of the Council – means the person presiding at the meeting as provided by section 369 of the Act and clauses 6.1 and 6.2 of this code, and in relation to a meeting of a committee – means the person presiding at the meeting as provided by clause 20.11 of this code
this code	means the Council's adopted code of meeting practice
committee of the Council	means a committee established by the Council in accordance with clause 20.2 of this code (being a committee consisting only of Councillors) or the Council when it has resolved itself into committee of the whole under clause 12.1
Council official	has the same meaning it has in the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW
day	means calendar day
division	means a request by two Councillors under clause 11.7 of this code requiring the recording of the names of the Councillors who voted both for and against a motion
foreshadowed amendment	means a proposed amendment foreshadowed by a Councillor under clause 10.18 of this code during debate on the first amendment
foreshadowed motion	means a motion foreshadowed by a Councillor under clause 10.17 of this code during debate on an original motion
open voting	means voting on the voices or by a show of hands or by a visible electronic voting system or similar means
planning decision	means a decision made in the exercise of a function of a Council under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* including any decision relating to a development application, an environmental planning instrument, a development control plan or a development contribution plan under that Act, but not

including the making of an order under Division 9.3 of Part 9 of that Act

performance improvement order	means an order issued under section 438A of the Act
quorum	means the minimum number of Councillors or committee members necessary to conduct a meeting
the Regulation	means the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*
webcast	a video or audio broadcast of a meeting transmitted across the internet either concurrently with the meeting or at a later time
year	means the period beginning 1 July and ending the following 30June

23 BREACHES OF THIS POLICY

Breaches of this policy may result in an investigation of the alleged breach in line with relevant Council policies including the Model Code of Conduct.

Any alleged criminal offence or allegation of corrupt conduct will be referred to the relevant external agency.

24 ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

From time-to-time circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made including branding, Council Officer titles or department changes and legislative name or title changes are considered minor in nature, so can be made by the Risk and Audit Manager.

25 VERSION CONTROL– Policy History

This policy will be reviewed within 12 months of the Council election (next election on 14/9/2024) as required by the Local Government Act 1993.

Governance use only:

Document	Code of Meeting Practice	*Uncontrolled Copy When Printed*	
Custodian	Senior Manager Governance & Risk	Version #	Version 7
Approved By	Council	ECM Document #	34765531
Next Review Date	Within 12 months of the Council election (next election 14/9/2024)		

Amended By	Changes Made	Date
Governance and Risk	New policy	21 November 2017
Governance and Risk	Updated policy	26 March 2019
Governance and Risk	Updated policy	25 August 2020
Governance and Risk	Amended Clause 4.24	9 February 2021
Governance and Risk	Updated Policy	10 May 2022
Council	Amended public forum section	14 February 2023
Council	Amended Order of Business to include a Statement of Ethical Obligations	13 February 2024

Item: C0626(1) Item 2

Title: Post Exhibition - Delivery Program 2025-2029 (Year 2) and Operational Plan and Budget 2026/27, Long Term Financial Plan and Fees and Charges

Author: Sharon Bowman - Director Corporate

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Receive and note the report on the outcomes of the public exhibition of key integrated plans**

2. **Note that the Draft Budget 2626/27, following proposed adjustments**
   a) **Forecasts a surplus of $3.5m;**
   b) **Provides for $164.7m capital expenditure on a large range of renewal and expansion projects; and**
   c) **Includes $4.98m in savings (1.6% of budget) from the Financially Sustainable Service Delivery program, in line with Council's resolution from February 2026.**

3. **Note that scenario 1 of the Draft Long Term Financial Plan, used in the Draft Budget 2026/27:**
   a) **Returns surpluses over the 10 years, accumulating to $61m; sufficient to ensure Council's financial sustainability while providing for 'budget shocks'; and**
   b) **Shows key performance measures exceeding benchmarks for the full 10 years.**

4. **Adopt the attached:**
   a) **Draft Delivery program 2025-2029 (Year 2) and Operational Plan and Budget 2026/27 (including Fees and Charges 2026/27); and**
   b) **Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026-36 (Scenario 1).**

5. **Note the updated package of Service Statements which include Delivery Program principal activities, Operational Plan actions and KPIs, levels of service where relevant and budget for every service.**

6. **Publish the final documents on its corporate website by 30 June 2026 and notify the Office of Local Government of the link to its web page.**

Executive Summary

- The draft IP&R documents comprising the Delivery Program 2025-29 (Year 2), Operational Plan and Budget 2026/27 (including Fees and Charges 2026/27); and Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026-36 were put on public exhibition from 24 April to 24 May 2026.
- There were a total of 10 submissions received, with 653 visitors to the project page on Your Say Inner West.
- Officers have carefully reviewed and responded to all submissions, however no changes to the draft IP&R documents are proposed in response to the submissions
- Several changes are proposed to the documents in response to new information that has come to light since April. These arise from changes imposed by other government agencies, along with recent Council resolutions and timing adjustments, and result in decreased revenue and increased expenses.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the outcomes of the public exhibition of Council's key integrated plans, and to seek the adoption of those plans to guide Council's activities over the 2026/27 financial year.

Strategic Direction

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

5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

Background

Key IP&R documents for the Council term

Under the NSW Local Government Act, councils are required to develop a suite of plans as part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework. IP&R is a rigorous and consistent system of community planning across all NSW local councils which also takes into consideration state and regional priorities. IP&R assists councils in delivering their community's vision through long, medium, and short-term plans.

In June 2025 Council adopted the IP&R documents for the current term of Council: the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Budget, and the

Resourcing Strategy components – the Long-Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Strategy, Policy and Plans, and Workforce Management Strategy.

Refresh for the 2026/27 financial year

Some elements of the planning framework are updated each year, to set the direction for Council's activity for the coming financial year. The Operational Plan, Budget (including Fees and Charges) and Long-Term Financial Plan have been refreshed accordingly.

At the Council meeting held on 21 April 2026, Council resolved the following (C0426(1) Item 1):

1. *That Council note the draft Operational Plan 2026/27 contains 184 Actions and 122 Key Performance Measures that will be used to track Council's performance in delivering the Plan.*
2. *That Council note the Draft Budget 2026/27:*
    a. *Forecasts a surplus of $4.6m*
    b. *Provides for $164.7m capital expenditure on a range of renewal and expansion projects*
    c. *Includes $4.98m in savings (1.6% of budget) from the Financially Sustainable Service Delivery program, in line with Council's resolution from February 2026*
3. *That Council note that scenario 1 of the Draft Long Term Financial Plan, used in the Draft Budget 2026/27:*
    a. *Returns modest surpluses over the 10 years, accumulating to $68m; sufficient to ensure Council's financial sustainability while providing for 'budget shocks'*
    b. *Key performance measures exceeding benchmarks for the full 10 years*
4. *That Council endorse the following draft plans to be placed on public exhibition for 28 days:*
    a. *Draft Delivery Program 2025-29 (Year 2), Operational Plan and Budget 2026/27 (including Fees and Charges 2026/27); and*
    b. *Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026-36.*
5. *That Council receive a report on the public exhibition outcomes and the final draft plans for adoption at the June 2026 Council meeting*

Public exhibition

The following IP&R documents were placed on public exhibition, seeking feedback from Friday 24 April to Sunday 24 May 2026:

- Draft Delivery Program 2025-29 and Operational Plan and Budget 2026/27
- Draft Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-36
- Draft Fees and Charges 2026/27 and summary of changes
- Rates map for the Inner West area

Documents were available online at Your Say Inner West, and at Council's service centres and libraries.

Discussion

Public exhibition outcomes

In total, there were 653 views, 559 visits, and 384 visitors to the Your Say Inner West (YSIW) project page during the exhibition period.

The submissions received on the plans included:

- 5 submissions by email
- 5 submissions online at YSIW

There were a number of matters raised in the submissions. Key issues raised included:

- Increased investment in active transport, particularly safe cycling infrastructure in the Inner West, and planning for the future
- Concern about the impact of fee increases during the cost-of-living crisis especially for low-income facilities impacting costs of childcare, aquatics, and weekly red bin opt-in.
- Request for additional detail on the infrastructure backlog; capital funding sources; financial buffer and certain expenditures
- Seeking advocacy on financial measures such as grant funding and pensioner concessions
- Request for more funding of Urban Ecology, parks for teens
- Suggestion to partner with Circular PV alliance to accelerate PV takeup
- Submissions also expressed support for key priorities such as reducing the capital work backlog and ensuring fair wages for childcare workers.

Officers have provided detailed responses to each submission - see *Attachment 1*. More detailed submissions have been reproduced in full as *Attachment 2*.

No changes to the draft IP&R documents are proposed in response to the submissions.

Proposed amendments to the draft plans

A range of changes are proposed to the draft IP&R plans, to reflect new information gained since the draft documents were prepared for the April meeting, including minor updates to correct wording and typographical errors.

Delivery Program 2025-29 (Year 2) and Operational Plan 2026/27

The revised draft Delivery Program 2025-29 (Year 2) and Operational Plan 2026/27 can be found at *Attachment 3*.

No changes are proposed to the 184 actions and 122 performance measures in the draft Operational Plan. These actions and measures will be monitored through quarterly progress reports and annual reports to Council.

Budget 2026/27

Section three of the Operational Plan provides details of the draft budget for 2026/27 to 2029/30 (and includes 4 year budget to 2029/30).

Operational Budget

Several changes are proposed to the draft budget that was endorsed for exhibition, resulting in a reduced budget surplus, as set out in *Table 1* below.

Table 1: Proposed budget changes

Adjustment	2026/27 Budget $000	Details
Budget on exhibition – Surplus	4,559	
Revenue Changes – increase/(decrease)		
• Removal of c/card surcharge	(175)	RBA has banned credit card surcharges effective 1 October 2026
• Reduction in interest on overdue accounts	(58)	OLG advised the allowable interest rate would be reduced from 10.5% to 9.5%
Expenditure changes – (increase)/decrease		

• Emergency Services Levy	(295)	Invoice received 30 April, increased by 8.3% (budget 3%)
• Council resolutions		
• Events and festivals	(145)	Haberfield Festival and King Street Crawl (one-off)
• Perfect Match	(92)	Additional 5 per year
• Transport asset revaluation	(265)	Rescheduled from 2026FY
Updated Surplus	**3,529**	

Following these proposed changes, Council is budgeting total income before capital grants and contributions of $322.7m and expenses of $319.2m, resulting in an operating surplus of $3.5m before capital items,

Over the next four years, Council is budgeting surpluses as follows:

- 2026/27 $3.5m surplus (1.1% of total expenses)
- 2027/28 $5.7m surplus (1.7% of total expenses)
- 2028/29 $5.2m surplus (1.5% of total expenses)
- 2029/30 $6.7m surplus (1.9% of total expenses)

Maintaining surpluses is considered to be financially prudent, as it provides a buffer to deal with any further 'budget shocks' (unanticipated expenses) that may arise over the period, allowing Council to remain in surplus despite these challenges.

Capital Budget

One change is proposed to the Capital Budget, for 2027/28, to realign the timing of Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre expenditure following Q3 QBR changes.

Council is budgeting $164.7m on capital expenditure in 2026/27, of which $76m relates to major projects.

Budgeted capital expenditure over the next four years is:

- 2026/27 $164.7m
- 2027/28 $96.6m
- 2028/29 $68.2m
- 2029/30 $65.1m

Draft Fees and Charges

The draft Fees & Charges for 2026/27 is an appendix to the Operational Plan, see *Attachment 4*. *Attachment 5* lists new or deleted fees and charges, changes of wording or where there is an increase/decrease of more than 5%. An explanation is provided for each of these changes

Two further changes are required to the Fees and Charges since the exhibition version:

- On 15 May the NSW Office of Local Government advised that the statutory fee for Section 603 Certificates has been increased from $100 to $105 for 2026/27.
- In June, the NSW Office of Local Government advised that the allowable interest rate for overdue rates has been revised from 10.5% to 9.5%

Long Term Financial Plan 2026-36

The draft Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) for 2026-36 set out two scenarios in which each maintain current service levels and establish a balanced budget.

Changes have been made to the LTFP in line with the proposed budget changes outlined above. See *Attachment 6*.

It is still recommended to adopt Scenario 1, which models Council achieving operating surplus for 10 years, and key performance indicators all exceeding benchmarks for the full ten years.

Service Statements

An updated package of Service Statements for Council's 39 services is also included as *Attachment 7* for Council to note. Service Statements include a description of the service and its key activities, Delivery Program principal activities, Operational Plan actions and performance measures, levels of service where relevant and the budget for every service.

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no legal and risk implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications

Council's commitments in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan are resourced as outlined in annual budgets and forecast in the Long-Term Financial Plan.

Conclusion

Council's draft plans, including the Delivery and Operational plans, the budget and Long-Term Financial Plan, demonstrate how Council will achieve financial sustainability in the

short and long term. Some amendments have been proposed to the exhibited budget to improve budget forecasts.

Attachments 3-7 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. Public exhibition submissions and responses

2. Public Submissions Verbatim

3. Draft DPOP 2026-27 for Adoption

4. 2026-27 Draft Fees & Charges

5. 2026-27 Fees & Charges - Change Log

6. Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2036 for Adoption

7. Service Statements 2026/27

Delivery Program 2025-2029 (Year 2) and Operational Plan and Budget 2026/27

Public exhibition submissions

Summary

The following key strategic documents were publicly exhibited for community comment as required by the Local Government Act, following Council's endorsement at its April 2026 meeting:

- Draft Delivery Program 2025-2029 (year 2) and Operational Plan and Budget 2026/27 (DPOP)
- Draft Fees and Charges 2026/27
- Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2036 (LTFP)

Documents were available online at the Your Say Inner West (YSIW) engagement platform, and at Council's service centres and libraries during the public exhibition period (Friday 24 April – Sunday 24 May 2026).

In total, there were 653 views, 559 visits, and 384 visitors to the YSIW project page during the exhibition period.

There were a total of 10 submissions received on the plans including:

- 5 submissions by email
- 5 submissions online at YSIW

There were a number of matters raised in the submissions. Key issues raised included::

- Increased investment in active transport, particularly safe cycling infrastructure in the Inner West, and planning for the future
- Concern about the impact of fee increases during the cost-of-living crisis especially for low-income facilities impacting costs of childcare, aquatics, and weekly red bin opt-in.
- Request for additional detail on the infrastructure backlog; capital funding sources; financial buffer and certain expenditures
- Seeking advocacy on financial measures such as grant funding and pensioner concessions
- Request for more funding of Urban Ecology, parks for teens
- Suggestion to partner with Circular PV alliance to accelerate PV takeup
- Submissions also expressed support for key priorities such as reducing the capital work backlog and ensuring fair wages for childcare workers.

The submissions have been summarised in the following report, together with Council responses to the issues raised.

Delivery Program 2025-2029 (Year 2) and Operational Plan and Budget 2026/27

Public exhibition submissions

Submissions and Council officer responses

Public submissions and Council officer responses are summarised below. Longer submissions are provided in full as verbatim submissions in *Attachment 2*.

Submission 1 (see Verbatim submission)

The submission asks for greater transparency on five specific matters:

- A clearer plan for the infrastructure backlog beyond simply modelling it growing for 10 years.
- Full public disclosure of the funding sources for the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre and Leichhardt Oval projects.
- An explanation of the sharp drop in financial buffer in 2026/27 and what contingency exists.
- An explanation of the 10.3% workers compensation cost increase.
- Council's advocacy strategy for improving grant income and reducing the burden on residents as the primary adjustment mechanism.

And requests that Council provide written responses to each of these questions as part of its formal response to submissions, and that those responses be made publicly available before the plan is adopted.

1. The Infrastructure Backlog
   - What is the current condition rating of the assets included in the $26.9M backlog, and which asset types (roads, footpaths, drains) represent the largest share?
   - At what backlog ratio does Council consider asset condition to pose a risk to residents?
   - Is Council actively seeking state or federal capital grants to address the backlog, and if so, what applications are in progress?

Officer Comment:

Condition rating of the various asset types is published in the 2025-35 Asset Management Strategy and all categories are rated as "Good"

The Infrastructure Backlog Ratio is a high-level financial planning indicator that measures the estimated backlog relative to the total value of Council's assets. It is not a direct measure of asset condition, safety or serviceability.

Council's infrastructure backlog ratio (<1%) exceeds industry benchmarks of less than 2%

Council applies for all eligible grants, where grant conditions can be met

Delivery Program 2025-2029 (Year 2) and Operational Plan and Budget 2026/27

Public exhibition submissions

2. Major capital projects funding sources
   - The confirmed funding source for the $32M Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre, broken down by Council funds, state grant, federal grant and borrowings.
   - The confirmed funding source for the $30M Leichhardt Oval project, with the same breakdown.
   - Whether any new borrowings are planned in connection with either project, and if so, the anticipated repayment structure.

Officer Comment:

There are no new borrowings planned in connection with either project.

Funding sources for particular projects are typically set out in Council reports on these projects.

In relation to Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre, the majority of the funding is from S7.11 Developer contributions, with the balance from Council's internal depreciation and infrastructure renewal reserves.

In relation to Leichhardt Oval, $30m is from State ($10m) and Federal ($20m) grant funding, with the remainder to be sourced from s7.11 Developer contributions. Additional funding if required will be sourced from the depreciation reserve.

3. Financial buffer thinning
   - What is driving the drop from 7 months to 4 months in a single year?
   - What contingency exists if an unforeseeable cost event occurs while the ratio is near the minimum benchmark?

Officer Comment:

The cash expense cover ratio includes Council's cash and cash equivalents and term deposits.

The projected reduction from 7 months to 4 months is due to planned cash outflows in 2026/27, driven by significant capital project expenditure scheduled for that year, along with the planned replacement of domestic waste collection compactors.

These reduce available cash balances resulting in the lower ratio.

The capex budget for 2026/27 contains significant contingencies and if such an event occurs, Council will reduce capital project spending.

3

Delivery Program 2025-2029 (Year 2) and Operational Plan and Budget 2026/27

Public exhibition submissions

4. Workers' compensation cost increase
   - An explanation of the factors driving the 10.3% increase in workers compensation for 2026/27.
   - Whether Council has a program in place to reduce the claims rate over the life of the LTFP.

Officer Comment:

Council's workers compensation premiums are adjusted based on market and economic factors along with past claims experience.

There have been a number of regulatory changes in prior years, including changes to Work Health and Safety legal obligations and on the administrative and legal arrangements for compensation administered by the State Insurance Regulatory Authority and the NSW Personal Injury Commission (PIC) established on 1 March 2021, which have an impact on premiums.

Council's Work Health Safety and Wellbeing and Return to Work teams work closely with our Workers Compensation insurance provider to improve our management of the causal factors of accidents involving our workers and to ensure effective return to work arrangements for any injured workers, which help to minimise premium costs.

5. **Grants modelled as flat for 10 years**
   - What advocacy is Council undertaking with state and federal governments to increase operating grant funding?
   - If grants remain flat and costs continue to rise above the rate cap, what levers other than fees and charges does Council have available?

Officer Comment:

Modelling regarding grants is deliberately conservative as they are entirely outside of Council's control.

Council continuously advocates for increased grant funding, including:

- *Through Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC), which has actively advocated on behalf of its member Councils (of which IWC is one) in relation to the financial sustainability of Local Government. A key advocacy measure is in relation to the ongoing impacts of the 3-year freeze on Federal Assistance Grants from 2015-1018, and the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the quantum and timing of these grants.*
- *Through LGNSW who also play an advocacy role on behalf of all NSW Councils. LGNSW have persistently advocated for systemic reforms to Federal Assistance*

grants to ensure the long-term financial viability of NSW Councils. Submissions focus on:

- *Restoring the pool of FA Grants to 1% of Commonwealth tax revenue, which would effectively double the funding provided to NSW Councils in 2024/25.*
- *Addressing the 'cost shifting' burden where other tiers of government have moved service delivery responsibilities to local government without any additional funding*
- *Providing increased funding to address infrastructure backlogs across the sector*
- *Through the IPWEA NSW & ACT, which advocates on behalf of all NSW Councils to both State and Federal Governments for increased funding on Local and Regional Roads. IPWEA NSW & ACT has an annual Local Roads Congress and prepares a communique which advocates on behalf of Councils on a range of relevant funding matters. This has been successful and there has been increased funding under the Federal Roads to Recovery Program.*
- *The Street Lighting Subsidy program is funded by the State Government and over the last two financial years has increased by 2% per annum however there were several years where the State Government had frozen the allocation, hence a conservative approach is taken. Council also considers alternate options to minimise cost increases, including energy efficient lighting for street lighting.*
- *The current rise in fuel costs, which also impacts a range of road making products is noted, and Council are investigating a range of options to manage the potential impacts to projects.*

There are, as noted, a limited number of levers that Council has available to address structural funding gaps, and this has been continuously raised in submissions made by the above organisations.

In September 2025, Council launched the Financially Sustainable Service Delivery program, aimed at identifying efficiencies and other savings without impacting on service levels. The Council report (C0925(1) Item 5) outlines the issue, and what Council has done over the life of IWC to improve services and financial position. This program delivered nearly $5m in savings to the 2026/27 budget. Further work is underway to identify and deliver additional savings to future budgets.

Delivery Program 2025-2029 (Year 2) and Operational Plan and Budget 2026/27

Public exhibition submissions

6. **Pensioner rate subsidy frozen for decades**
   - Confirm what representations, if any, it is making to the NSW Government to increase both of these figures.

Officer Comment:

There is sector-led advocacy on this matter.

LGNSW have made submissions in support of pensioner concessions, including that they be increased to more realistic levels and fully funded by the State Government. They have also noted that other State governments fully fund pensioner rate concessions, while in NSW 45% of the concession is borne by Council.

In response to the increased burden on pensioners caused by the lack of change to this figure since 1993, Council has introduced an additional, 'voluntary' rebate to any pensioners who have resided in the Inner West for more than 10 years, being a full waiver of the Domestic Waste charges.

7. **Weekly red bin collection opt-in fee**
   - What is the exemption criteria for pensioners and how will eligible residents be notified?
   - What community consultation was undertaken before removing weekly collection as a standard service?

Officer Comment:

The Opt-in weekly fee was waived for 2 years so this was an additional free service above and beyond a majority of service users.

Those currently on the weekly opt in service for medical reasons will continue this service at no additional cost as we do not want to create hardship for those most vulnerable.

Eligible pensioners receive a 100% rebate on the domestic waste management charge (details here Rates rebates for eligible pensioners | Inner West Council)

There will be an extensive communication program, time to engage and support households has been factored into the plan, and the new charges will not be applied until January 2027.

Delivery Program 2025-2029 (Year 2) and Operational Plan and Budget 2026/27

Public exhibition submissions

Submission 2

- Would like a better explanation of the budget for local roads. It appears as double the spending on cycleways and has not got a breakdown. Local roads budget should achieve strategic aims even while maintaining roads – quiet ways, shared streets, cycleways, more comfortable walking. Maintenance is considered to be wasted if supporting financially unsustainable status quo.
- Requests positive revenue generated from parking fees is fed back into growing the walking and cycling projects budget.
- Requests the cycleways budget to grow.
- Queries whether the regional roads budget is sourced purely from block grant funding or is it on top of the block grants. Suggests this money is directed towards making regional roads more friendly for walking and cycling.

Officer Comment:

Council has significantly increased its cycleway investments in recent years, more than doubling previous yearly expenditure. For instance, in 2026/27, funding for bicycle facilities is proposed to increase from $4,202 million to $4,400 million in 27/28. Specific cycleway works supported for the next few years included in the DPOP include Lilyfield Cycleway, Bike Route RR02 (West Street) design, Marrickville East design and implementation, and Robert Street Rozelle cycleway design and implementation.

Roads are one of Council's largest asset categories, valued at $851m, and it costs over $46m per year to maintain their condition. In addition, there are other programs such as local area traffic management. The local roads budgets are funded by local, State and Federal Grants primarily designed to assist Councils with the construction and maintenance of local networks. State and Federal Grants are allocated through statutory formulas, have targeted programs and merit-based applications.

There are separate funding mechanisms for cycling infrastructure in the Inner West, and these are not the same as the above 'tied' or untied' general purpose roads maintenance grants. For instance, Federal Grants from the Active Transport Fund, the Australian Government Road Safety Program, and the NSW Get Active program. Council must prepare applications to specifically receive grant funds under these programs for cycleways when these programs are open and meet the specific active transport or safety guidelines.

Delivery Program 2025-2029 (Year 2) and Operational Plan and Budget 2026/27

Public exhibition submissions

Submission 3

- Supports the plan to reduce the capital works backlog
- Supports council childcare workers getting a living wage in a cost of living crisis

Officer Comment:

The support for the progress to reduce the capital works backlog and to increase Fees and Charges to support increased childcare workers costs is acknowledged.

Submission 4

- Supports the budget but would like to see more funding for cycleways and to increase traffic calming, and safer cycling safer.
- Proposes pop-up cycleways as a time and cost-effective option. For example, the Pitt Street cycleway pop-up in COVID increased cycling rates by 400%.
- Households spend on average 17% of their income on transport and many car trips in the inner west are under 5 km/h; if cycling is safer, inner west residents have the potential to save so much. This would make all the difference in a cost-of-living crisis.
- I really applaud the effort to make roads 40km/h - please keep going and fund critical infrastructure, as we know boosts cycling rates (separated cycle paths).
- Ashfield seems to have the worst active transport and it is disheartening to see how few projects in our ward are funded.

Officer Comment:

Council strongly supports active transport; and has been increasing the budget for active transport infrastructure.

The majority of national income spending on transport is on private vehicles, accounting for 15-17% of gross income. Private vehicles account for 92% of all transport related household expenditure[1], heavily driven by car loan repayments, fuel, registration costs and insurance. Public transport accounts for just 7-8% of the average household total transport costs. Council advocates greater spending on public transport both from households and government spending.

Future infrastructure planning is underway through the Building our Community program, which will consider all infrastructure requirements for the local government area as we prepare for population growth..

[1] Australian Automobile Association, Media Release, May 2025, "Transport Costs Ease but still consume 15.8% of household income".

Delivery Program 2025-2029 (Year 2) and Operational Plan and Budget 2026/27

Public exhibition submissions

Additionally, to inform better funding decisions, Council is currently developing a new cycling action plan.

This action plan is being designed to provide a comprehensive list of cycle routes that will progress to concept design, then community consultation and refinement; ultimately becoming part of the works program, leading to construction. Council considers pop-up cycleways as part of the overall cycling eco-system and includes them as an option where specific location circumstances warrant such a measure.

Additional requests for increased funding will be linked to the action plan's progress.

In recognition that Ashfield and Croydon have only limited cycling infrastructure, the Iron Cove Creek Masterplan and a recent consultant study of cycling opportunities for North Ashfield are both being included in the action plan's development.

<u>Submission 5</u>

- Fees and Charges: I do not support raising Early Learning Centre & Aquatic Facilities fees above CPI.
- Increasing fees to access public facilities in a cost-of-living crisis is atrocious & overwhelmingly impact low-income families who can least afford the increase.

Officer Comment

Council is required to increase its Fees and Charges to cover increased operating costs of operation including wage increases.

Council notes that based on benchmarking data, even after the proposed increase of 4.2%, Inner West Council's Early Learning fees remain on the low side of comparable centres. Commonwealth subsidies are available to assist families in need.

Similarly, Inner West has low cost Aquatics and recreation offerings compared to the commercial market and even compared to other Councils. We also have a strong range of equity programs and free entry policies to ensure low income, disadvantaged or vulnerable residents have access.

Delivery Program 2025-2029 (Year 2) and Operational Plan and Budget 2026/27

Public exhibition submissions

Submission 6

Requests that Urban Ecology needs more funding, in keeping with parks and arts and entertainment budgets, as they are asked to do more and more including extra verge garden, adopt a spot.

A separate line item should be devoted to the GreenWay/Blue Green Grid and its ongoing maintenance and expansion.

One new large park with emphasis on unstructured play for teenagers is needed in all wards.

Officer Comment

Council's budget reflects the variety of service responsibilities that it has to deliver across the quadruple bottom line and with financial sustainability considerations. The budget provided for the Urban Ecology service has been drafted with consideration to its existing services, community needs and staff resources.

Budget has been provided for maintenance of the Greenway and the Blue Green Grid.

New parks are delivered when Council identified a need and has available resources. This request can be considered as part of future infrastructure planning underway through Building our Community.

Submission 7 – Circular PV Alliance (see Verbatim submission)

The CPV Alliance recommends Council partner with it to accelerate PV take-up in the Inner West.

The proposal recommends that Council invest $8,000 on CPVA membership and participate in the national local government circular solar cohort, providing practical support to embed whole-of-life solar PV planning into Council procurement, asset management, infrastructure delivery, community guidance and future climate strategy work.

The cohort would enable Council to work with a peer network, share local government experience, reduce implementation risk, and strengthen solar PV lifecycle planning across procurement, reuse, recycling and end-of-life management. Other Councils participating in the network include Dubbo Regional Council, Banana Shire Council, Mid-Western Regional Council and Tamworth Regional Council.

The benefits would accrue to lifecycle planning for Council's existing solar PV fleet, future solar PV components within the $500 million Infrastructure Fund, the Office of Renewable Energy Innovation, Green Living Centre community guidance, and any future refresh of the Climate and Renewables Strategy.

Officer Comment

The submission is welcomed from an industry-led, not-for-profit organisation working to accelerate a circular economy for solar PV systems.

However, the submission is an unsolicited proposal and has not been assessed through Council's standard procurement processes.

Any future partnership would need to demonstrate value for money and be assessed against alternative market options.

Staff do not recommend this proposal should influence the budget outcomes at present.

It is recommended the submission be noted and considered in line with Council's usual procurement processes.

Submission 8 (see Verbatim submission)

The submission expresses support for:

- Council's active transport programs and policies, and elements of the budget focused on active transport
- The GreenWay project, and in particular the Old Canterbury Road missing link
- Council meeting its election commitment to double cycleway funding.

It notes that, appropriately, the current capital program is focused on delivering routes that have been in planning for years. But asks Council to allocate planning and design funding in this term for three routes that should form the backbone of the next program:

- Pyrmont Bridge Road cycleway
- Addison Road cycleway
- Iron Cove Creek corridor

It also requests:

- The construction pipeline to be funded between now and 2028/29.
- Council to commit to a minimum own-source floor for cycling capital each year, so that if grant funding doesn't materialise, progress doesn't stop.

Delivery Program 2025-2029 (Year 2) and Operational Plan and Budget 2026/27

Public exhibition submissions

Officer Comment

Council acknowledges support for its various projects.

Council strongly supports active transport; and has been increasing the budget for active transport infrastructure.

To inform better funding decisions, Council is currently working on the Building our Community program, and developing a new cycling action plan. This action plan is being designed to provide a comprehensive list of cycle routes that will progress to concept design, then community consultation and refinement; ultimately becoming part of the works program, leading to construction.

Additional requests for increased funding will be linked to the action plan's progress.

Submission 9 Friends of Addison Road (see Verbatim submission)

The submission proposes a number of road and infrastructure improvements in the Addison Road area of Marrickville, including:

- Dedicated on road bike parking – connecting Livingstone Road cycleway and Marrickville Park to Addison Road Community centre, Enmore Parks, Annette Kellerman Aquatic centre and Marrickville shops,
- Pedestrian improvements along Addison Road,
- Fully separated cycleways,
- Parking relocations at Addison Road, Audley, McRae, Coronation, Park, Neville, Shepherd and Cook to the south. And on the north: William, Bright, North, England and Perry,
- Kerb extensions,
- Verge gardens,
- On street dining, and
- Speed reductions.

Officer Comment

Council has significantly increased its cycleway investments in recent years, more than doubling previous yearly expenditure.

To inform better funding decisions, Council is currently working on the Building our Community program, and developing a new cycling action plan. This action plan is being designed to provide a comprehensive list of cycle routes that will progress to

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concept design, then community consultation and refinement; ultimately becoming part of the works program, leading to construction.

Additional requests for increased funding will be linked to the action plan's progress.

The current and future cycling infrastructure needs of the Addison Road area of Marrickville will be considered as part of Council's cycling action plan.

Plans for a separated cycleway in Addison Road were exhibited in February 2017 and the project was discontinued due to community concerns. Addison Road cycleway is included in work to prioritise future bike links for the Cycling Action Plan review.

An alternative route to Addison Rd was recommended with on-road mixed-traffic access on Oxford Street and Newington Road including priority at all side streets, speed management and crossing facilities at busy roads, such as signalised raised safety platforms at Enmore Road and Livingstone Road.

Submission 10 Bike Marrickville (see Verbatim submission)

Existing cycleway projects should have design and construction funded via the developer contributions plan, including:

- Marrickville Rd East Cycleway
- Lilyfield Rd Cycleway
- Iron cove creek Masterplan delivery
- Pyrmont Bridge Rd cycleway
- Robert St, Rozelle cycleway
- Sydenham Road Strategy & Cycleway

This submission proposes and justifies new infrastructure projects to support housing uplift, specifically:

- Addison Road Cycleway, Marrickville
- Beach & Pine Street Cycleway, Dulwich Hill
- Sydney Steel Road & Edinburgh Rd Cycleway, Marrickville
- Hercules Street Cycleway, Dulwich Hill
- Loftus Street Quietway, Ashfield
- Bland Street Quietway, Ashfield
- Livingstone Street Cycleway southern extension
- Johnston Street Cycleway, Annandale
- Mallet St, Booth/Moore St, Allen St Cycleway in Leichhardt/Annandale/Camperdown.

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Delivery Program 2025-2029 (Year 2) and Operational Plan and Budget 2026/27

Public exhibition submissions

We also strongly support other campaigns for:

1. A new Marrickville Town Square at the corner of Calvert Street and Illawarra Road.
2. Pocket parks/road closures on Illawarra Road, between Marrickville Rd and Sydenham Rd, and another between Sydenham Rd and Addison Rd.
3. Cooks River path lighting, widening, and separation of pedestrians and cyclists. Plus, connections to the path, and collaboration with other councils along the route to ensure consistency in infrastructure styles delivered.
4. Delivery of the Iron Cove Creek path ("CreekWay" to keep the GreenWay and MetroWay theme?)
5. Balmain Road cycleway, in front of Callan Park.

Officer Comment

Council has significantly increased its cycleway investments in recent years, more than doubling previous yearly expenditure. In 2026/27, funding for bicycle facilities is proposed to increase from $4,202 million to $4,400 million in 27/28. Specific cycleway works supported for the next few years included in the DPOP include Lilyfield Cycleway, Bike Route RR02 (West Street) design, Marrickville Road East design and implementation, and Robert Street Rozelle cycleway design and implementation.

Funding of cycleways is supported thorough State and Federal Government grant programs and will be considered as part of future infrastructure planning underway through Building our Community.

For future cycleways, Council is updating its Cycling Action Plan which is designed to provide a comprehensive list of cycle routes that will progress to concept design, then community consultation; ultimately becoming part of the works program, leading to construction.

Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026–2036 and 2026/27 Fees & Charges - Public Submission

I am a resident of the Inner West LGA and write to make a formal submission on the Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026–2036 (LTFP) and the associated Fees & Charges 2026/27, currently on public exhibition. I have read Council's published documents in full and my comments below are drawn directly from those documents.

I acknowledge that Council operates within a constrained financial environment, that it faces real cost pressures, and that several of the fee changes proposed reflect statutory obligations outside Council's control. My submission focuses on matters where I believe Council's own documents raise questions that deserve a more complete public explanation before this plan is adopted.

1. The Infrastructure Backlog: A Growing Problem With No Plan to Fix It

Council's LTFP formally acknowledges an infrastructure renewal backlog of $26.9 million, identified in the 2024/25 financial statements. This covers roads, footpaths, drains and other assets across the LGA.

Under Scenario 1 (the preferred scenario), this backlog will not be addressed during the 10-year life of the plan. Council's own modelling shows the Infrastructure Backlog Ratio growing every single year, from 0.35% in 2026/27 to 0.90% by 2035/36. The document explicitly states that fixing the backlog within 10 years "would require using most of Council's working funds, leaving us with insufficient financial capacity, and as such is not recommended."

I understand the financial constraint. What is missing from these documents is any plan to stop the backlog from growing, or any explanation of at what point the condition of assets will become a service delivery or public safety problem. The LTFP acknowledges the issue and then models it getting worse for a decade. That is not a plan — it is a deferral.

I ask Council to address the following in its response to submissions:

- What is the current condition rating of the assets included in the $26.9M backlog, and which asset types (roads, footpaths, drains) represent the largest share?
- At what backlog ratio does Council consider asset condition to pose a risk to residents?
- Is Council actively seeking state or federal capital grants to address the backlog, and if so, what applications are in progress?

2. Major Capital Projects: Funding Sources Are Not Disclosed

The 2026/27 capital program includes $32 million for the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre and $30 million for Leichhardt Oval — $62 million in a single financial year, concentrated in one part of the LGA. For context, the local roads program for the entire LGA in the same year is $8.6 million and the footpath renewal program is $3.5 million.

Neither the LTFP nor the Delivery Program identifies the funding source for either project. There is no disclosure of whether state or federal government grants are contributing, and no indication of whether Council intends to borrow to fund these works.

This matters because Council's own precedent is instructive. The Ashfield Aquatic Centre was funded by borrowing $40 million from NSW Treasury TCorp, repaid from rate income over 20 years, with $30.7 million still outstanding. If the Leichhardt projects are being funded the same way, ratepayers should be told. If they are being funded from unrestricted working capital, residents should understand the trade-off against other priorities including the infrastructure backlog.

The LTFP methodology notes that non-recurrent capital grants are excluded from modelling because they are "difficult to predict." This is prudent financial modelling practice, but it should not become a reason to withhold from residents' information about grants that may already be confirmed or under negotiation.

I ask Council to publicly disclose:

- The confirmed funding source for the $32M Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre, broken down by Council funds, state grant, federal grant and borrowings.
- The confirmed funding source for the $30M Leichhardt Oval project, with the same breakdown.
- Whether any new borrowings are planned in connection with either project, and if so, the anticipated repayment structure.

3. Financial Buffer Is Thinning

Council's cash expense cover ratio - the number of months it could continue paying its bills without additional cash inflow - drops from 7 months in 2025/26 to 4 months in 2026/27 and then sits at or near 3 months for several subsequent years. The minimum benchmark is 3 months.

Council remains within benchmark, and I acknowledge that. But the trajectory is a sharp decline in a single year, and the plan then maintains a thin buffer for an extended period. Given the large capital commitments in 2026/27 and an economic environment that the LTFP itself describes as uncertain, this warrants explanation.

I ask Council to explain:

- What is driving the drop from 7 months to 4 months in a single year?
- What contingency exists if an unforeseeable cost event occurs while the ratio is near the minimum benchmark?

4. Workers Compensation: A 10% Cost Spike With No Explanation

The LTFP models workers compensation costs rising from $6.8 million in 2025/26 to $7.5 million in 2026/27, an increase of 10.3% in a single year. No explanation is provided for this increase in the published documents.

A 10% jump in workers compensation cost typically reflects either a significant increase in claims experience, a re-rating of Council's risk profile by the insurer, or a change in the workforce profile. Ratepayers are funding this cost and deserve to understand what is driving it.

I ask Council to provide:

- An explanation of the factors driving the 10.3% increase in workers compensation for 2026/27.
- Whether Council has a program in place to reduce the claims rate over the life of the LTFP.

5. Grants Modelled as Flat for 10 Years: The Risk This Creates

The LTFP assumes all state and federal operating grants will remain flat for the full 10-year period. This includes the Financial Assistance Grant, the Transport for NSW block grant, the street lighting subsidy and the library subsidy. No increases of any kind are modelled.

I understand this is a conservative modelling assumption and reflects genuine uncertainty about future government funding. However, it means that every cost increase above what rates and fees recover must, by definition, come from further rate rises or fee increases on residents. Over a 10-year period, even modest cost pressures compound significantly.

At the same time, the LTFP does not appear to include any active advocacy strategy to increase grant income. Given that the rate cap constrains Council's major revenue source and grants are flat by assumption, the only adjustment mechanism is fees and charges - which fall directly on residents.

I ask Council to address:

- What advocacy is Council undertaking with state and federal governments to increase operating grant funding?
- If grants remain flat and costs continue to rise above the rate cap, what levers other than fees and charges does Council have available?

6. Pensioner Rate Subsidy and Stormwater Charge: Frozen for Decades

The LTFP acknowledges that the Pensioner Rate Subsidy has been fixed at $250 per property since 1993 and that this "creates a greater burden on pensioners." The stormwater management charge has similarly been fixed at $25 per residential property since 2006.

I understand both figures are set by state government regulation and are outside Council's direct control. However, Council does have a voice as an advocate for its community. A pensioner rate subsidy that has not moved in 33 years has lost the large majority of its real value. I ask Council to confirm what representations, if any, it is making to the NSW Government to increase both of these figures.

7. Weekly Bin Collection Opt-In Fee

The introduction of a $200 opt-in fee for weekly red bin collection represents a new cost on residents who previously received this service as standard. The Fees & Charges document describes it as a new fee; it is also effectively a reduction in the service level for residents who do not opt in and cannot afford the additional charge.

I ask Council to clarify:

- What is the exemption criteria for pensioners and how will eligible residents be notified?
- What community consultation was undertaken before removing weekly collection as a standard service?

Summary

I am not suggesting Council is acting in bad faith or managing its finances irresponsibly. The LTFP meets its benchmarks and Council is operating in a genuinely difficult environment. My submission asks for greater transparency on five specific matters:

- A clearer plan for the infrastructure backlog beyond simply modelling it growing for 10 years.
- Full public disclosure of the funding sources for the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre and Leichhardt Oval projects.
- An explanation of the sharp drop in financial buffer in 2026/27 and what contingency exists.
- An explanation of the 10.3% workers compensation cost increase.
- Council's advocacy strategy for improving grant income and reducing the burden on residents as the primary adjustment mechanism.

I request that Council provide written responses to each of these questions as part of its formal response to submissions, and that those responses be made publicly available before the plan is adopted.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this process.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
[redacted]
Dulwich Hill
13th May 2026

Submission 7 attachment

Delivery Program 2025-29 and Operational Plan 2026/27 Public Submissions in Verbatim

Circular PV Alliance

Submission on Inner West Council Delivery Program 2025-2029 (year 2) and Operational Plan and Budget 2026/27

Circular PV Alliance: solar PV circularity, lifecycle value and membership

> DCCEEW expects Australia to generate one million tonnes of solar panel waste by 2035, equal to about 50 million solar panels.

Circular PV Alliance (CPVA) is an industry-led, not-for-profit organisation working to accelerate a circular economy for solar PV in Australia. We help councils, asset owners, recyclers, manufacturers and installers plan, procure, reuse, recycle and decommission solar panels, inverters and balance-of-system components responsibly. Our offering to Inner West Council is straightforward: a low-cost membership, an independently assessed solar PV circularity framework (CPVA Certified®), and access to a national local government circular solar cohort.

CPVA Certified® is CPVA's flagship solar PV circularity assurance framework. It helps councils and project owners assess whether solar panels, inverters, mounting systems and related infrastructure have been planned, procured, operated and decommissioned with credible reuse, recycling, supplier accountability and end-of-life recovery pathways in place. For councils, it can be used as a procurement specification, project assurance tool or asset-management benchmark, without requiring Council to design its own solar circularity standard from scratch.

Inner West Council is a strong fit for this work. Council has been climate-active since declaring a climate emergency in 2019, adopting its Climate and Renewables Strategy in December 2019, becoming the first council in Australia to divest from fossil fuels, achieving 100 per cent renewable Council electricity since July 2022 through the SSROC PPA, operating an Office of Renewable Energy Innovation, and delivering more than 50 per cent reduction in Council emissions since 2016/17. Solar PV circularity is the natural next phase of work, embedding lifecycle discipline into the procurement and asset-management decisions Council is making now.

Why this is a particularly timely cycle

Three live Council settings make the 2026/27 Operational Plan a strong point to introduce solar PV circularity without creating a new program:

- The Climate and Renewables Strategy adopted in December 2019 is now in its seventh year and would benefit from a refresh that embeds end-of-life and circularity considerations alongside the existing emissions reduction targets.
- Council's existing 980 kW solar PV fleet across more than 35 buildings will increasingly face inverter renewal, panel replacement, system upgrade and end-of-life decisions across the 2026-2036 Long Term Financial Plan period.
- The $500 million Infrastructure Fund launched in November 2025, including any solar PV that sits within Council facility renewals, gives Council a once-in-a-generation opportunity to

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embed lifecycle discipline at the procurement stage of the largest infrastructure programme in Council's history.

These are not three separate matters. They are three facets of one implementation opportunity. CPVA Certified® or an equivalent framework can be used as a practical standard across procurement, climate strategy delivery, infrastructure investment and community engagement.

This submission makes four practical, budget-aligned recommendations:

- Allocate a modest $8,000 operational provision in the 2026/27 Budget for CPVA membership and participation in the national local government circular solar cohort.
- Adopt CPVA Certified® or an equivalent independently assessed solar PV circularity framework as a reference standard for Council-owned, Council-funded or Council-procured solar PV projects.
- Apply that standard first to the existing 980 kW Council solar PV fleet as systems reach inverter replacement and end-of-life decisions, and to any solar PV component within the $500 million Infrastructure Fund delivery.
- Embed whole-of-life solar PV considerations into the next refresh of the Climate and Renewables Strategy, the Office of Renewable Energy Innovation's work programme, the Green Living Centre's community engagement, and Council's reporting under the Cities Power Partnership.

The intent is not to create a new program. It is to add a low-cost, practical control to existing work so Council makes better procurement decisions now and avoids future waste, decommissioning and renewal costs later.

CPVA Certified® is deliberately focused on solar PV, including panels, inverters, mounting systems and related infrastructure. Adjacent battery, heat pump and broader electrification end-of-life challenges sit outside its scope. CPVA can contribute to those adjacent conversations through the wider council cohort where useful, but this submission is deliberately limited to solar PV.

What CPVA membership offers Inner West Council

- An independently assessed solar PV procurement specification Council officers can incorporate into existing procurement templates and Climate and Renewables Strategy delivery, without rebuilding any existing process.
- Lifecycle decision frameworks for inverter renewal, panel replacement, system upgrade and end-of-life decommissioning, including supplier take-back obligations, reuse and refurbishment pathways and credible recycling routes.
- Access to a national peer network of councils working on the same problem, including Dubbo Regional, Banana Shire, Mid-Western Regional and Tamworth Regional Councils, with shared learnings, supplier evaluations and emerging market intelligence on the rapidly evolving solar PV recovery sector.
- Alignment with the NSW Net Zero Plan, the Office of Energy and Climate Change, the Cities Power Partnership (where Inner West is a first-round signatory and committed to multiple solar PV pledges), the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils, ICLEI Oceania and wider circular economy policy priorities.

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- Templates and worked examples Council can apply to procurement specifications, Office of Renewable Energy Innovation work, and Green Living Centre community-facing materials covering responsible solar PV disposal, reuse and recycling pathways.
- Voluntary CPVA officer time to support Council officers in operationalising any of the above, at no additional cost to Council, including offered engagement with the Office of Renewable Energy Innovation and the refresh of the Climate and Renewables Strategy where useful.

Where CPVA Certified® applies in the 2026/27 cycle

The framework applies, in different ways, across existing Council assets, live policy commitments and forthcoming projects. In each case the value is highest at design and procurement stage and falls sharply after installation.

The existing 980 kW Council solar PV fleet. More than 35 buildings carry rooftop solar PV, including the 250 kW Ashfield Aquatic Centre installation. The earliest systems are approaching first inverter renewal. CPVA Certified® gives officers a defensible standard for those decisions, rather than handling each asset in isolation, and provides a coherent path through replacement, refurbishment and end-of-life recovery.

Climate and Renewables Strategy refresh. Embedding solar PV circularity expectations into the next iteration of the Strategy gives Council a consistent procurement and lifecycle discipline for every solar PV decision the Strategy generates, alongside the existing emissions reduction commitments.

The $500 million Infrastructure Fund. Any solar PV component within the Infrastructure Fund delivery, including Council facility renewals, aquatic centre upgrades, library and community facility works and adaptive reuse projects, benefits from the framework applied at design and tender stage.

The Office of Renewable Energy Innovation work programme. The Office is already addressing barriers to local renewable energy uptake. Adding circularity to the workstream extends that work into the lifecycle phase that has historically received less attention, and supports Council's ambition to lead on solar PV from installation through to end-of-life.

Green Living Centre and Our Energy Future programme. As community-scale solar PV continues to grow across the Inner West, Council's existing community-facing channels can include clear guidance on responsible solar PV disposal, reuse and recycling pathways. CPVA can provide templates and worked materials.

Cities Power Partnership and SSROC peer engagement. Council's existing peer-body memberships provide a natural channel to share circularity practice. The SSROC 25-council PPA model (covering Moree, Hillston and Nevertire solar farms) demonstrates the kind of regional aggregation that also lends itself to coordinated circularity standards across member councils.

Budget framing and ratepayer value

The Draft 2026/27 Budget sets a rate increase at the IPART cap of 4.4 per cent and identifies $4.98 million in Financially Sustainable Service Delivery savings, against a total budget envelope in the order of $310 million. In that context, the $8,000 provision represents approximately 0.003 per cent of Council's annual budget envelope. The ratepayer value is straightforward: a modest provision and a clear procurement control help avoid significantly higher future costs by ensuring lifecycle

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responsibilities are considered while Council still has maximum leverage, before contracts are signed, before assets are installed or replaced, and well before decommissioning.

The council cohort: shared learning, shared challenges

The CPVA council cohort now includes Dubbo Regional Council (first regional member, REZ host with the REACT renewable energy training centre), Banana Shire Council (Queensland's first regional member, hosting a $40 billion renewable energy pipeline), Mid-Western Regional Council (Central-West Orana REZ host, home of the 400 MW Stubbo Solar Farm that earned a CPVA Certified® Exceeds rating earlier this year), and Tamworth Regional Council (most recent, more than 30 renewable project proposals received). For Inner West, participation would connect Council to practical peer learning while adding something the cohort would genuinely benefit from: deep climate strategy experience spanning seven years of implementation, the SSROC 25-council PPA aggregation model, first-mover divestment leadership, and the operational maturity of a dedicated Office of Renewable Energy Innovation.

The cohort turns common implementation challenges (procurement specifications, inverter renewal scheduling, refit decisions, decommissioning planning and community communications) into shared practical learning.

The first-mover dimension

Inner West Council holds a distinctive position in Australian local government on climate action: the first to divest from fossil fuels (2019), an early climate emergency declarant (May 2019), and among the first to achieve 100 per cent renewable Council electricity through the SSROC PPA (July 2022). That first-mover record carries with it the opportunity to also be first-mover on solar PV circularity, including in establishing what good practice looks like for end-of-life recovery from a mature Council solar fleet. CPVA Certified® supports Council to demonstrate the same leadership at decommissioning that has characterised Council's work at installation.

Suggested Budget and Operational Plan actions

- Allocate a modest $8,000 operational provision in the 2026/27 Budget for CPVA membership, funded from within existing climate, sustainability or environmental services budgets.
- Adopt CPVA Certified® or equivalent as the default solar PV circularity standard for Council-funded and Council-procured solar PV, and as a reference point in proponent engagement on future solar PV proposals.
- Incorporate the same standard into the next refresh of the Climate and Renewables Strategy and the Office of Renewable Energy Innovation work programme.
- Recognise solar PV explicitly within the 2026/27 Budget and 2026-2036 Long Term Financial Plan as an asset class with defined renewal, replacement and decommissioning profiles, beginning with the 980 kW Council solar fleet.
- Through Green Living Centre and Our Energy Future communications channels, include clear public guidance on responsible solar PV disposal, reuse and recycling pathways as the Inner West community-scale rooftop solar fleet continues to grow.
- Through SSROC engagement and Cities Power Partnership reporting, share Inner West's emerging circularity practice with peer councils.

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These actions can be delivered within existing climate, sustainability, asset management, procurement and waste work programs. CPVA would welcome the opportunity to volunteer time to support Council officers in considering how they could be practically implemented, and would be pleased to speak to this submission ahead of the Council meeting on Tuesday 16 June 2026.

[redacted]

Submission 8 Delivery Program 2025-29 and Operational Plan 2026/27 Public Submissions in Verbatim

Yen Tsang

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2026 11:49 AM
To: Corporate Strategy
Subject: Submission on the Draft Delivery Program 2025–29 and Operational Plan and Budget 2026/27

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Dear Yen Tsang,

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan and Budget 2026/27, and thank Inner West Council for making these documents available for public exhibition.

There is much to commend in this budget for people who walk and ride. The allocations for Marrickville Road East — kerb-protected infrastructure — Lilyfield Road, West Street, Robert Street Rozelle, and the elevation of Iron Cove walk/cycleway to a Council Priority all point in the right direction.

The GreenWay opening in December 2025 was a landmark moment for active transport in the Inner West, and the funding allocated in this budget toward the Old Canterbury Road missing link is the most important single line item in the active transport program — removing one of the last remaining at-grade road crossings on the corridor and completing the vision the community has fought for over two decades. I strongly support this project.

Council has also met its election commitment to double cycleway funding. That's a genuine achievement worth acknowledging.

The next generation of routes needs to start now.
The current capital program is focused on delivering routes that have been in planning for years. That's exactly right. But if we wait until those are built before starting the planning process for the next generation, we'll face another decade-long gap. I'd ask Council to allocate planning and design funding in this term for three routes that should form the backbone of the next program:

- **Pyrmont Bridge Road cycleway (Lyons Road to Parramatta Road)** — City of Sydney has already built their section of this route to Lyons Road. A kerb-protected connection through the Inner West section would complete a continuous corridor. The case for funding at least a design phase now is straightforward: the adjacent infrastructure already exists.
- **Addison Road cycleway** — a previous consultation process was held years ago. The community interest is there and Council clearly hasn't forgotten it. A fresh feasibility and design process, done well, is the right next step.
- **Iron Cove Creek corridor** — potentially the Inner West's second GreenWay, linking communities along the creek from Haberfield to Leichhardt and beyond. It won't be easy to build, but that's an argument for starting the planning process sooner rather than later, not for deferring it indefinitely.

The construction pipeline needs to stay funded between now and 2028/29. The named projects in this year's budget are mostly design-phase allocations. The Cycleway Strategy Delivery line — $3M in 2028/29 and $4M in 2029/30 — is welcome, but it's two to three years away. The Long Term Financial Plan is explicit that the bike facilities program relies on matching state and federal grant funding. I'd ask Council

to commit to a minimum own-source floor for cycling capital each year, so that if grant funding doesn't materialise in any given year, progress on the ground doesn't stop.

I support this budget and encourage Council to hold the line on active transport investment through the full four-year term.

Thank you.

[redacted]
Annandale

Delivery Program 2025-29 and Operational Plan 2026/27 Public Submissions in Verbatim

From:
Alice June
Christopher Langley
Eamon McCurry
Ed Steane
Ellis Bou-Harb
Dr Dan Conway
Franchesca Bott
Gianluca Dragone
Jessica Shirley
Julian Bott
Leanne Qian
Matthew Man
Nic Gouvernet
Olivia Rosenman
Patrick O'Meara
Paul Bullivant
Robert Beckett
Roslyn Poulos
Stella Li
Tim Moore

Transforming Addison Road

Ideas & Suggestions

Friends of Addison Road 28 February 2026

Delivery Program 2025-29 and Operational Plan 2026/27 Public Submissions in Verbatim

Why here, why now?

Apartment Construction

Housing Investigation Area 2: Rapidly increasing residential density far from train stations means we need to preference active modes of transport here.

Markets & Destinations

Weekly markets, The Vic, Ale Trail & Special Entertainment Precinct result in traffic 7 days a week here. Walking & riding will support the local economy.

Popular Bike Route

This is a missing link between the Livingstone Road Cycleway and the City of Sydney. Many ride on this road *and footpaths* to avoid Stanmore and Sydenham Roads.

Components for a win-win project:

Fully Separated Cycleway for Less Experienced Riders

Kerb Extensions, Zebra Crossings and Continuous Footpaths

On Street Dining Spaces and Pocket Parks

Dedicated on-road bike parking: private & shared e-bikes

Parking Relocations and Net Increase with Angled Spaces

Verge Gardens and Tall Shady Trees

Speed Reduction

Delivery Program 2025-29 and Operational Plan 2026/27 Public Submissions in Verbatim

1. Protected Cycleway

Connecting the Livingstone Road Cycleway and Marrickville Park to the Addison Road Community Centre, Enmore Park, Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre & Marrickville Metro shops.

A high quality cycleway, fully separated from traffic & directly connected to key destinations and existing cycleways is necessary to entice new riders who currently don't feel safe.

This is needed to encourage more sustainable travel choices and reduce traffic as residential density increases.

2. Pedestrian Improvements

Enhance the pedestrian experience when walking or wheeling along and across Addison Road, via:

- Raised pedestrian crossings (wombat crossings)
- Street level pedestrian crossings (zebra crossings)
- Kerb extensions to calm traffic and add verge gardens
- Continuous footpaths (roadway raised to footpath level)

3. On-street Dining

Calming traffic by narrowing the visual appearance of the lanes, and increasing capacity for hospitality businesses to serve more customers.

In some Sydney LGAs, several of these are added outside commercial strips, with some rented by businesses for exclusive use, while others remain publicly available for anyone to enjoy.

4. On-street share bike parking

Eliminating footpath clutter with dedicated share bike parking spaces, ideally in No Stopping zones, parking bays, or on footpaths in underutilised corners, out of the way of pedestrians and wheelchair users.

Delivery Program 2025-29 and Operational Plan 2026/27 Public Submissions in Verbatim

5. Parking Relocation & Net Increase

To accommodate higher value kerbside uses, it is likely that some parking on one side of Addison Road will need to be relocated. There are many wide side streets that could accommodate 90 degree parking on one side, or even 60 degree parking on both sides if converted to one-way. This could achieve a net increase in parking spaces.

Potential streets include: Audley, McRae, Coronation, Park, Neville, Shepherd and Cook to the south. And on the north: William, Bright, North, England and Perry.

6. Enhance Tree Canopy

Undergrounding, sheathing or bundling power lines to prevent excessive pruning, and replacing lost trees with tall-growing species can help create a shadier and cooler streetscape that is more conducive to walking, cycling, and outdoor dining, even in the summer months.

On-street tree plantings avoid footpath interruptions and overhead power lines, allowing for a real urban canopy.

Delivery Program 2025-29 and Operational Plan 2026/27 Public Submissions in Verbatim

7. Speed Reduction

InnerWest@40 has already reduced speed limits on side streets to 40km/h, however, lower limits are required on Addison Road to reduce noise, fumes, and safety risks.

Austroads' recent analysis reveals that for every $1 "lost" in time savings, approximately $5 is gained in other metrics.

Strategic Alignment - Council

Delivery Program 2025-29 and Operational Plan 2026/27 Submissions Overview

Inner West Council's Cycling Strategy & Action Plan specifically identifies Addison Road for Prioritised Cycling Access (Figure 1, page 22). It is also supported by higher level strategic documents:

Community Strategic Plan

Strategic Direction 2, Item 6: "People walk, cycle and move around the inner west with ease.
Outcome 2.6.2: Council will "Manage the road network to increase safety and **prioritise active and public transport over private motor vehicles**".

Local Strategic Planning Statement

Repeatedly notes the importance of shifting travel choices from car use to walking & cycling, and **our insufficient bike infrastructure.** Highlights cycling as a critical way to address the Inner West's challenges. It prioritises expanding and improving safe, accessible cycling infrastructure, particularly separated bike paths.

Integrated Transport Strategy

Section 5.1 states that: "**Active transport should be prioritised in the LGA and placed higher in the road hierarchy than private vehicles** as it can achieve higher movement of people".

Page 55 includes Addison Road as a planned route.

Blue-Green Grid

Link 9: "Addison Road from Enmore Park to Livingstone Road" states that: **"Opportunities exist to improve Addison Road for cyclists and pedestrians".**

Strategic Alignment - State

Strategic Cycleway Corridors

Completing the link between Dulwich Hill and Marrickville, and commencing the link to Newtown:

Eastern Harbour City Strategic Cycleway Corridors Program Summary

Road User Space Allocation Policy

Prioritises people walking and riding bikes over public transport and private vehicles when distributing road space:

Road User Space Allocation Policy

TfNSW's "Movement and Place"

The "Urban Connector Street" problems and solutions images specifically recommend a cycleway:

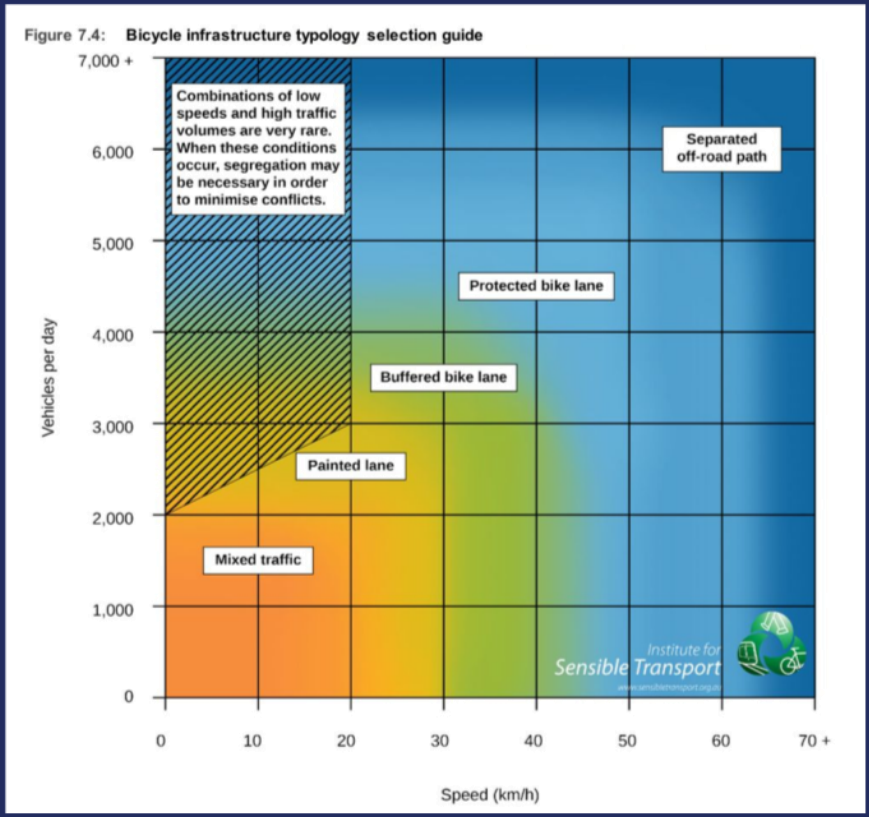
Design of Roads & Streets:Connector street

Cycleway Design Toolbox

Transport for NSW's design toolbox shows that Addison Road is too busy for shared lanes to be considered adequate for riders:

Cycleway Design Toolbox – Designing for cycling and micromobility. December 2020.

Strategic Alignment - Peak Bodies & Politics



Austroads (url)

Report AP-R711-24 "Prioritising Active Transport" reveals that a protected bike lane (i.e. a separated cycleway) is required for roads with over 4000 vehicles per day, or are over 40km/h.

NSW Labor Platform 2024 (url)

1.90 (f) "Develop safe and connected active transport links."

1.100 "NSW Labor will support the development of alternative transport modes, which are environmentally friendly, and energy efficient, such as car sharing schemes and shared pathways and cycleways for pedestrians, cyclists and personal mobility bicycle riders"

Lessons from 2016-2017 project attempt:

1. Focus communication and public engagement on a complete street transformation that is about much more than just a cycleway.

2. Recall previous concerns about cars parked close to tall kerbs on the north side of Addison Road. Place the cycleway here instead of the south side of the road.

3. Recall previous opposition from riders about the circuitous path on back streets. Keep the cycleway on the full length of Addison Road instead, to directly and clearly connect key destinations.

14

Introduction

Change is coming to the Inner West. Thirty thousand new dwellings are on the way. Without a real transport plan, backed by investment, we risk locking in congestion and car dependence for decades. But we can choose another path: a city built around people, not cars.

We believe the Inner West can be Amsterdam on the Cooks River or Copenhagen by the Bay. Our neighbourhoods already have the bones of a world-class cycling city: wide, quiet streets; green corridors; high streets within a 10-minute cycle or walk; and a culture of social justice and activism. What we're missing is connectedness, everyday utility, sustained funding and the political will to make the way we move around the Inner West better.

Cities like Amsterdam and Copenhagen - and in Sydney, even our neighbouring City of Sydney council - show what happens when population growth is matched with serious investment in safe, separated cycling and walkable neighbourhoods. As Council establishes a $500 million infrastructure fund, this is the moment to embed walking and cycling as core community infrastructure; not an optional extra.

Our vision is an Inner West where walking and cycling are the top choice for short trips. Where every child can ride safely to school, parents feel confident riding with their kids, and local shops thrive on vibrant, walkable high streets. A place where freedom doesn't mean owning a car, but being able to move easily, safely and joyfully; and where, on the days you do need to drive, streets are calmer, uncongested and more pleasant for everyone.

This submission sets out how the *Building Our Community Developer Contributions Plan* can help deliver on this future.

It is grounded in community mapping undertaken by Bike Marrickville and cross-referenced with Council's adopted strategies, including the Blue-Green Grid, the Cycling Strategy and housing investigation areas under Our Fairer Future. It sets out the priority routes required to make cycling safe, practical and appealing for everyday trips.

We would welcome the opportunity to brief council staff further on the long, and short-term cycling improvements needed to enable more choice of movement across our Inner West.

How the items were selected

In December 2025, Bike Marrickville hosted a workshop. Maps of the Inner West local government area were printed out and participants asked to draw on them with coloured markers to highlight roads and areas where improvements could be made.

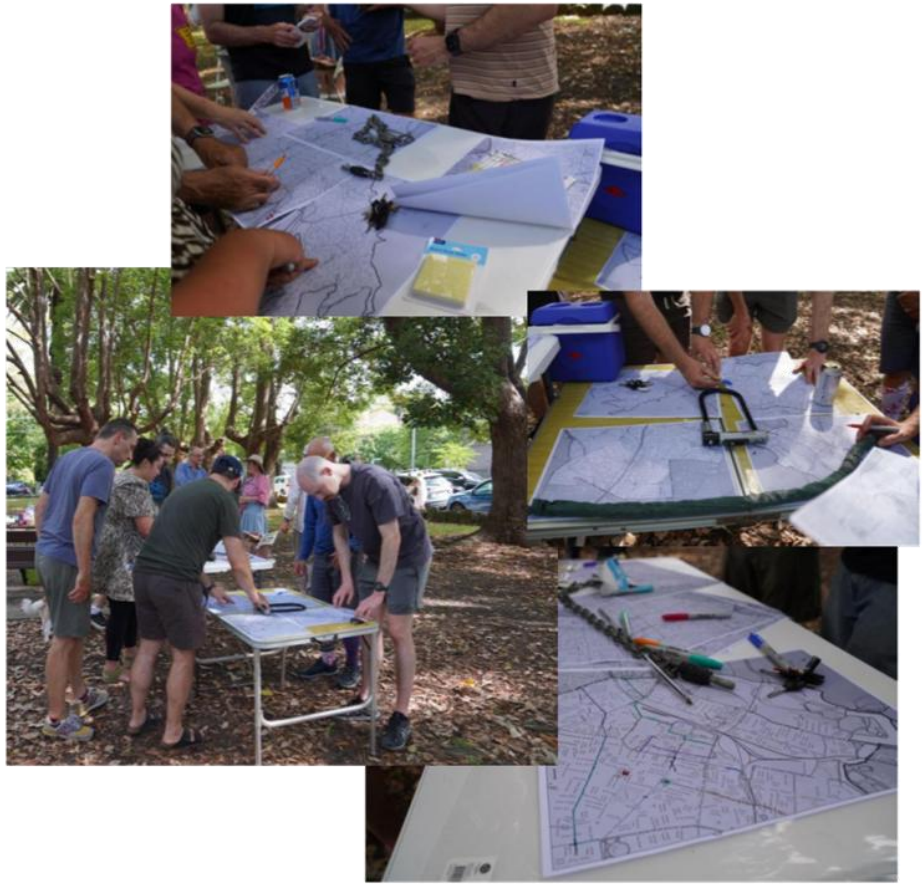
Following the workshop, the markings were digitised into a spreadsheet where they were cross-referenced with the existing cycle network, council strategies (namely the Cycling Strategy, the Blue-Green Grid and Our Fairer Future), nearby amenities or attractors, local/state/regional roads and bus routes.

Each item was then ranked with achievability and impact scores: achievability was determined by road types (higher on local roads, lower on state/regional roads) and impact by the presence in, or relevance to council's strategies.

Additionally the items were sorted into two categories: "Routes for investigation" and "Small improvements". Each of the items selected below include a larger route for future, detailed investigation and a number of small improvements that could be delivered sooner, providing benefit immediately.

Items were selected for inclusion below if they:

- Had higher achievability and impact scores
- Would service a housing investigation area from Our Fairer Future, the Bays West metro precinct, or the Parramatta Road upzonings.



Bike Marrickville

Summary of Suggested Investments

Alongside the routes for investigation outlined below, all existing cycleway projects should have **design** and **construction** funded via the developer contributions plan, including:

- Marrickville Rd East Cycleway
- Lilyfield Rd Cycleway
- Iron cove creek Masterplan delivery
- Pyrmont Bridge Rd cycleway
- Robert St, Rozelle cycleway
- Sydenham Road Strategy & Cycleway

This submission proposes and justifies new infrastructure projects to support housing uplift, specifically:

- Addison Road Cycleway, Marrickville
- Beach & Pine Street Cycleway, Dulwich Hill
- Sydney Steel Road & Edinburgh Rd Cycleway, Marrickville
- Hercules Street Cycleway, Dulwich Hill
- Loftus Street Quietway, Ashfield
- Bland Street Quietway, Ashfield
- Livingstone Street Cycleway southern extension
- Johnston Street Cycleway, Annandale
- Mallet St, Booth/Moore St, Allen St Cycleway in Leichhardt/Annandale/Camperdown.

We also strongly support other campaigns for:

1. A new Marrickville Town Square at the corner of Calvert Street and Illawarra Road.
2. Pocket parks/road closures on Illawarra Road, between Marrickville Rd and Sydenham Rd, and another between Sydenham Rd and Addison Rd.
3. Cooks River path lighting, widening, and separation of pedestrians and cyclists. Plus, connections *to* the path, and collaboration with other councils along the route to ensure consistency in infrastructure styles delivered.
4. Delivery of the Iron Cove Creek path ("CreekWay" to keep the GreenWay and MetroWay theme?)
5. Balmain Road cycleway, in front of Callan Park.

Bike Marrickville

Detailed Routes for Developer Contribution Funding

Addison Road Cycleway, Marrickville

- Link 9 of the Blue-Green Grid
- Features in Inner West Council's Cycling Strategy
- In Council's Housing Investigation Area 2 adjacent to the Addison Road sub-precinct
- Connects to an existing cycling route along Livingstone Rd
- Council resolved to consult on an Addison Rd Cycleway at the September 2024 council meeting
- Provides connection to amenities including the Marrickville Metro, Wilkins Primary School, Newington College, the Addison Road Community Organisation and Henson Oval

Short-term improvements

- Replace pedestrian refuge island between John St and Park Rd with a combined pedestrian/cycle wombat crossing to improve access to Wilkins Public school and connect quiet streets either side of Addison Rd
- Implement shared path from the end of the Livingstone Rd cycleway to Addison Rd on the western side of Livingstone Rd until the separated cycleway can be extended
- A modal filter on Illawarra Rd between Chapel St and Woodland St to improve cycling conditions on quiet side streets and access to Addison Rd Community Centre
- Replacing the slip lane at the Eastern end of Addison Rd with widened footpaths
- Lower speed limits to 30 km/h to make on-road cycling safer

Bike Marrickville

Sydenham Road Cycleway, Marrickville

- Link 1 of the Blue-Green Grid
- Features in the Cycling Strategy
- Connects the Marrickville Local Centre sub-precinct of the Housing Investigation Area 1A to the Sydenham Metro station
- Connects new high density developments at Wicks Park and the Timberyards to the Sydenham Metro station
- The subject of an existing Inner West Council community engagement, i.e. “Sydenham Road Strategy”
- Provides access to amenities including part of the Inner West Ale Trail, Marrickville Bowling Club and the Sydenham Metro station

Short-term improvements

- Additional combined cycle/pedestrian wombat on Sydenham Rd crossings. For example at Barclay St and Meeks Rd to connect to Marrickville Rd East
- Upgraded intersection at Fitzroy St
- Shared path on both sides of Sydenham Rd until a separated cycleway can be implemented
- Combined pedestrian/cycle crossing on Fitzroy St between Chapel St and Lillian Fowler Pl to improve a parallel, quiet street route
- Lower speed limits to 30 km/h to make on-road cycling safer

Bike Marrickville

Dulwich Hill Village to Livingstone Road (Beach & Pine Street Cycleway)

- Parts of links 19 and 54 of the Blue-Green Grid
- Features in the Cycling Strategy
- Connects the Dulwich Hill Village sub-precinct of Housing Investigation Area 1 to the existing Livingstone Rd cycleway
- Entirely on Local Roads and doesn't impact bus routes
- Provides access to Dulwich Hill high street retail, the Greenway, Dulwich Hill Public and Dulwich Hill High along with better access to Marrickville Town Centre

Short-term improvements

- Combined pedestrian/cycle wombat crossing on Wardell St between Beach Rd and Pine St with a short separated cycleway to provide priority crossing for bikes and pedestrians
- Traffic calming at the bend in Hollands Ave so drivers are more aware of contraflow cyclists

Bike Marrickville

Sydney Steel Road and Edinburgh Road Cycleway, Marrickville

- Part of link 5 of the Blue-Green Grid
- Features in Council's Cycling Strategy
- Connects to parts of the Housing Investigation Area 2
- Entirely on Local Roads passing only a single bus stop
- Subject of an Inner West Council motion in the November 2025 council meeting
- Improves access to Sydenham Metro station, Marrickville Metro shopping centre, King Street high street retail, St Peters train station and Sydney Park

Short term improvements

- Convert footpath on Southern side of Edinburgh Rd to shared path from Smidmore St to Railway Pde
- Combined pedestrian/cyclist wombat crossing of Edinburgh Rd at Murray St to provide access to the Marrickville Metro
- Priority bike crossing of Railway Pde, east of the Edinburgh Rd/Railway Pde roundabout to provide a crossing point from shared path to on-road for bikes

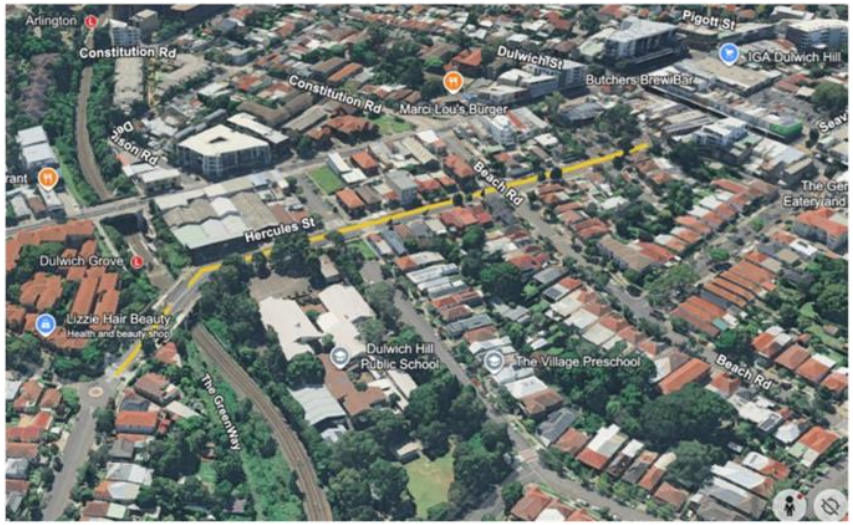
Bike Marrickville

Hercules St Cycleway, Dulwich Hill

- Link 6 of the Blue-Green Grid
- Features in the Cycling Strategy
- Services the Dulwich Hill Village sub-precinct of the Housing Investigation Area 1A
- Entirely on Local Roads and doesn't interfere with any bus routes
- Connects the Greenway to Dulwich Hill high street on Marrickville Rd, while also improving access to Dulwich Hill Public School and Dulwich Hill High School

Short term improvements

- Convert Southern side of Hercules St to shared path from the Greenway to Kintore St Reserve to provide access from the Greenway to Dulwich Hill Public School
- Widened path through Kintore St Reserve to reduce conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists
- Re-orient the intersection of Hercules St and Beach Rd to prioritise movements along Hercules St as a way of improving access along Hercules St and provide traffic calming along Beach Rd
- Add bicycle parking to the Loftus St car park



Loftus St Quietway, Ashfield

- Link 33 of the Blue-Green Grid
- Features in the Cycling Strategy
- Services the Northern Spine and Orpington Sub-Precincts of the Housing Investigation Area 1B
- Entirely on Local Roads and interferes with no bus routes
- Within the boundary of an active Local Area Traffic Management study
- Serves as an East-West connection through Ashfield improving access to Ashfield Park and Bowling Club, Ashfield Woolworths

Short-term improvements

- Full modal filter on Alt St south of Church St to reduce through traffic and make cycling from Church St to Julia St safer (while also increasing green space and tree planting)
- Partial modal filter at Gower St and Ormond St, allowing entry to Gower St but exit only for cyclists
- Raised, paved intersections at Bland St and Julia St,and Loftus St and Orpington St to slow drivers

Bland St Quietway, Ashfield

- Link 26 of the Blue-Green Grid
- Part of the Northern Ashfield Investigation Area in the Cycling Strategy
- Services the Northern Spine and Ashfield Centre North Sub-Precincts of the Housing Investigation Area 1B
- Within the boundary of an active Local Area Traffic Management study
- Serves as a North-South connection through Ashfield improving access to Ashfield Station and Liverpool Road high street retail, Ashfield Mall and Woolworths Ashfield as well as St Vincent's College, Haberfield Public School, Ashfield Public School and Ashfield Boys High School

Short-term improvements

- Convert Brown St/Bland St under the railway bridge to Bus/Cyclists only to reduce traffic and make cycling safer around the station
- Traffic calming between Julia St and Parramatta Rd to slow drivers

Livingstone Rd Cycleway Southern Extension (see Addison Road for Northern Extension)

- Link 68 of the Blue-Green Grid
- Part of the Housing Investigation Area 1A
- Connects Marrickville West Primary School to the Livingstone Rd cycleway
- Entirely on local roads
- Connects the Livingstone Rd cycleway to Local Route 18, the existing bike route from Dulwich Hill Station to Marrickville Station

Short-term improvements

- Shared path on the Western side of Livingstone Rd until separated cycleway can be extended

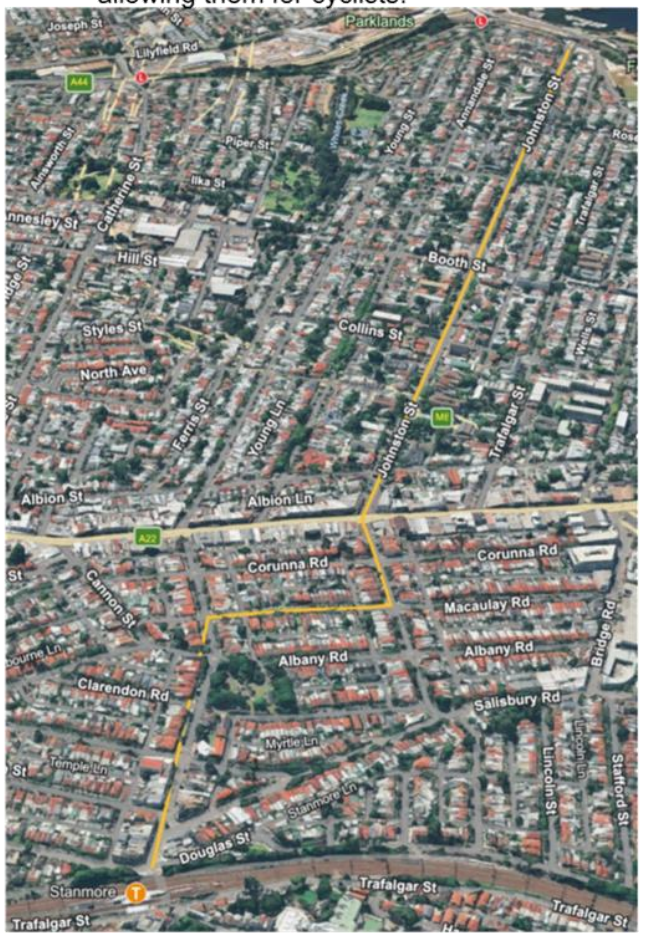
Bike Marrickville

Johnston St Cycleway, Annandale

- Includes links 3 and 13 of the Blue-Green grid
- Features in the Cycling Strategy
- Serves Housing Investigation Area 2 and the Parramatta Road upzoning area, as well as Harold Park via Jubilee Park
- Intersects with Regional Route 7, the existing cycle route from Lewisham to Newtown
- Connects to public transport nodes at Stanmore Station, buses on Parramatta Rd and the L1 light rail at Rozelle
- Serves schools including St Michael's Catholic Primary School, Annandale Public School and Annandale North Public School
- Connects to Annandale high street retail and the tram sheds
- Connects Weekley Park, Rozelle Parklands and beyond to the Anzac Bridge and CBD

Short-term improvements

- Upgrades to an existing parallel route via Young St including:
  - Re-orient the intersection of Booth St and Young St to prioritise movements along Young St and add traffic calming to Booth St
  - Re-orient the intersection of Piper St and Young St to prioritise movements along Young St and add traffic calming to Piper St
  - Diagonal modal filter at Young St and Reserve St preventing through movements for drivers but allowing them for cyclists.



Mallet St, Booth/Moore St, Allen St Cycleway

- Link 42 of the Blue-Green Grid
- Features in the Cycling Strategy
- Intersects the housing investigation area HIA 2 as well as the Parramatta Rd upzoning and the former Camperdown Dive Site (The Joinery)
- Connects to public transport nodes at Newtown Station, Parramatta Rd buses and the L1 light rail at Hawthorne
- Connects to major high streets at King St, Newtown, Booth St, Annandale and Norton St, Leichhardt
- Connects to schools Newtown Performing Arts and Newtown Public School, Australia Street Infants, and Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt
- Connects to RPA health precinct, a major employer in the area
- Intersects with other major network links at the Greenway, Whites Creek and Johnstons Creek

Short-term improvements

- Upgrade pedestrian crossing of Salsbury Rd at Church St to combined pedestrian/cycle crossing to improve parallel quiet street route
- Advanced signal phasing at Parramatta Rd to improve pedestrian crossing
- 30km/h speed limits to improve on-road cycling conditions
- Combined pedestrian/cycle wombat crossing of Darley Rd to improve access to the Greenway

Bike Marrickville

Conclusion

These routes represent the minimum infrastructure required to achieve Council's “Going Places” (Integrated Transport Strategy) mode-shift targets while supporting unprecedented housing growth. Council's own Traffic and Transport Needs Study acknowledges that safe cycling infrastructure is 'disconnected and disjointed'; these nine routes directly address the gaps Council has already identified.

The window to shape transport behavior is now. Thousands of new residents arriving in housing investigation areas will make transport decisions based on available infrastructure. If cycling feels unsafe because these routes don't exist, they will buy cars. Once that investment is made and the habit established, mode shift becomes exponentially harder.

Council's Climate and Renewables Strategy commits to fostering zero emissions mobility. These routes are the physical infrastructure making those commitments real. The policy framework is in place. The population is ready. The growth is coming. What's needed is infrastructure making cycling safe, practical, and appealing for the 'interested but concerned' majority who would cycle for transport if it felt safe.

We request Council commit to delivering these routes through the Developer Contributions Plan, with design commencing immediately and construction beginning as soon as possible.

Sincerely, the Bike Marrickville committee:

Tom Watson - Secretary

Estelle Grech - Vice President

Natalie Ross - Treasurer

Ellis Bou-Harb - President

Sander Ottes

Mariska Marnane

John Caley

Fiona Campbell

John McNeil

Ed Steane

Patrick O’Meara

Tamsyn Glenn

Jason L’Ecuyer

Bike Marrickville

Item: **C0626(1) Item 3**

Title: **Design Excellence LEP Amendment**

Author: Simone Plummer - Director Planning

Recommendation

That:

1. **Council endorse the Planning Proposal (*Attachment 1*) – Clause 6.9 Design Excellence to amend the *Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022*.**

2. **Council forward the Planning Proposal to the Minister for Planning for a Gateway Determination in accordance with section 3.34 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.**

3. **Council request the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure to authorise Council to be the Local Plan Making Authority (LPMA), and if Council is authorised as the LPMA, Council delegate the plan making functions to the General Manager, or nominee to exercise the function in accordance with the LEP Making Guideline.**

4. **Following receipt of an affirmative Gateway Determination and compliance with its conditions, Council agree to place the updated Planning Proposal and supporting documentation on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days and consult with public authorities.**

5. **Delegation be given to the General Manager, or nominee to address the conditions of the Gateway Determination.**

6. **Delegation be given to the General Manager, or nominee to amend minor errors and/or procedural matters.**

7. **Following the conclusion of the exhibition period, the Planning Proposal be brought back to Council for consideration for adoption.**

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council endorsement to:

- Forward a planning proposal to amend Clause 6.9 Design Excellence of the Inner West Local Environmental Plan (IWLEP) 2022 for Gateway determination.
- Strengthen the clause so that independent, expert design review is consistently applied where design excellence must be demonstrated.

- Provide additional information regarding the operation of State Design Review Panels to satisfy the Council Resolution of 21 May 2026.

Purpose

To seek Council endorsement to forward a planning proposal to amend Clause 6.9 Design Excellence of the Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022 for Gateway determination, in order to strengthen and clarify the design excellence framework by requiring consistent independent design review where design excellence must be demonstrated, including where Council is not the consent authority.

Strategic Direction

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

2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport

Background

Clause 6.9 of the Inner West Local Environmental Plan (IWLEP2022) is an existing clause that requires design excellence in multi dwelling development proposals. With significant housing delivery anticipated across the Inner West, strengthening Clause 6.9 helps ensure that new development contributes positively to neighbourhood character, amenity and the public domain, and that design expectations are applied consistently across all relevant proposals.

While Council routinely seeks advice from its Architectural Excellence and Design Review Panel (AEDRP), Clause 6.9 does not currently require a referral. This creates inconsistency and reduces transparency about when independent design scrutiny will occur. It also means that for State Significant Development—where Council is not the consent authority—there is no LEP-based requirement to obtain independent urban design advice.

The Inner West Local Planning Panel considered the proposal on 17 March 2026 and supported it progressing.

At the Council meeting held on 19 May 2026, Council resolved the following C0526(1) Item 2:

> *That Council defer the Planning Proposal (Attachment 1) – Clause 6.9 Design Excellence to amend the Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022 for a further report to June 2026 to include an explanation of the role of a Design Review Panel for residential development when Council is not the consent authority. Specifically, when an application is determined either as a State Significant Development or by the Independent Planning Commission.*

Discussion

Clause 6.9 Design Excellence of the IWLEP 2022 requires the consent authority to have regard to design excellence for development that will result in a new building that is 14m or more in height. The clause also specifies the matters that must be considered.

Below is a copy of the current LEP clause:

6.9 Design excellence

1) The objective of this clause is to ensure that development to which this clause applies exhibits the highest standard of architectural and urban design as part of the built environment.

2) This clause applies to development involving the construction of a new building, or external alterations to an existing building, that will result in a building that is equal to, or greater than, 14m in height.

3) Development consent must not be granted for development to which this clause applies unless the consent authority considers that the development exhibits design excellence.

4) In considering whether the development exhibits design excellence, the consent authority must have regard to the following matters—

- *a) whether a high standard of architectural design, materials and detailing appropriate to the building type and location will be achieved,*
- *b) whether the form and external appearance of the development will improve the quality and amenity of the public domain,*
- *c) whether the development detrimentally impacts on view corridors and landmarks,*
- *d) whether the development detrimentally impacts on land protected by solar access controls established in the relevant development control plan,*
- *e) the requirements of the relevant development control plan,*
- *f) how the development addresses the following matters—*
  - i. *the suitability of the land for development,*
  - ii. *existing and proposed uses and use mix,*
  - iii. *heritage issues and streetscape constraints,*
  - iv. *the relationship of the development with other existing or proposed development on the same site or on neighbouring sites in terms of separation, setbacks, amenity and urban form,*
  - v. *bulk, massing and modulation of buildings,*
  - vi. *street frontage heights,*
  - vii. *environmental impacts, including sustainable design, overshadowing, wind and reflectivity and visual and acoustic privacy,*
  - viii. *the achievement of the principles of ecologically sustainable development,*
  - ix. *pedestrian, cycle, vehicular and service access, circulation and requirements, including the permeability of any pedestrian network,*
  - x. *the impact on, and proposed improvements to, the public domain, including landscape design,*

xi. *the relationship of the development with the street and building frontage.*

5) *In this clause—*
relevant development control plan means one of the following development control plans, as in force on the commencement of this clause, that applies to the land—
a) Inner West Comprehensive Development Control Plan 2016,
b) Leichhardt Development Control Plan 2013,
c) Marrickville Development Control Plan 2011.

Council currently gives effect to Clause 6.9 by referring relevant applications to its Architectural Excellence and Design Review Panel (AEDRP) for independent advice on urban design, architectural quality and design excellence.

However, referral for independent design review is not currently mandated by the LEP. This can lead to inconsistent practice and reduced transparency regarding when expert advice will be sought and considered for local development applications. The proposed LEP amendment will not affect the current design review process for local development applications in practice other than to clarify when referral to the panel applies.

When Council is not the Consent Authority

For State Significant Development applications, where Council is not the consent authority, there is a key gap in that design review is not a requirement for consideration. This means developments declared State Significant can be assessed and determined without any independent design review or advice.

The planning proposal addresses this by formalising independent design review as part of the assessment process wherever Clause 6.9 is triggered, including for matters where Council is not the consent authority.

Specifically, the proposed amendment to the IWLEP 2022 will:

- require applicable development applications to be referred to a design review panel for independent expert review and advice where design excellence must be demonstrated;
- require the consent authority to formally consider that advice when assessing proposals;
- strengthen the requirement to consider landscape quality (as recommended by the Inner West Local Planning Panel); and
- insert a definition of "design review panel" as "*a panel of at least 3 persons established by the consent authority or Council*".

The Planning Proposal - Amendment to Inner West LEP Clause 6.9 Design Excellence is provided at *Attachment 1*.

The City Architect in his previous role was principal responsible for Design Excellence within the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure. He has reviewed the

proposed LEP amendment to align with best practice in NSW and to achieve optimal results in supporting good design without negatively impacting on timeliness, cost and efficiency with the assessment process.

The proposed amendment to the Design Excellence clause achieves consistency with other Councils, such as Willoughby and Bayside Councils (*Attachment 2*), that have also mandated in their LEP the requirement for design review in the assessment of development applications. Overall 14 metropolitan councils have a design review clause that takes effect where Council is not the consent authority.

For State Significant Development (SSD), the Department of Planning's State Design Review Panel is established to support the assessment process. Private development is required to undertake design review when a design excellence clause with a requirement for design review applies. The key change to the assessment process for SSD is that the amended clause will make design review mandatory. The NSW SDRP Guidelines for Project Teams *(Attachment 3)* outline key strategies implemented by the Department to minimise time and cost impacts on SSDs and maximise benefits. These include:

- Scheduling the initial review as close as possible to the applicant's requested date
- Fixing fees at $9,500 + GST per session (below 0.03% of development cost)
- Distributing advice letters within 7 working days of the review session
- Ensuring advice is relevant, actionable and consistent
- Requiring applicants to submit a Design Review Report with SSDA's to assist in timely and informed assessments

SDRP design advice is provided to help improve design outcomes having careful consideration of the subject project's budget, location, type and market feasibility. A recent example in the Inner West is the Timberyards SSD in Marrickville. SDRP advice addressed matters relating to site planning and layout, landscape strategy, appropriateness of housing mix, flexibility of communal and common spaces, housing amenity, energy efficiency and sustainability. The design review report submitted with the SSD demonstrated that responding to the SDRP advice was an integrated part of the design process. The advice was accepted and implemented by the applicant as it improved the overall design outcome, adding value to the project for both the developer and the end users (the residents and broader community). This is a recent local example of how good design advice promotes strong design foundations and higher amenity outcomes without requiring added investment in time or cost to the developer or end user (resident or broader community).

SDRP Panel Expertise

The SDRP pool of panelists includes expertise in architecture, landscape and urban design and many of the current panelists are based in, work in or have project experience

within the Inner West LGA, ensuring local knowledge can be applied in SDRP review for Inner West SSDs. In addition, Council may to send representatives to attend SDRP sessions to brief the panel on any matters of local importance.

Inner West Local Planning Panel Advice

In accordance with Division 2.5 (2.19) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A) 1979, the Planning Proposal was referred to the IWLPP on 17 March 2026. The IWLPP Meeting Report and Minutes are provided in *Attachment 4 and 5*. The IWLPP resolved that the Planning Proposal should be supported and provided the following advice:

a) The proposed amendment to improve the design excellence provisions in Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022 has strategic and local merit.

b) It supports forwarding the Planning Proposal – Amendment to Inner West LEP 2022 Clause 6.9 Design Excellence to the Minister for Planning in accordance with Section 3.34 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 for Gateway determination.

c) In clause 6.9, greater significance be given to matters of landscape quality as it is an integral part of design excellence, by including "landscape design" in clauses 6.9(1) and 6.9(4).

d) Clause 6.9(2) be amended by deleting the words "that will result in a building" to simplify that clause.

IWLPP's advice has been taken into consideration and relevant updates have been made to the Planning Proposal in *Attachment 1* in response to the Panel's advice.

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no legal and risk implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications

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

Conclusion

The Planning Proposal to amend Clause 6.9 (Design Excellence) of the IWLEP 2022 has been prepared in accordance with the EP&A Act and relevant guidelines. The Planning Proposal is consistent with regional, district and local plans and policies.

The Planning Proposal will strengthen Clause 6.9 (Design Excellence) by formalising independent expert design review as a consistent requirement where design excellence must be demonstrated. The amendment will improve certainty and transparency in decision-making without adding delay or cost and addresses the current gap for State

Significant Development where Council is not the consent authority and design review is currently not typically occurring for Inner West projects.

It also gives effect to established Council practice (including referral to the AEDRP), strengthens consideration of landscape quality, and defines “design review panel” to provide clarity. The Inner West Local Planning Panel has supported the proposal progressing, and Council endorsement is therefore sought to forward the planning proposal to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for Gateway determination.

Attachments

1.⇩ Planning Proposal - Design Excellence

2.⇩ Design Excellence Clause Examples for other councils

3.⇩ NSW State Design Review Panel - Guidelines

4.⇩ Inner West Local Planning Panel Report

5.⇩ Inner West Local Planning Panel Advice

Planning Proposal

Inner West Local Environmental Plan (LEP) Amendment – Design excellence

March 2026

INNER WEST

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INNER WEST

1.0 Background

1.1 Introduction

This Planning Proposal seeks to apply a more consistent and rigorous approach to design excellence in the development assessment process by amending Clause 6.9 Design excellence of the Inner West LEP 2022. The Planning Proposal seeks to introduce a formal design review process by a design review panel which would ensure that rigour is applied in the assessment of development applications and state significant development applications against the design excellence clause by the relevant consent authority.

Currently, the design excellence provision under Clause 6.9 IWLEP 2022 lists the matters that are to be considered to demonstrate design excellence, however, it does not require:

- applications be referred to a design review panel for comment, or
- the design review panel comments be considered by the consent authority.

The proposed amendments will:

- include the requirement for all applicable applications where design excellence clause currently applies to be referred to a design review panel for independent expert review
- require the relevant consent authority to formally consider that feedback in assessing proposals
- include a definition that a "design review panel means a panel of at least 3 persons established by the council or consent authority"
- require more robust landscaping considerations

The proposed amendment to the Design Excellence clause will strengthen the assessment criteria for development applications lodged with Council by formalising independent expert review to inform the assessment process. This is currently part of the internal assessment process but not mandated in the LEP.

It will also enable State Significant Development applications to be referred to a design review panel (either state or local) for advice as part of the State's assessment process.

The proposed amendment to the Design Excellence clause follows a similar pathway to other Councils, such as Willoughby and Bayside Councils, that have also mandated in their LEP the requirement of design review panels through the design excellence clause.

This Planning Proposal has been prepared in accordance with Section 3.33 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and includes a main report with the contents guided by the *Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline (August 2023)*.

2.0 Objective and Intended Outcomes

2.1 Objectives

This Planning Proposal seeks to amend the Inner West LEP 2022 to ensure the design excellence provisions support a more rigorous design review process for all developments 14m or greater in height to ensure development exhibits the highest standard of architectural and urban design as part of the built environment.

2.2 Intended Outcomes

The proposed amendment to the Inner West LEP seeks to:

- Support high-quality architectural, urban and landscape design outcomes that enhance the local character and public domain of the Inner West.
- Formalise the role of design review panels in the review of applicable proposals and for that advice to be considered by the relevant consent authority.

3.0 Explanation of Provisions

3.1 Intended Provisions

As the Inner West continues to accommodate significant housing delivery, it remains critical that growth is matched with high-quality design outcomes that enhance local character, liveability and sustainability.

To achieve the desired outcomes, the following amendments are proposed to the Inner West LEP, Clause 6.9-Design excellence:

- Mandate that an independent review is required by a Design Review Panel (DRP).
- Require the relevant consent authority to consider the DRP advice about the design excellence of applicable proposals.
- strengthen the requirement for landscape quality to be considered
- Insert a subclause at the end to include a definition that a "design review panel means a panel of at least 3 persons established by the consent authority"

No other changes are sought to the existing clause.

4.0 Justification of Strategic and Site-Specific Merit

4.1 Need for the Planning Proposal

Q1: Is the planning proposal a result of an endorsed LSPS, strategic study or report?

Yes. This Planning Proposal is in response to the Inner West Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) and Our Place Inner West Housing Strategy. Design Excellence objectives are outlined as follows in Council's strategic policies:

- Inner West LSPS
  Priority 6.1: Implement the Local Housing Strategy to include investigating opportunities for design excellence provisions in the LEP and DCP that will achieve high internal and external amenity, sustainability and universal design (informed by Liveable Housing Design principles) throughout the range of dwelling sizes, typologies and price ranges

- Inner West Housing Strategy
  Principle 6: Design quality housing to maximise amenity, safety and security for residents and provide a positive contribution to its neighbourhood
    - *5C – Include design excellence objectives and a local clause in the LEP and design code in the DCP to ensure good and sustainable built form outcomes based on nuanced locality-based approaches*

The proposal investigates opportunities for design excellence provisions in the LEP that reinforce good design outcomes for larger scale developments with greater housing density being planned and as intended by Council strategies.

The amendments will ensure that there is a mandated design review process.

Q2: Is the planning proposal the best means of achieving the objectives or intended outcomes, or is there a better way?

Yes. The Planning Proposal is the best means of achieving the objectives and intended outcomes. Applicable potential options are discussed below.

If no action is taken, there is no requirement for significant and complex developments to be reviewed by a design review panel, resulting in poor design outcomes and a weak

design review framework. There is also inconsistency in the process of assessing applications where Council as consent authority refers all development applications to the AEDRP where design excellence clause applies whereas for any large state significant applications where the Department of Planning is the consent authority, no independent design review process is being undertaken as it is not mandated in the LEP.

If the clause is not updated to reflect the priorities of the LSPS and State government policies, there will be:

- Reduced consistency between policy and implementation
- Lack of independent design review processes
- Weaker design outcomes
- Design review panel recommendations will carry less procedural weight
- Decision making could become inconsistent

4.2 Relationship to the Strategic Planning Framework

Q3: Will the planning proposal give effect to the objectives and actions of the applicable regional or district plan or strategy (including any exhibited draft plans or strategies)?

Yes. The Planning Proposal is consistent with the relevant Objectives of the *Greater Sydney Region Plan: A Metropolis of Three Cities* (2018) and the relevant Planning Properties of the *Eastern City District Plan* (2018), as discussed below.

Greater Sydney Region Plan

The Greater Sydney Region Plan outlines a vision for a Greater Sydney of three cities. It sets a 40-year vision and establishes a 20-year plan to manage growth and change for Greater Sydney, informing district and local plans and the strategic assessment of Planning Proposals. The Proposal responds to Liveability Direction 5 of the Region Plan: A city of great places in delivering 'safe, inclusive and walkable mixed-use areas that exhibit urban design excellence and are connected to social infrastructure and open spaces', while respecting heritage (Objectives 12 & 13).

> *Objective 12 – Great places that bring people together*
> *Objective 13 – Environmental heritage is identified, conserved and enhanced*

Eastern City District Plan 2018

Inner West Council is situated within the Eastern City District and therefore must consider the Eastern City District Plan in the assessment of any Planning Proposal. The Eastern City District Plan is a 20-year plan to manage growth at the Eastern City District level and achieve the 40-year vision of the Greater Sydney Region Plan within the Eastern City District. The Proposal responds to *Planning Priority E6: Creating and renewing great places and local centres and respecting the District's heritage, which delivers on Objective 12 and 13 of the Sydney Region Plan.*

Draft Sydney Plan 2025

The Planning Proposal is consistent with *Response 1: Implement Sydney housing targets.* To achieve the housing targets for Inner West, increased density is required, and this planning proposal will ensure high quality architectural, urban and landscape design outcomes for proposals that will enhance the character and public domain of the Inner West.

Q4: Is the planning proposal consistent with a council LSPS that has been endorsed by the Planning Secretary or GCC, or another endorsed local strategy or strategic plan?

Yes. The Planning Proposal responds to the Inner West Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2022 and Inner West Housing Strategy as outlined above in Question 1, which outlines the vision and land use planning objectives of the LGA.

The Proposal is consistent in identifying high-quality design, local character, sustainability and base-based outcomes as key planning priorities. The proposed amendment strengthens the mechanism by which design quality can be achieved. It does not alter land use permissibility, density, or height controls. Instead, it enhances the review process and helps to support housing uplift in the LGA.

Q5: Is the planning proposal consistent with any other applicable State and regional studies or strategies?

- *Better Placed Policy* – Government Architect New South Wales (GANSW)

The amendment strengthens design integrity and will allow for a more rigorous and transparent review framework. It supports State objectives for higher quality-built environment outcomes. It is also consistent with Design Guidelines published by the Government Architect NSW.

INNER WEST

Q6: Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs)?

Yes. The Proposal does not amend land use zones, development standards or building envelopes. It formalises the approach to the existing design excellence framework by requiring review by a design review panel. The amendments do not conflict with any of the SEPP provisions but complement the SEPP objectives by creating independent review requirements to achieve better design outcomes that are contextual and sustainable.

All applicable SEPPs are addressed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: State Environmental Planning Policies

SEPP	Comment
State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021	Consistent.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021	Consistent.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Primary Production) 2021	Consistent.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021	Consistent.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021	Consistent.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Industry and Employment) 2021	Consistent.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021	Consistent.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021	Consistent.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts–Eastern Harbour City) 2021	Consistent.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Sustainable Buildings) 2022	Consistent.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008	Consistent.

Q7: Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable Ministerial Directions (section 9.1 Directions) or key government priority?

Yes. The proposal is consistent with Section 9.1 Directions under the Act. The proposal does not reduce housing, capacity but instead supports housing uplift. It does not introduce exclusionary provisions but produces flexibility within the framework. It also does not conflict with any State strategic planning objectives.

All applicable 9.1 Ministerial Directions are addressed in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Ministerial Directions

Ministerial Direction	Comment
Focus Area 1: Planning Systems	
1.1 – Implementation of Regional Plan	Consistent.
1.2 – Development of Aboriginal Land Council land	Not Applicable.
1.3 – Approval and Referral Requirements	Consistent.
1.4 – Site Specific Provisions	Consistent.
1.4A – Exclusion of Development Standards from Variation	Consistent.
1.5 – Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy	Consistent.
1.11 – Implementation of the Bays West Place Strategy	Not Applicable.
Focus Area 3: Biodiversity and Conservation	
3.1 – Conservation Zones	Consistent.
3.2 – Heritage Conservation	Consistent.
3.5 – Recreation Vehicle Areas	Not Applicable.
3.6 – Strategic Conservation Planning	Consistent.
3.7 – Public Bushland	Not Applicable.

Ministerial Direction	Comment
3.9 – Sydney Harbour Foreshores and Waterways Area	Not Applicable.
3.10 – Water Catchment Protection	Not Applicable.
Focus Area 4: Resilience and Hazards	
4.1 – Flooding	Consistent.
4.4 – Remediation of Contaminated Land	Consistent.
4.5 – Acid Sulfate Soils	Consistent.
Focus Area 5: Transport and Infrastructure	
5.1 – Integrating Land Use and Transport	Consistent.
5.2 – Reserving Land for Public Purposes	Consistent.
Focus Area 6: Housing	
6.1 – Residential Zones	Consistent.
Focus Area 7: Industry and Employment	
7.1 – Employment Zones	Consistent.

4.3 Environmental, Social and Economic Impact

Q8: Is there any likelihood that critical habitat or threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats, will be adversely affected because of the proposal?

No adverse impact is anticipated from the Planning Proposal. The amendments to the design excellence clause will encourage a more rigorous design review process to ensure better place-based outcomes. This can only support ecological communities and habitats while still allowing for developments to occur.

Q9: Are there any other likely environmental effects of the planning proposal and how are they proposed to be managed?

The Planning Proposal is expected to result in more positive environmental and sustainable design outcomes including:

- Improved building performance

INNER WEST

- Ensure better solar access and urban heat mitigation
- Improved streetscape and public domain interfaces
- Integrated landscape design

Q10: Has the planning proposal adequately addressed any social and economic effects?

Yes. The Proposal will result in positive social impacts like:

- Improved residential amenity
- Enhanced public domain quality
- Better accessibility and inclusive design outcomes
- More transparent design review processes

There are no adverse economic impacts envisaged as a result of the Planning Proposal. The proposal reinforces good design outcomes that will have a net social benefit.

4.4 Infrastructure (Local, State and Commonwealth)

Q11: Is there adequate public infrastructure for the planning proposal?

The Planning Proposal does not impact public infrastructure, nor generate the need for additional infrastructure.

4.5 State and Commonwealth Interests

Q12: What are the views of state and federal public authorities and government agencies consulted in order to inform the Gateway determination?

Consultation with Department of Planning, Housing and Industry and Government Architect NSW will be necessary. If required by the Gateway Determination, consultation with other public authorities will be conducted during public exhibition.

5.0 Maps

No mapping changes are required for this Planning Proposal.

6.0 Community Consultation

The Planning Proposal will be publicly exhibited as per the requirements of the Gateway Determination, Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline (August 2023) Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, and the Inner West Community Participation Plan.

The Planning Proposal is categorised as a 'Standard' Planning Proposal in the Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline (August 2023). Which requires a minimum public exhibition of 20 days (excluding weekends and public holidays). However, the Inner West Community Engagement Framework (November 2019), requires all Planning Proposals to be exhibited a minimum of 28 days (excluding weekends and public holidays). Therefore, the Planning Proposal will be exhibited for a minimum of **28 days** (excluding weekends and public holidays) to ensure compliance with both requirements.

6.1 Agency consultation

Agency consultation will be in accordance with the Gateway determination.

6.2 Where and how the Planning Proposal will be publicly notified

The Planning Proposal will be notified on the following platforms during the public exhibition:

- Inner West Council 'Your Say' webpage'
- Inner West Council Customer Contact Centres
- NSW Planning Portal

6.3 Material to be notified

The following material will be made available for inspection:

- The Planning Proposal in the form approved for public exhibition by the Gateway Determination
- The Gateway Determination
- All relevant additional information relied upon by the Planning Proposal

6.4 Post-public exhibition

Following the conclusion of the public exhibition, a post-exhibition report and staff recommendation will be prepared to allow Council to consider the submissions received during the public exhibition and any post-exhibition amendments to the Planning Proposal.

7.0 Project Timeline

The estimated project timeline is shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Estimated Project Timeline

Stage	Timeframe / Date
Consideration and Decision by Council	April 2026
Gateway Determination	May-June 2026
Government agency consultation and public exhibition	June – July 2026
Consideration of Submissions	July-August 2026
Post-exhibition Council meeting / consideration	August-September 2026
Legal drafting of LEP	August – September 2026
Anticipated date RPA will make the plan (if delegated)	September-October 2026
Notification on NSW Legislation website	October-November 2026

Attachment 2

WILLOUGHBY LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2012

6.23 Design excellence

(1) The objective of this clause is to deliver the highest standard of architectural, urban and landscape design.

(2) This clause applies to development involving the erection of a new building or external alterations to an existing building on the following land—

(a) land identified as "Area 5" on the *Special Provisions Area Map*,

(b) land identified as "Crows Nest Transport Oriented Development Precinct" on the *Key Sites Map*.

(3) Development consent must not be granted to development to which this clause applies unless the consent authority considers that the development exhibits design excellence.

(4) In considering whether the development exhibits design excellence, the consent authority must have regard to the following matters—

(a) whether a high standard of architectural design, materials and detailing appropriate to the building type and location will be achieved,

(b) whether the form, arrangement and external appearance of the development will improve the quality and amenity of the public domain,

(c) whether the development detrimentally impacts on view corridors.

(5) The consent authority must also have regard to how the development addresses the following matters—

(a) the suitability of the land for development,

(b) existing and proposed uses and use mix,

(c) heritage and streetscape constraints,

(d) the relationship of the development with other existing or proposed development on the same site or on neighbouring sites in terms of separation, setbacks, amenity and urban form,

(e) bulk, massing and modulation of buildings,

(f) street frontage heights,

(g) environmental impacts such as sustainable design, overshadowing, wind and reflectivity,

(h) achieving the principles of ecologically sustainable development,

Attachment 2

(i) pedestrian, cycle, vehicular and service access, circulation and requirements,

(j) the impact on, and proposed improvements to, the public domain,

(k) the impact on special character areas,

(l) achieving appropriate interfaces at ground level between the building and the public domain,

(m) excellence and integration of landscape design.

(6) Development consent must not be granted to development to which this clause applies unless—

(a) for a building with a height of more than 12m and less than 35m above ground level (existing)—

(i) a design review panel has reviewed the development, and

(ii) the consent authority has taken into account the design review panel's review, or

(b) for a building with a height of 35m or more above ground level (existing)—the design of the development is the winner of a competitive design process held in relation to the development.

(7) Subclause (6) does not apply to development involving external alterations to an existing building if the consent authority is satisfied that compliance with the subclause is unreasonable or unnecessary in the circumstances.

(8) Subclause (6)(b) does not apply if—

(a) the consent authority certifies in writing that a competitive design process is not required, and

(b) a design review panel reviews the development, and

(c) the consent authority takes into account the advice of the design review panel.

(8A) Subclause 6(b) does not apply to development on land identified as "Crows Nest Transport Oriented Development Precinct" on the *Key Sites Map* if—

(a) the development is for the purposes of residential accommodation or a mixed used development involving residential accommodation, and

(b) the Planning Secretary certifies in writing that the development meets the criteria set out in the *Transport Oriented Development Design Competition Exemption Pathway Advisory Note* published by the Department in November 2024, and

(c) a design review panel reviews the development, and

(d) the consent authority takes into account the advice of the design review panel.

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(9) A review conducted by a design excellence panel must be conducted in accordance with the *Guidelines for Design Excellence Review and Competitions* published by the Council on 9 December 2019.

(10) In this clause—

competitive design process means a design competition held in accordance with the *Design Competition Guidelines* published by the Department in September 2023.

design review panel means a panel of at least 2 persons established by the consent authority.

Attachment 2

BAYSIDE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

6.10 Design excellence

(1) The objective of this clause is to deliver the highest standard of architectural, urban and landscape design.

(2) This clause applies to the following development—

(a) development involving the erection of a new building or external alterations to an existing building within the Arncliffe Precinct or the Banksia Precinct,

(b) development involving the erection of a new building or external alterations to an existing building on land shown edged heavy black on the *Design Excellence Map*,

(c) development that is the subject of a development application that relies on clause 4.3(2A) (a), (f), (g), (h), (i) or (k).

Note.

In determining an application for a modification of a development consent granted under this clause, the consent authority must again take the requirements of this clause into consideration (see section 4.55 (3) of the Act).

(3) Development consent must not be granted for development to which this clause applies unless the consent authority considers that the development exhibits design excellence.

(4) In considering whether the development exhibits design excellence, the consent authority must have regard to the following matters—

(a) whether a high standard of architectural design, materials and detailing appropriate to the building type and location will be achieved,

(b) whether the form, arrangement and external appearance of the development will improve the quality and amenity of the public domain,

(c) whether the development detrimentally impacts on view corridors,

(d) the requirements of any development control plan made by the Council and as in force at the commencement of this clause,

(e) how the development addresses the following matters—

(i) the suitability of the land for development,

(ii) existing and proposed uses and use mix,

(iii) heritage issues and streetscape constraints,

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(iv) the relationship of the development with other development (existing or proposed) on the same site or on neighbouring sites in terms of separation, setbacks, amenity and urban form,

(v) bulk, massing and modulation of buildings,

(vi) street frontage heights,

(vii) environmental impacts such as sustainable design, overshadowing, wind and reflectivity,

(viii) the achievement of the principles of ecologically sustainable development,

(ix) pedestrian, cycle, vehicular and service access, circulation and requirements,

(x) the impact on, and any proposed improvements to, the public domain,

(xi) achieving appropriate interfaces at ground level between the building and the public domain,

(xii) excellence and integration of landscape design.

(5) Development consent must not be granted to development to which this clause applies unless—

(a) if the development is in respect of a building that is, or will be, higher than 12 metres or 3 storeys (or both) but not higher than 40 metres or 12 storeys (or both)—

(i) a design review panel has reviewed the development, and

(ii) the consent authority takes into account the findings of the design review panel, or

(b) if the development is in respect of a building that is, or will be, higher than 40 metres or 12 storeys (or both)—

(i) a competitive design process is held in relation to the development, and

(ii) the consent authority takes into account the results of the competitive design process.

(6) Subclause (5)(b) does not apply if—

(a) the consent authority certifies in writing that a competitive design process is not required, and

(b) a design review panel reviews the development, and

(c) the consent authority takes into account the advice of the design review panel.

(7) In this clause—

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competitive design process means a design competition held in accordance with the *Design Competition Guidelines* published by the Department in September 2023.

design review panel means a panel of at least 3 persons established by the consent authority.

(8) (Repealed)

NSW State Design Review Panel

Guidelines for Project Teams

GUIDELINES FOR PROJECT TEAMS.JUNE.2025

Contents

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2. Criteria for private projects on private land
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12. Documents prepared for the development application

The NSW State Design Review Panel Guidelines for Project Teams (the Guidelines) set out the requirements for project teams presenting to the NSW State Design Review Panel (SDRP). It should be read in conjunction with the NSW State Design Review Panel Terms of Reference (GANSW 2025).

1. The NSW SDRP program

Managed by Government Architect NSW (GANSW), the SDRP program oversees the design review of State significant projects in New South Wales. Under this program, design review is an independent design quality evaluation process in which a panel of independent built environment design experts provide advice on the design quality of projects.

Projects reviewed by the panel

The panel reviews State significant projects. For information on the types of projects reviewed, see the NSW State Design Review Panel Terms of Reference (GANSW 2025).

The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) or Study Requirements (as relevant) and these Guidelines establish where review is required.

2. Criteria for private projects on private land

For private projects on private land a review by the SDRP will be required where:

— a design excellence clause with a requirement for design review applies, or

— a design excellence clause with a potential bonus applies, or

— the SDRP is identified as the alternative design excellence pathway to a design competition.

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Private projects that do not meet the criteria above may not be required to undertake design review by the SDRP. These projects can proceed through the planning process without SDRP input. Where a private project has not been reviewed by the SDRP, GANSW may provide design advice direct to the relevant assessment team within the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (the Department) as part of the assessment process.

Where a private project does not meet the criteria above, the applicant can request design review by the SDRP. In this instance, the request should be made as part of engagement with the Department. The Department and GANSW will consider the request on a project-by-project basis and the Department will inform the applicant.

The Department may also request review by the SDRP for a private project that does not meet the criteria above where there are likely to be significant impacts or sensitivities. In this instance, the Department will inform the applicant during the engagement process.

All private projects must demonstrate that they meet the Better Placed objectives in accordance with the SEARs or Study Requirements, and any other relevant design quality requirements.

Booking a review session

For private projects on private land, applicants should engage with the Department to confirm the requirement for review before booking a review session through the NSW Planning Portal. Bookings submitted without prior confirmation from the Department will not be accepted.

For private projects, 2 reviews per project are typically required, except where there are multiple buildings or public domain, or if the project has received a competition exemption.

The first review will be scheduled as close as possible to the requested date. Subsequent reviews will take place a minimum of 6 weeks after the previous review to allow time for applicants to address design recommendations.

3. Criteria for all other projects

For all other projects, review by the SDRP will be required in accordance with the SEARs or Study Requirements (as relevant), and with GANSW agreements where these apply.

Booking a review session

Applicants should engage with GANSW before booking a review session through the NSW Planning Portal.

2 reviews are typically recommended, however more than 2 reviews may be required depending on the scale and complexity of the project.

Reviews will be scheduled as close as possible to the requested date.

4. Session fees

Fees apply for review by the SDRP.

Fees for government agency led projects and projects on government land are paid via agency, project or program agreements.

For all other projects, a fee of $9,500 + GST per SDRP session applies.

The fee is payable after the design review session has been held, and the design advice letter is issued.

Fees will apply for all design review sessions where the booking is made through the NSW Planning Portal from 1 July 2025. This includes new applications and returning projects requesting a subsequent review.

5. Participants in design review

Design adviser

A GANSW design adviser is appointed to each project to support the design review process. The design adviser's role includes liaising with the applicant, design team and key stakeholders. The design adviser also prepares the pre-briefing part of the review session and drafts the design advice letter.

Panel and chair

Review sessions are typically attended by 3 panel members and a chair, with a minimum of 2 panel members and a chair. For larger and more complex projects additional panel members may be recommended. The composition of the panel is at the discretion of GANSW with selection of panel members determined in response to the project type and scale.

The panel will include an independent council nominee (where there is a nominee and they are able to attend the review session) to provide advice based on a deep understanding of the local government area and awareness of council's concerns.

The chair is the NSW Government Architect, a senior GANSW staff member or a panel member nominated by GANSW.

All panel members are bound by the NSW State Design Review Panel Terms of Reference (GANSW 2025), including declaring interests and confidentiality. Panel members are asked to declare any conflicts of interest in accordance with NSW Government guidelines, and each declaration is assessed before the review takes place.

To ensure consistency, build expertise and provide progressive certainty for applicants, the same design adviser, panel and chair will be convened for first and subsequent reviews wherever possible.

Observers

Department assessment officers and council representatives are invited to attend the review session including pre-briefing and debriefing sessions. The chair may invite additional observers, such as other agency representatives or State Government Design Champions. Any observer may be asked by the chair to brief the panel on specific issues where their input will support the review. Inviting observers and asking them to brief the panel is at the discretion of the chair.

Observers may not participate in the review process other than providing briefing information when invited to by the chair.

Project team

The project team should nominate review session attendees, including:

— design lead – project architect or lead designer who will present the project

— project team – team members who may contribute to the presentation, such as landscape architect, sustainability consultant, planning consultant etc.

— applicant or client or their representatives.

All information relating to any project undertaking design review is communicated to all attendees in the strictest confidence.

6. NSW protocols for good design review

All panel sessions, panel members and participants comply with the NSW protocols for good design review. The protocols are set out in the NSW State Design Review Panel Terms of Reference (GANSW 2025).

7. Site visits

As projects are located across the state, site visits are not typically organised as part of the SDRP program. A detailed briefing on the site will be provided to the panel by the design adviser at the first review session for any new project, and panel members are welcome to visit sites in their own time if they wish. For larger and more complex projects, GANSW, in consultation with the applicant and assessment officer, may facilitate a site visit for panel members.

8. Structure of the review session

The review session is an opportunity for the design team to present the project to the panel. Most review sessions will last approximately 1.5 hours. For larger and more complex projects, such as precincts and linear infrastructure, this may be extended.

Review sessions will typically take place in person but may be online. Video conferencing facilities are available for those participants who are unable to attend in person. This is facilitated by GANSW.

As a guide, a typical review session comprises:

Pre-briefing – 20 minutes (in private)

Before the project team arrives, the design adviser briefs the panel on the project, providing an overview of the site location, planning context and project brief. The design adviser also highlights any key issues the panel may want to focus on during the review session.

The chair may invite any observers to provide briefing information where their input will support the review, including the assessment officer who can provide detail on planning issues.

Welcome – 5 minutes

When the project team arrives, the chair introduces proceedings and acknowledges Country. The project team is asked to introduce themselves.

Project introduction – 5 minutes

The applicant, client or their representative provides an overview of the project and program, including the brief and design objectives, and any milestones. For subsequent reviews, the introduction includes an update on design development and the program.

Presentation – 20 minutes

The design team presents the project. The presentation should also include input from other key consultants where appropriate, for example Country, landscape or sustainability consultants.

There is no minimum or maximum number of pages or slides, but the time constraint for presentations should be taken into account.

All drawings should be clearly legible when viewed on an LCD screen or projection.

For in-person review sessions, the presentation should be saved as a single file on a USB stick to ensure it can be transferred to the venue laptop.

If a physical model is available, it is recommended to bring it to the review session and include it as part of the presentation. Simple massing models through to detailed design models can be very useful in describing projects, supporting informed discussion and review. For online review sessions,

photographs of models can be included.

Panel questions – 15 minutes

The chair invites panel members to ask questions for clarification by the project team.

Panel review and summary – 30 minutes

Following questions, the panel reviews the project, with comments and discussion moderated by the chair. All projects are evaluated in a holistic manner with reference to:

— the following objects of the *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979:*

b) to facilitate ecologically sustainable development by integrating relevant economic, environmental and social considerations in decision-making about environmental planning and assessment

f) to promote the sustainable management of built and cultural heritage (including Aboriginal cultural heritage)

g) to promote good design and amenity of the built environment.

— the 7 objectives for good design as defined by Better Placed – An integrated design policy for the built environment of NSW (GANSW 2017)

— good practice for responding to Country in the planning, design, and delivery of built environment projects in NSW, as set out in Connecting with Country Framework (GANSW 2023)

— other design guidance relevant to the project or local government area, including but not limited to:

- GANSW policies, frameworks and guidance (published on the GANSW website)
- Apartment Design Guide (Planning and Environment 2015)
- local development control plans.

After inviting a response from the project team, the chair concludes the review by summarising key points of advice and providing guidance where panel feedback is ambiguous or inconsistent. The summary is intended to ensure that the project team leave with a clear understanding of the advice and next steps.

The project team then leaves the review session.

De-briefing – 10 minutes (in private)

The chair and panel confer with the design adviser, assessment officer, council representative, and other observers (if required), to ensure all comments and feedback are captured.

New matters should not arise during this closed session, however, should this occur, they will be noted as such in the design advice letter.

9. Design advice letter

The comments and feedback arising from the review inform the design advice letter. The advice letter is endorsed by the chair and represents the advice of GANSW.

The advice letter does not minute the review session, but rather makes clear which elements of the project are supported and the key design issues that should be addressed.

Before responding to a review session, project teams are encouraged to wait for the advice letter to be issued to ensure design development or changes are responding to the advice of GANSW as recorded in the letter.

The advice letter is distributed to the applicant, project team, assessment officer and panel members within 7 working days of the review session.

10. Subsequent review sessions

Subsequent review sessions provide the opportunity for further design quality improvements, supporting progressive certainty for applicants.

While the first review session is an opportunity to establish the design objectives, constraints and opportunities, key issues, and the project's response to these, subsequent review sessions focus on design development and changes made to respond to previous advice.

11. Documents prepared for the review session

Project information form

As part of the application process, the applicant is required to provide project information via the Planning Portal. This covers project and planning information, the brief and design objectives, and a detailed project description. Contact information, including the project team and review session attendees, is also required to be submitted via the Planning Portal.

Design presentation

The purpose of the design presentation is to facilitate discussion during the design review session. It forms part of the agenda pack – which also includes the agenda for the review session, the project information form, and any advice letters from previous review sessions – and is circulated to the panel to ensure they are prepared for the review session and can provide informed advice.

The final design presentation must be uploaded to the Planning Portal 5 working days before the review session. It should address all submission requirements which will be emailed to the

applicant via the Planning Portal, and include a legend, scale and north point on all drawings.

The design presentation is a work in progress. It should be prepared as part of the design process and should not require any significant additional work.

Panel presentation – first review

The first presentation to the panel should clearly articulate the story of the project from analysis to concept development. It should demonstrate how the project responds to the brief, design objectives, context and analysis, and integrates sustainability and cultural heritage. Any project options should be shown, and if there is a preferred option, a clear rationale for its selection should be demonstrated.

Where variations to planning controls are proposed, the presentation should include a comparison between a complying scheme and the proposed scheme, demonstrating benefits and impacts.

Panel presentation – subsequent reviews

Subsequent presentations to the panel should demonstrate design development based on previous advice. Key changes should be clearly identified using comparison views, plans and other appropriate graphic representations. The presentation should also include any drawings or further analysis requested by the panel.

12. Documents prepared for the development application

Design review report

A design review report, prepared by the applicant, is required to be submitted with the development application. The report should identify how the project has responded to the panel's design advice or provide a justification where it has not been able to do so.

The design review report is made publicly available on the Department Major Projects website during the assessment exhibition period.

Applicants may choose to include advice letters in full in the design review report.

For further information see NSW State Design Review Panel Terms of Reference (GANSW 2025).

AGENDA

INNER WEST LOCAL PLANNING PANEL

VOLUME 1

17 March 2026

PLANNING PROPOSAL REPORT From Strategic Planning	
Planning Proposal No.	PPAP/2026/0001
Proposal	*Amend the Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022 - Clause 6.9 Design Excellence*
Summary	This report recommends an amendment to the design excellence provision (Clause 6.9 of the Inner West LEP 2022) to introduce a design review process to inform the assessment of applicable proposals. The proposed amendment to improve the design excellence provision has strategic merit and is consistent with State and Local planning policies, objectives and directions.

RECOMMENDATION

1. **That Inner West Local Planning Panel advise Council to support forwarding the Planning Proposal – Amendment to Inner West LEP 2022 Clause 6.9 Design Excellence to the Minister for Planning in accordance with Section 3.34 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 for Gateway determination.**

SUMMARY

This planning proposal seeks to amend Clause 6.9 Design Excellence of the Inner West LEP 2022 to strengthen the existing provision by introducing a mandatory design review process for applicable development applications. The current clause does not require referral to a design review panel, limiting opportunities for independent expert assessment of design quality, built form and place-based outcomes, including for State Significant Development where Council is not the consent authority.

The amendment proposes to require referral of relevant proposals to a design review panel and for the consent authority to formally consider the panel's advice in its assessment. The proposal also introduces a clear definition of a "design review panel" to support consistent implementation.

As the Inner West continues to accommodate significant housing delivery, it remains critical that growth is matched with high-quality design outcomes that enhance local character, liveability and sustainability.

DISCUSSION

Design excellence Clause 6.9 of the Inner West LEP 2022

The current LEP clause is as follows:

6.9 Design excellence

(1) The objective of this clause is to ensure that development to which this clause applies exhibits the highest standard of architectural and urban design as part of the built environment.
(2) This clause applies to development involving the construction of a new building, or external alterations to an existing building, that will result in a building that is equal to, or greater than, 14m in height.
(3) Development consent must not be granted for development to which this clause applies unless the consent authority considers that the development exhibits design excellence.
(4) In considering whether the development exhibits design excellence, the consent authority must have regard to the following matters—
(a) whether a high standard of architectural design, materials and detailing appropriate to the building type and location will be achieved,
(b) whether the form and external appearance of the development will improve the quality and amenity of the public domain,
(c) whether the development detrimentally impacts on view corridors and landmarks,
(d) whether the development detrimentally impacts on land protected by solar access controls established in the relevant development control plan,
(e) the requirements of the relevant development control plan,
(f) how the development addresses the following matters—
(i) the suitability of the land for development,
(ii) existing and proposed uses and use mix,
(iii) heritage issues and streetscape constraints,
(iv) the relationship of the development with other existing or proposed development on the same site or on neighbouring sites in terms of separation, setbacks, amenity and urban form,
(v) bulk, massing and modulation of buildings,
(vi) street frontage heights,
(vii) environmental impacts, including sustainable design, overshadowing, wind and reflectivity and visual and acoustic privacy,
(viii) the achievement of the principles of ecologically sustainable development,
(ix) pedestrian, cycle, vehicular and service access, circulation and requirements, including the permeability of any pedestrian network,
(x) the impact on, and proposed improvements to, the public domain, including landscape design,
(xi) the relationship of the development with the street and building frontage.
(5) In this clause—
relevant development control plan means one of the following development control plans, as in force on the commencement of this clause, that applies to the land—
(a) Inner West Comprehensive Development Control Plan 2016,
(b) Leichhardt Development Control Plan 2013,
(c) Marrickville Development Control Plan 2011.

DISCUSSION

The above clause is currently implemented by Council through the referral of applications to its Architectural Excellence and Design Review Panel (AEDRP) for independent and impartial advice with regard to urban design, architectural quality and design excellence.

The AEDRP is a local panel established to provide Council with independent expert advice on urban design, architectural quality and excellence. The advice given by the panel informs the assessment of selected pre-development applications, development applications, master

plans, development control plans (DCPs) and planning proposals to promote high quality architecture, urban design and sustainability.

Council appoints a minimum of four external panel members and two internal members to be on the design review panel. Panel members are selected externally for their demonstrated experience and knowledge of urban design, landscape architecture and/ or architecture.

Although Council routinely refers applications that are subject to the Design Excellence clause to Council's AEDRP, this is not currently a process mandated in the LEP. There is also a gap in the assessment process regarding State Significant Development Applications for which Council is not the consent authority. In these instances, no expert independent urban design review advice is being sought for these large developments as the process is not mandated in the LEP. The current IWLEP clause for design excellence is therefore not sufficiently robust. This Planning Proposal (Attachment 1) seeks to formalise the independent design review process in the assessment of development applications where the design excellence clause is triggered, including where Council may not be the consent authority. No changes are proposed to where the design excellence clause applies as it is already set out in the IWLEP 2022 as detailed in the above section.

The proposed amendment to the Inner West LEP 2022 will:

- include the requirement for all applicable proposals to be referred to a design review panel for independent expert review and feedback where design excellence needs to be demonstrated.
- require the relevant consent authority to formally consider that feedback in assessing proposals.
- insert a subclause at the end to include a definition that a "*design review panel means a panel of at least 3 persons established by the consent authority*"

The proposed amendment to the Design Excellence clause follows a similar pathway to other Councils, such as Willoughby and Bayside Councils (Attachment 2), that have also mandated in their LEP the requirement of design review panels in the assessment of larger development applications.

From an assessment timeframe and resourcing perspective, applications 14m in height or greater are already referred to Council's AEDRP and hence there will be no impact on Council's assessment timeframes. Similarly, there should be no increase in assessment timeframes where Council is not the consent authority as the State Design Review Panel has been established by the Department of Planning for assessment of State Significant Development Applications.

As the Inner West continues to pursue both accelerated housing delivery and high-quality built form outcomes, strengthening the design excellence provisions ensures that growth is supported by rigorous, consistent and expert-led design review.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Design Excellence Planning Proposal
Attachment 2 – Willoughby and Bayside LEP Design Excellence Clause

INNER WEST LOCAL PLANNING PANEL MEETING

17 March 2026

MINUTES

MINUTES of **INNER WEST LOCAL PLANNING PANEL MEETING** held via teleconference on Microsoft Teams.

Present:	Mr John Brunton in the chair; Mr Mark Adamson; Ms Julie Savet-Ward; Mr Allan Barnes;
Staff Present:	Gunika Singh, Acting Senior Manager Strategic Planning; Denise Benger, Team Leader Planning Policy; Gill Dawson, Acting Team Leader Planning Operations; Matthew Le Guay, Strategic Planner; Bernadette Balatbat, Strategic Planner; and Thy Huynh, Administration Officer.

Meeting commenced: 1:07pm

** **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

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

** **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

No declarations of interest were made.

IWLPP17/03/2026 *Agenda Item 1*	**PPAP/2026/0001 - Design Excellence Clause Planning Proposal**
Description:	This Planning Proposal seeks an amendment to the design excellence provision (Clause 6.9 of the Inner West LEP 2022) to introduce a design review process to inform the assessment of applicable proposals. The proposed amendment to improve the design excellence provision has strategic merit and is consistent with State and Local planning policies, objectives and directions.
Applicant:	Inner West Council

DECISION OF THE PANEL

Inner West Local Planning Panel advises Council that:

a) The proposed amendment to improve the design excellence provisions in Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022 has strategic and local merit.
b) It supports forwarding the Planning Proposal – Amendment to Inner West LEP 2022 Clause 6.9 Design Excellence to the Minister for Planning in accordance with Section 3.34 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 for Gateway determination.
c) In clause 6.9, greater significance be given to matters of landscape quality as it is an integral part of design excellence, by including "landscape design" in clauses 6.9(1) and 6.9(4).
d) Clause 6.9(2) be amended by deleting the words "that will result in a building" to simplify that clause.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The Panel was provided with a report from Council officers which satisfactorily canvassed relevant issues and explained the value of this proposal in promoting a higher standard of design excellence.

The Panel was briefed by Council officers in regards to the potential for the design excellence clause to be further improved as part of a process being undertaken by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

The Panel was aware that the benefits of this Planning Proposal were evident through discussions with other councils. It is recommended that the Planning Proposal be further refined following discussions with councils that have successfully implemented similar provisions.

The decision of the Panel was unanimous.

IWLPP17/03/2026 *Agenda Item* **2**	**PPAP/2026/0002 - Inner West Deep Soil Zone Planning Proposal**
Description:	The Planning Proposal intends to amend Clauses 4.3C and 6.20 of the *Inner West LEP 2022* to introduce consistent LGA-wide requirements for deep soil zones, ensuring space for tree planting. Currently, landscaped area provisions apply only to R1 zones in the former Leichhardt area and dwelling houses in Haberfield.
Applicant:	Inner West Council

DECISION OF THE PANEL

Inner West Local Planning Panel advises Council that:

a) The proposed amendment to include a deep soil provision in Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022 has strategic and local merit.
b) It supports forwarding the Planning Proposal – Amendment to Inner West LEP 2022 Clauses 4.3C and 6.20 to the Minister for Planning in accordance with Section 3.34 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 for Gateway determination.
c) Further consideration should be given to the contents of Table 1 in relation to:
    1. For the land use type 'dwelling houses', on a site area greater than 250m^2 that the minimum width be 2m or greater.
    2. For the land use type 'dwelling houses in the Haberfield HCA', that the minimum width be 2m or greater.
    3. For the land use type 'residential flat building', on sites with areas greater than 1500m^2, that the minimum width be 6m.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The Panel was provided with a report from Council officers which satisfactorily canvassed relevant issues and explained the value of this proposal in maintaining or increasing deep soil zones, which will facilitate increased tree planting and vegetation.

The amendment provides consistency in interpretation of deep soil areas and certainty for applicants.

The Panel was briefed by Council officers in regards to improved landscaping and the percentage of tree canopy coverage.

The Panel acknowledged that deep soil provision in lots less than 150m^2 is best considered via the development control plan, but advised that further guidance could be provided in that document, for example the planting of one canopy tree on each lot.

It is important that the provisions of this clause are consistent with adopted practice for landscaped outcomes in relevant State policies, including the provisions of the Apartment Design Guide.

The decision of the Panel was unanimous.

The Inner West Planning Panel Meeting finished at 1:22pm.

CONFIRMED:

Mr John Brunton
Chairperson
17 March 2026

Item: **C0626(1) Item 4**

Title: **Inner West Return and Earn for Public Places, Offices, Venues and Targeted Council Events**

Author: Simone Plummer - Director Planning

Recommendation

That Council endorse:

1. **The proposed trial Return and Earn initiative to be run throughout 2026/27. The trial is the distribution of funds raised by Return and Earn at Council run events to local not-for-profit community based organisations, with an update to be provided to Council with recommendations after the trial is completed. This trial includes:**
   a) **The installation of Return and Earn bins at Council venues, offices and selected events.**
   b) **The establishment of an Expression of Interest to identify not-for-profit community based recipients for a share of the income generated through Return and Earn eligible containers collected from Council venues and events.**

2. **The roll out of the first 100 peer to peer donation baskets with a comms plan and online map to show public place Return and Earn donation basket locations and redemption points across the Inner West.**

Executive Summary

This report proposes a Council-wide Return and Earn (R&E) initiative across public places, Council offices/venues and targeted Council-run events, making container donation and redemption easier and safer, and supporting residents and community participation by:

- Continuing to investigate additional R&E locations in those areas with limited access in the north (Balmain and Birchgrove) and south/southwest (Tempe and Dulwich Hill).
- Installing R&E donation baskets/bins in public spaces across the LGA.
- Creating a revenue stream from eligible containers to be distributed to Inner West not-for-profit organisations via an Expression of Interest (EOI) process.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to summarise actions around implementation of R&E in the Inner West. It outlines systems and processes already in place and those in development to expand R&E to benefit waste reduction and create an income opportunity for our community and not-for-profit organisations.

Strategic Direction

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

5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

Background

At the Council meeting held on 28 October 2025, Council resolved the following in part C1026(1) Item 33:

3. *That Council conduct an audit of all existing TOMRA Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs) and other Return & Earn collection points within the Inner West LGA, to identify gaps in coverage (spatial, hours, capacity), and on the basis of that audit, prepare a priority list for new sites.*

5. *That Council request staff investigate options for how Council may assist residents who collect eligible used beverage containers as a form of income supplement, to make collection and redemption more accessible. Possible assistance may include (but is not limited to) partnership with community groups or options for residents to purchase and use additional crates or garbage bins for eligible containers.*

6. *That Council request that Council develop a protocol to assist residents who collect eligible used beverage containers for income supplement purpose to more easily access outdoor events at Council venues, properties and ovals for this purpose, consistent with health, safety and security requirements, with the intention that the protocol inform how residents collecting beverage containers are engaged with at large-scale outdoor events.*

7. *That Council request that staff report back to Council within six months with:*
   a) *the results of the RVM / collection point audit (including map of gaps & priority sites;*
   b) *correspondence related to the issue;*

c) *update on a protocol for access at Council venues as per clause 6;*
d) *an advocacy plan to present to TOMRA / NSW Government for securing additional infrastructure; and*
e) *communications strategy to raise awareness among Inner West residents and community organisations about the expanded eligibility and about opportunities under Return & Earn.*

At the Council meeting held on 17 February 2026, Council resolved the following in part C0226(1) Item 52:

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.*

At the Council meeting held on 19 May 2026, Council resolved the following C0526(1) Item 3:

That Council defer the Item to the June 2026 meeting, with the deferred report to include the following information as per the resolution of 28 October 2025:

1. *Options to support people relying on Return and Earn as an income supplement accessing containers in residential bins.*

2. *An update on a protocol for people who rely on return and earn as a source of supplemental income to access council venues and events and information on how options to support local organisations through Return and Earn might interact with this protocol.*

3. *Communications strategy to raise awareness among Inner West residents and community organisations about the expanded eligibility and about opportunities through the Return and Earn program.*

Discussion

Return and Earn

Since the launch of Return and Earn (R&E) in December 2017, access by Inner West residents has continued to expand such that the following opportunities are now available;

- 1 drive through bulk depot in Marrickville (orange dot) – open 7am-6pm
- 5 Reverse Vending Machines (green dots) – open 7am-8.30pm (some are open to 10pm)
- 6 over-the-counter store returns (blue dots) – opening hours align with specific store retail hours

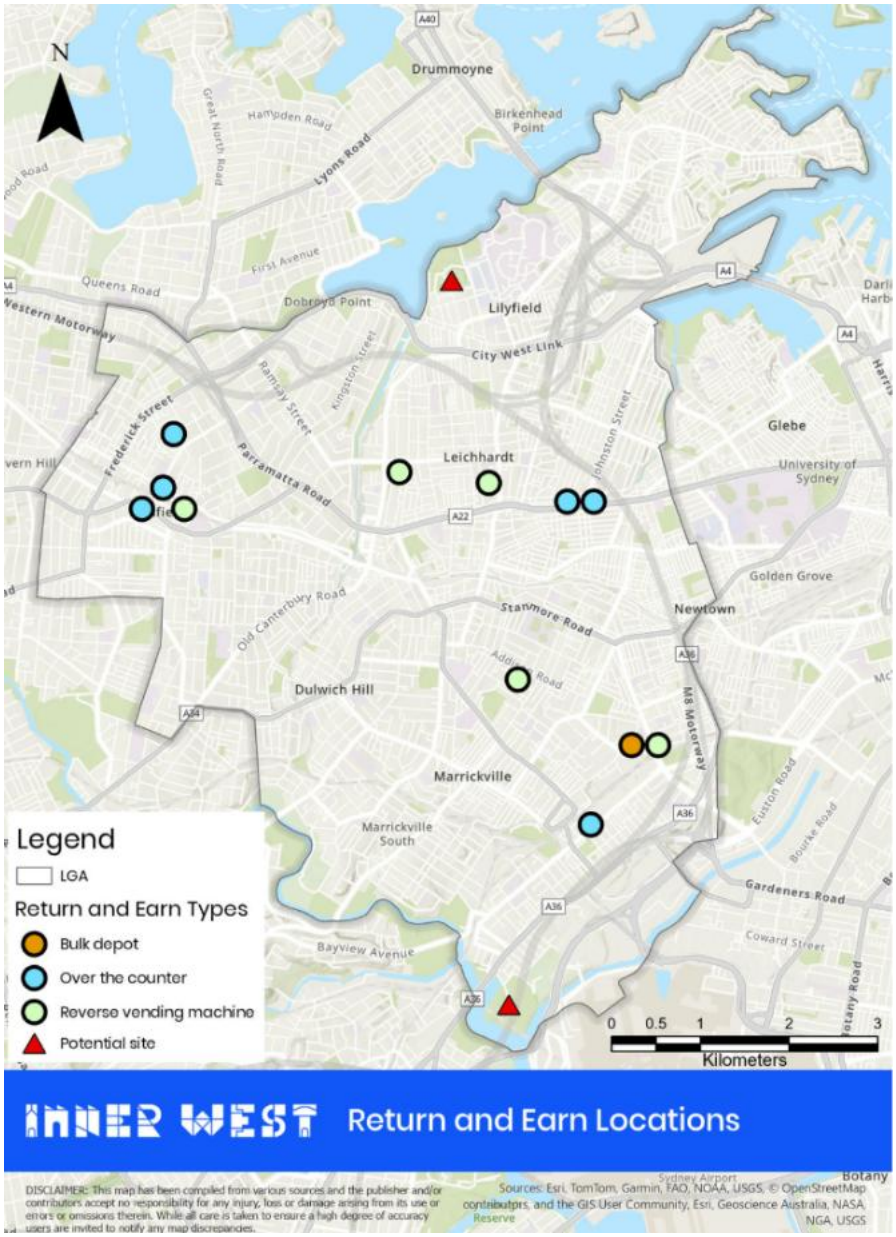


Figure 1 – Return and Earn locations across the Inner West

Figure 1 identifies good coverage of Return and Earn across the mid-section of the Inner West, but limited access in the north (Balmain and Birchgrove) and south/southwest (Tempe and Dulwich Hill).

Opportunities to Expand

Council has an ongoing partnership with TOMRA Cleanaway (who manage Return and Earn locations as the scheme operator) to identify new sites.

Challenges to the placement of new return points include:

- noise impact in residential areas
- traffic congestion, two-way access is required and truck access for servicing

- hard substrate required
- access to power (240V standard)
- hours of operation need to be a minimum of 35 hours per working week, 9hrs on weekend days

Sites previously investigated but rejected include:

- Leichhardt Park car park (car parking spaces, truck access and safety/line of sight)
- Tempe Reserve pre Tempe Lands Masterplan (car spaces and safety/line of sight)
- Marrickville PCYC (car space removal, truck access and safety/line of sight)
- Summer Hill (truck access for servicing, residential noise and safety/line of sight)

Noting the shortfall for the northern and south/southwestern ends of the LGA, work to identify suitable locations continues. The Council resolution is to install R&E at Leichhardt Oval and Council is investigating opportunities with TOMRA for both this and for installation at Tempe Lands (identified by red triangles on the map).

Supporting residents collecting from residential settings

Scavenging eligible containers from kerbside recycling is challenging due to risk of injury from sharps, broken glass, littering, trespass on private property, manual handling, potential conflict and public liability.

Support and encouragement of household separation of eligible containers to make them available for residential collectors will be through two Inner West-branded stickers. The stickers will signal that eligible containers have been separated out for safe, easy collection by others. This supports dignity for those seeking to supplement their income, protects against injury, and provides residents the opportunity to signal their willingness to participate in peer to peer donation.

Bin stickers identifying *no eligible containers are inside* the recycling bin are available from Return and Earn for placement on recycling bins to discourage bin scavenging. Council will design two similar stickers:

1. Recycling bin lid sticker indicating no eligible bottles and cans are in the bin
2. Box/container/bag sticker to identify sorted eligible containers – enabling source separation of bottles and cans making collection easy for residents while leaving the box/container/bag

Residents using existing boxes, containers or bags enables a system suitable for that property whilst minimising resource use in line with Sustainable Procurement and Zero Waste policies.

Stickers will be available at mobile customer service stalls; service centres; aquatics/sports centres; and libraries and promoted via social media. The social media campaign will encourage source separation of eligible containers by households.

Supporting Resident Participation at Home

The average number of eligible R&E containers remaining in Inner West residential kerbside recycling bins is 3.8 per bin, compared to the state average of 6.4 containers per bin. This demonstrates either very high recovery of eligible containers by our community or low generation of eligible containers.

The new R&E depot located at Smidmore Street, Marrickville opened in November 2025, enabling the return of bulk quantities via drive through where loads are tipped into a hopper for mechanical counts and sorting. This reduces pressure on local Reverse Vending Machines (RVM) where containers are fed into the machine one-by -one by users. Council promotes this new opportunity in printed and online newsletters, our waste app push notifications and social media reels.

Local R&E opportunities enable the community to retain the 10c refund per eligible container or donate funds to a nominated charity or community group. Local organisations already contact TOMRA Cleanaway to be listed as charitable partners on existing Reverse Vending Machines to receive donation funds.

Council's R&E webpage provides relevant information regarding the R&E scheme, how it works, identifying eligible drink containers, with links to the official NSW Government R&E webpages.

Return and Earn in Public Places for Peer to Peer Donation

Following the successful trial of eligible container donation stations at both Enmore and Pioneer Park in 2025, installation of Australian Standard Return and Earn baskets is now being rolled out across the Inner West. This first rollout is via a grant for 100 baskets from Exchange for Change (the Return and Earn scheme coordinator) received in December 2025. The baskets are being fixed to garbage bins in selected parks and main streets by mid-year to facilitate safer peer-to-peer donation and collection to benefit individuals as income generation.

Other councils, including Sutherland and Strathfield have these baskets installed and they report its successful use.

A communications campaign will commence shortly to promote the program and locations, including webpage updates, social media, print and e-newsletters and service centre/ library/ aquatics digital screens.

To ensure the information gets to vulnerable groups that may benefit, a flyer promoting the locations will be distributed in collaboration with the Communities Team through organisations such as Homes NSW, Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, Wesley Mission, Mission Australia, Bill Crews Foundation, Neami and Sydney Local Health District. It will also be distributed via mobile customer service stalls; service centres; aquatics/sports centres; and libraries and promoted via social media.

Council Return and Earn Trial at Council-run Events

The collection of R&E eligible containers was trialled in July and August 2023 at ten Women's World Cup soccer matches and our Footprints Eco Festival. Significantly fewer than expected containers were collected for refunds. Learnings included:

- R&E-branded bins needed secure storage at the event location once full as bins and contents had been scavenged by event attendees and bins empty when collected.
- Bins required separate transport or collection systems (not recycling compactors) and safe storage at depots between use.

Inner West Council Return & Earn funding to community-based organisations

Council will trial collection of R&E eligible containers from selected Council-run events and locations in 2026/27 and report recommendations back to Council. The trial includes:

1. Council events with external food/drink vendors.
2. Inner West Council offices and venues.
3. Leichhardt oval stadium redevelopment.

Events generating large numbers of eligible bottles and cans will be targeted.

An external R&E provider will be engaged in the provision of bins and collection which is self-funded through a portion of the refund per container, as this is more cost-competitive than the use of Council staff and flatbed trucks. Council will undertake procurement for provision of identified R&E bins and servicing.

Generated income will be collected within an Inner West account at TOMRA's Marrickville bulk drive through depot and distributed annually to local not-for-profit, community-based organisations that work with vulnerable communities identified through an Expression of Interest (EOI).

Council staff (Resource Recovery, Events etc.) and contractors will not restrict access by members of the public collecting bottles and cans littered at events. A stakeholder and risk management plan will be developed to minimise conflict and risk of harm.

Residents collecting bottles and cans at ticketed events

Non-ticket holders are not permitted into venues when ticketed events are in progress. Venues hired by community organisations often use fundraising for their club, including bottle and can collections. To overcome this additional R&E baskets will be installed outside venue exits (e.g. Henson Park), to facilitate access and collection of eligible containers whilst avoiding conflict with hirers and event organisers. Sporting event participants will be encouraged to place bottles and cans in R&E baskets as they exit and hirers will be requested to allow bottle and can collectors in at the end of ticketed events for littered containers.

EOI for Donation Recipients

Council will develop and release an EOI for donation recipients using an online platform which shortlists and pre-qualifies organisations that meet the criteria. Participating in this EOI will not exclude recipients from the annual Inner West grants program.

After the initial trial year, the IWC R&E income stream will be reviewed to identify an appropriate number of recipients or dollar amount of donation. Recipients will be rotated on an annual cycle for equity.

Draft eligibility criteria require applicants to be:

- operating in the Inner West
- legally incorporated not-for-profit organisation (or auspices)
- directing donations to vulnerable Inner West communities

The proposed criteria and weighting include:

- Local Connection and Geographic Alignment (35%)
- Community Benefit (40%)
- Community Strategic Plan Alignment (15%)
- Governance and Organisational Capacity (10%)

A rotation of recipient organisations avoids a single organisation receiving more donations over time and ensures broad community benefit. Funds collected across a complete financial year must be divided equally among approved recipients for equity. An annual release of funds smooths out seasonal differences in containers collected from offices, venues and events.

Promoting the expansion of Return and Earn

From July 2027 Return and Earn will accept wine and spirit bottles, cordial/concentrate containers, and larger drink containers (150 ml to 3 litres). A state-

wide communication campaign will be developed for messaging consistency. Inner West will promote and boost the official campaign, as well as develop internal reels.
The internal communication plan will include promotion in print and e-newsletters, webpage updates and service centre/ library/ aquatics digital screens.

Promotions are anticipated to commence in the first quarter of 2026 in three stages:

1. Notify about expansion (Jan – Mar 2027)
2. Encourage to start collecting/stockpiling (Apr – Jun 2027)
3. Redeem additional items (July – Aug 2027)

Next steps

An implementation and communication plan will be prepared, a procurement process will commence to engage a collection contractor, and an internal project control group will be established with internal stakeholders across Council. Internal stakeholders include Events, Corporate Sustainability, Resource Recovery Services & Fleet, Community Wellbeing, Communications, Facilities, Properties and Governance.
Bin locations, servicing needs, and key contacts will be managed for each location at Council offices, venues and Leichhardt Oval.

Legal and Risk Implications

The first year will be a trial to identify and manage unforeseen legal issues and risks. Council policies and procedures will be updated to support this initiative including Governance, Procurement, Events, Waste and Sustainability.

Due process around procurement and governance will be followed at all stages in this initiative.

A risk matrix and register will be developed to cover offices/venues and public events.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the implementation of the proposed recommendations outlined in the report as this Return and Earn initiative is self-funded through a proportion of the 10c refund per eligible container.

Conclusion

Promoting locations and community access to R&E baskets funded through Exchange for Change enables individuals to donate or benefit from container refunds in a safe and accessible way. These baskets have already proved successful across other Australian councils.

Implementing systems and collection of eligible containers from Council offices, venues and targeted events provides an opportunity to source separate containers (reducing

waste) whilst generating an income stream for not-for-profit community organisations to be recipients of.

The process and systems will be evaluated after the twelve-month trial in 2026/27 to identify opportunities for improvement and the future of these Return and Earn initiatives.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 5**

Title: **Major Residential Development Panel & Housing Delivery– Quarterly Report and Terms of Reference 12 Month Review**

Author: Peter Gainsford - General Manager

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Receive and note the report on the operation and outcomes of the Major Residential Development Panel, development assessment performance, customer experience initiatives, internal referral improvements, and housing delivery activity.**
2. **Note an update will be provided in the next quarterly report due in September regarding the DA audit by Mecone and the tailored modules to accelerate Development Application options for inner West Council.**
3. **Endorse the amendments to the Major Residential Development Panel Terms of Reference.**

Executive Summary

- A total of 39 applications have been considered since the commencement of the Major Residential Development Panel in July 2025. 20 of these have been determined with an average determination time of 183 days – when Land and Environment Court determinations are excluded the average is 153 days.
- There are 2,325 new dwellings proposed in the Inner West as part of the current State Significant Development Applications and of these 1,171 are affordable or key worker housing. The Housing Delivery Authority have a number of applications under consideration that propose to deliver 3,006 dwellings should they progress successfully through the State Significant DA process.
- There have been a further 32 post development applications survey responses since the end of March 2026. Similar survey results as from the last report have been received – including the need to improve Plain-English communication, consistency in requests for further information, better transition between officers and transparency about progress and delays.

- The current average for Council's overall Development Assessment times is 95 days year to date which is less than the Minister expectations of 97 days.
- Additional activities undertaken in the last quarter include
    - Discussion with Newcastle City Council on their Accelerated Development Application framework
    - A team-by-team analysis of internal referral specialists, including an all teams workshop to improve performance against key performance indicators
    - Implementation of a formal handover protocol for development applications when the assessment officer changes
    - Completion of a revised plain English Request for Further Information
    - Commencement of the DPHI led Council DA process review
    - The 12-month review of the Major Residential Development Panel's Terms of Reference.

Purpose

To provide a quarterly update on the operation and outcomes of the Major Residential Development Panel, including a 12-month review of the Major Residential Development Panel's Terms of Reference. This report also includes progress on housing delivery, development assessment performance, customer experience initiatives, and actions arising from previous Council resolutions.

Strategic Direction

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

5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

Background

Previously Council has resolved to receive a quarterly report on the effectiveness of changes to the development assessment process and the outcomes of the Major Residential Development Panel. This report also addresses the following resolutions;

At the Council meeting held on 20 May 2025, Council resolved the following in part C0525(1) Item 4:

1. *That Council undertake a review of the [Major Residential Development Panel] Terms of Reference in 12 months' time to evaluate its effectiveness, with a report back to Council.*

At the Council meeting held on 9 December 2025, Council resolved in part C1225(1) Item 24:

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.*

At the Council meeting held on 17 March 2026, Council resolved in part C0326(1) Item 22:

1. *That Council receive and note the report.*

2. *That Council arrange a meeting with the City of Newcastle General Manager and Executive Director of Planning and Environment to discuss their Accelerated Development Application framework, and seek improvements to our DA process.*

3. *That Council report progress at the next quarterly update on improving internal referral timeliness, including team-by-team performance data identifying specialist teams missing the 14-day target and a plan for any team below 80% compliance.*

4. *That Council develop a formal handover protocol for development applications changing assessing officer and report progress at the next quarterly update.*

5. *That Council expedite the revised plain-English Request for Further Information template and report progress at the next quarterly update.*

Discussion

Major Residential Development Panel

Since the commencement of the panel in July 2025 there have been between 8 and 22 applications on each agenda. In total 39 applications have been considered and 20 applications have been determined. The applications determined range from determinations by Council officers, Inner West Local Planning Panel and the Land & Environment Court. A total of 6 applications are currently the subject of a Land & Environment Court Appeal.

Number applications considered	39
Applications determined	20

Average Determination **Council Officer / Local Planning Panel / Court /**	**183 days**
*Average Determination: Council Officer / Local Planning Panel *Average Determination: Regional Planning Panel	153 days 271 days
*Average Determination: Court	326.5 days

* represents a subset of the overall average determination, as average determinations vary from Council officer delegation, Inner West Local Planning Panel and the Land & Environment Court

Type of Development	DA Count	Dwelling Count
Mixed use with residential apartments	**13**	**208**
Co-Living	**6**	**362**
Mixed use with Co-Living	**5**	**405**
Residential dwellings	**6**	**65**
Boarding house	**4**	**26**
Mixed use with Boarding house	**2**	**60**
Aged care	**1**	**189**
Subdivision	**1**	**7**
Townhouses	**1**	**0**
Total Sites	**39**	**1322**

Out of the 39 applications reviewed by the panel, 27 were development applications and 12 modification applications. The majority of modification applications sought to refine

the approved development and did not contribute to increased dwelling or room numbers.

Major Residential Development Panel – Terms of Reference

At the Major Residential Development Panel meeting on 19 May 2026, the panel reviewed the terms of reference, which were endorsed by Council at the June 2025 meeting.

The current terms of reference require:

- Applications for 5 or more dwellings to be considered by the panel;
- Review of each application following a series of milestones in the assessment process; and
- Attendance by the assessment officer and team leader for each application to present.

Recommendations include:

- No change to the threshold for applications (ie 5 dwellings or more);
- Applications to be reviewed for the first time at post notification and reported monthly thereafter until determined; and
- Assessment officers attend at the invitation of the panel for those applications of most interest.

These minor changes will enable the efficient operation of the panel and focus on applications of most interest/complexity. This enhances the panel input who can then provide greater assistance in process review and timeframes for decision making.

A marked-up copy of the previously endorsed terms of reference with recommended amendments is attached to this report as *Attachment 1*.

Development Application Process Review

In January 2026, following Council's December 2025 resolution, Inner West Council met with senior Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) officers to commence a review of Council's DA process. DPHI outlined the audit framework, scope and indicative timeframes.

Mecone was appointed from DPHI's audit consultant panel, and an inception meeting between DPHI, Mecone and Council was held in early March.

Since then, Council has provided Mecone with key data and analysis, and a half-day workshop with DA staff was held in mid-May to examine the process in detail. A draft workshop report is due in mid-June, with final recommendations expected in early August.

City of Newcastle and their Accelerated Development framework

Council met with Newcastle City Council (NCC) in March and May 2026 to discuss its Accelerated Development Application Program. Certified by DPHI, the program has significantly reduced assessment times for eligible applications. Since its introduction in 2022, NCC has advised that around 1,500 applications have been approved in an average of 8 days. DPHI and NCC have also supported tailored implementation with councils including Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Shire.

The program requires:

- Pre-identification of eligible development types
- Pre-certification of a pool of applicants, typically planners, building designers or architects
- Supporting documents provided by the applicant to conform with standardised templates

Applications that meet all three criteria are not notified and are determined by NCC in an average of 8 days. NCC has advised that the program can be implemented in modules, allowing councils to adopt elements that best suit local circumstances, with DPHI support. NCC and DPHI also require councils to complete a DPHI-led DA audit before considering implementation. This requirement will be met once the Mecone review is complete. Following this a review of the tailored implementation of the NCC modules can occur with an update included in the next quarterly review due in September.

Specialist Referrals Workshop

In May 2026, Council's Customer Experience and Development Assessment teams facilitated a dedicated workshop for staff involved in the development approvals referral process.

The workshop reinforced the role and impact of Specialist Officers in the development assessment journey, as well as Council and Ministerial expectations. It served as a collaborative forum for staff to reflect on customer feedback, identify key challenges, and draw on their expertise to inform practical improvements.

Specialist Officers worked alongside Development Assessment staff to agree on a targeted set of improvements to enhance customer experience and service delivery. These focused on clearer communication, more consistent referral practices, and improved cross-team collaboration.

Staff reached consensus on a set of priority actions for immediate and medium-term implementation.

The following initiatives for improvement were identified by staff and approved by the broader team:

1. Providing clearer, plain-English communication by ensuring responses, requests, and decisions explain the reasoning, requirements, and next steps to reduce confusion and improve confidence.
2. Improving the quality, consistency and robustness of referral comments and conditions by using standardised templates, checklists and structured writing to reduce rework.
3. Strengthening prioritisation and timeliness by aligning referral work with priorities, focusing on high-impact applications and meeting key timeframes.
4. Enhancing collaboration and early engagement between referral officers and planners to support aligned assessments and identify issues sooner.
5. Improving technical understanding and upfront assessment, including site visits where needed, to identify issues earlier and reduce Request For Information letters and late-stage changes.
6. Improving governance and process visibility by clarifying roles, improving tracking, and introducing milestone alerts to support accountability.
7. Optimising referral demand and workload by reviewing triggers, improving allocation, and reducing unnecessary referrals.
8. Building capability through targeted training, knowledge sharing and post-assessment reviews.

Regarding items 1 to 5 above, actions are underway or completed for some teams, and an implementation plan for items 6 to 8 is in development.

Improvement Initiatives identified by Specialist teams

The following three teams have reprioritised their workloads and reviewed their internal processes. In each case new workflow processes have been implemented to address the KPI.

Building Certification

- Refresher training was provided on the minimum information required for BCA and Access Reports
- Template consent conditions were reviewed to create efficiencies
- The referral and allocation process was refined to ensure it was more responsive to time frames.

Heritage and Urban Design

- Refined allocation by team leader to suitable team members for optimal speed and quality of response

- Returning referrals / modifications are always allocated to the same team member who undertook first review
- Creation of a new task code for returning referrals so they are automatically given priority
- A KPI of 7 days for responses to returning referrals with exceptions or extensions to be discussed only if needed
- Refined referral response templates to ensure consistent advice and assist with timeframes

Urban Forest

- Daily clearing house for all referrals and allocations
- Increased priority to DA referrals
- Additional resources provided to clear older referrals

These strategies have resulted in a significant shift in resource allocation and a reduction in the backlog. As average of days is a lag indicator this will be reflected in the next quarter statistics.

It is recommended that officers continue implementing the improvements identified through the Specialist Referral Workshop held 6 May 2026 and report back in the next quarterly report in September 2026 on further progress, including a formal performance improvement plan where the KPI is not within reach.

Referrals by Type

The Delivery Program 2025–2029 (year 1) and Operational Plan and Budget 2025-26 outlines a Key Performance Measure metric of obtaining 80% of internals referrals within 14 days (2.2.2i).

Referrals by type by month

Referral Type	FEBRUARY 2026			MARCH 2026			APRIL 2026			MAY 2026		
	Number of Referrals	Average of Days	% 14 days	Number of Referrals	Average of Days	% 14 days	Number of Referrals	Average of Days	% 14 days	Number of Referrals	Average of Days	% 14 Days
Architectural Excellence Panel	10	62	0	4	48	0	6	44	0	-	-	-
Building Certification	22	51	17	26	35	39	37	20	51	51	16	55
Community Services	4	39	50	0	0	-	0	0	-	1	83	0
Contributions	1	57	0	3	1	100	3	3	100	2	4	100
Engineering	102	10	89	142	9	85	125	14	58	135	12	67
Engineering -Peer Review	2	11	50	3	13	67	2	9	50	4	15	75
Engineers – Re-Referral	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	100
Fire	4	10	75	1	8	100	1	5	100	3	14	67
Health - Internal	26	22	54	27	10	78	25	14	52	35	12	69
Heritage Officer - Internal	120	28	28	101	20	49	108	24	27	146	22	40
Heritage Officer – Re-Referral	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	100
Landscape Architect	0	0	-	1	68	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
Planning	2	37	0	0	0	-	0	0	-	-	-	-
Parks Department	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	12	100
Property	2	51	0	8	50	0	0	-	-	4	13	50
Public Domain	2	17	50	0	0	-	0	0	-	-	-	-
Regulatory	3	20	67	4	5	100	4	3	100	-	-	-
Street Renumbering -Referral	2	8	100	6	15	67	5	11	80	6	18	17
Traffic Services - Internal	4	30	25	0	0	-	1	40	0	-	-	-
Urban Design - Internal Referral	0	0	-	2	19	50	0	0	-	1	70	0
Urban Forest - Internal	83	34	24	87	30	21	107	27	25	107	30	26
Urban Forest – Re-Referral	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	9	100
Waste Management Commercial	8	10	88	14	9	93	17	11	71	12	6	100
Waste Management Residential	10	9	90	15	11	93	10	12	50	13	8	92
Grand Total	**408**	**25**	**47%**	**444**	**18**	**59%**	**452**	**20**	**42%**	**525**	**19**	**51%**

In some cases, a high proportion of referrals are already overdue by the time they are reviewed, meaning compliance with the KPI was not achieved in time for this report. This reflects the impact of existing backlog pressures rather than current effort alone. As noted in the above table, for the month of May, a total of 525 referrals were completed, a 16% increase from April and 28% increase from February. Since the 1 July over 5000 referrals have been completed. Targeted actions have been outlined above to improve turnaround times, reduce outstanding overdue matters, and lift performance against the KPI.

Post Development Application Survey Results

Since August 2025, Council has continued collecting feedback on development applications following determination to better understand applicant experiences across communication, engagement, timeframes, and lodgement.

As of 5 May 2026, the survey has received an additional 14 responses, bringing the total to 116. This reflects a continued, steady increase in participation.

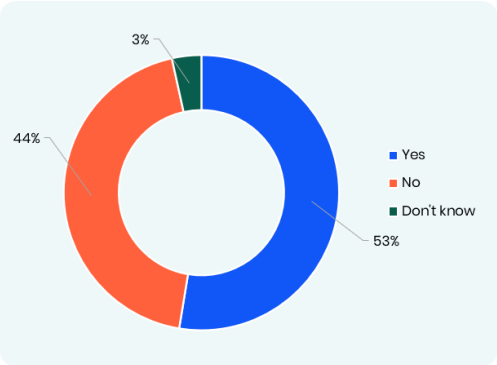
Survey findings - Communication and engagement

Key findings include:

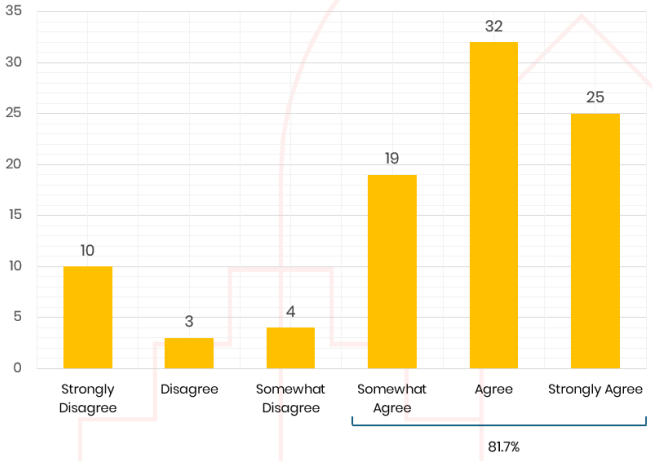
- **72%** of respondents indicated that the assessment officer contacted them after lodgement to introduce themselves.
- **81.7%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that, where additional information or amended plans were requested, the reasons were communicated clearly and in a way they understood.
- **73%** reported that Council officers were available to meet or discuss their application during assessment.
- Email and telephone remain the most commonly experienced communication channels.

Communication & Engagement

Were you asked for additional information before your application was accepted for lodgement?



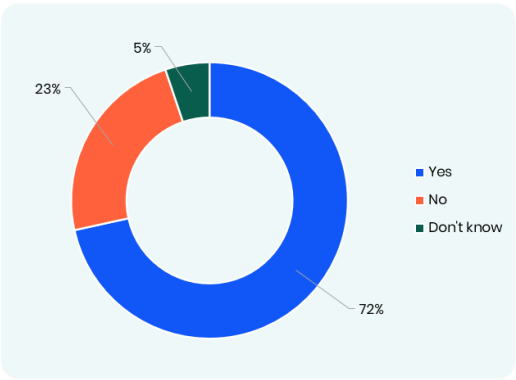
If additional information was requested after your application was lodged, the reasons for the information or amended plans was clearly communicated to me in the way that I understood*.



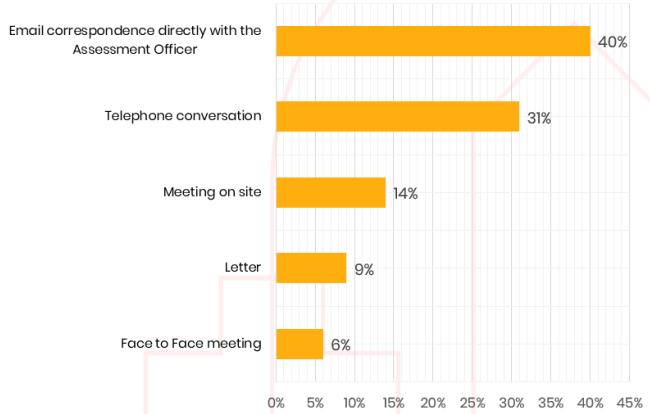
* The figure shown does not include the 23 cases in which respondents chose "Don't know."

Communication & Engagement

Once the application was lodged, did the assessment officer call/arrange a meeting to introduce themselves?



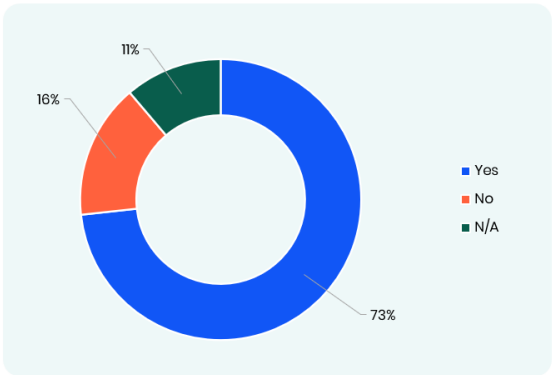
Which communication methods did you experience during the application? [Select all that apply]*



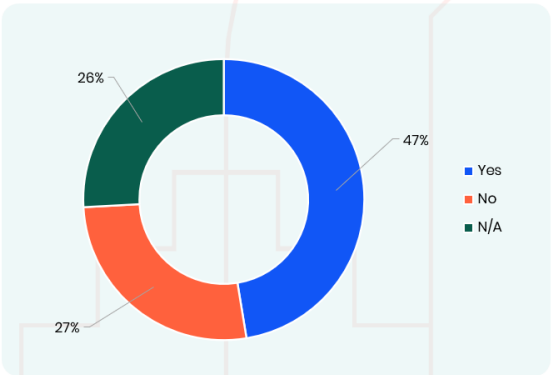
* This question allows for multiple selections, so respondents may have chosen more than one communication method.

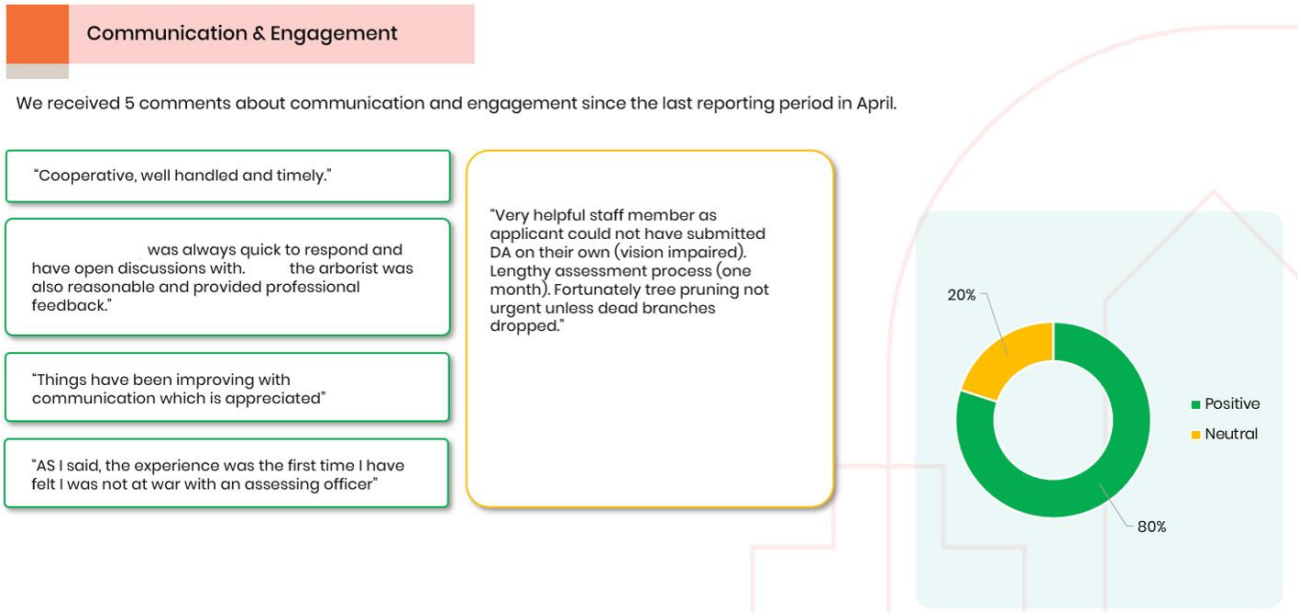
Communication & Engagement

Throughout the assessment, was the Council officer available to meet or discuss your application with you?



Once the neighbour notification was complete, were you advised how many submissions were received?





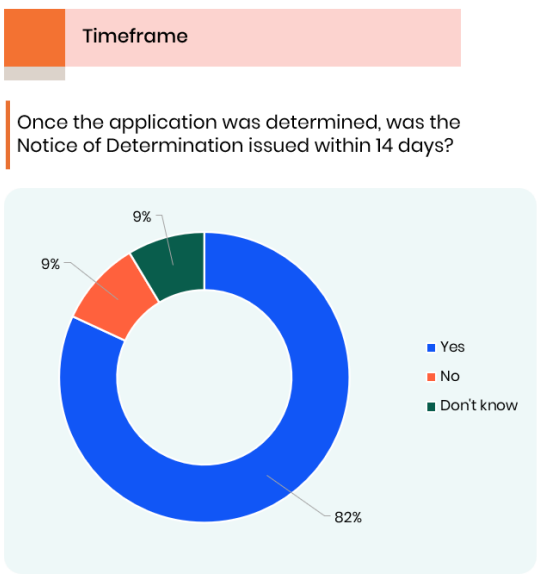
Survey findings - Timeframes

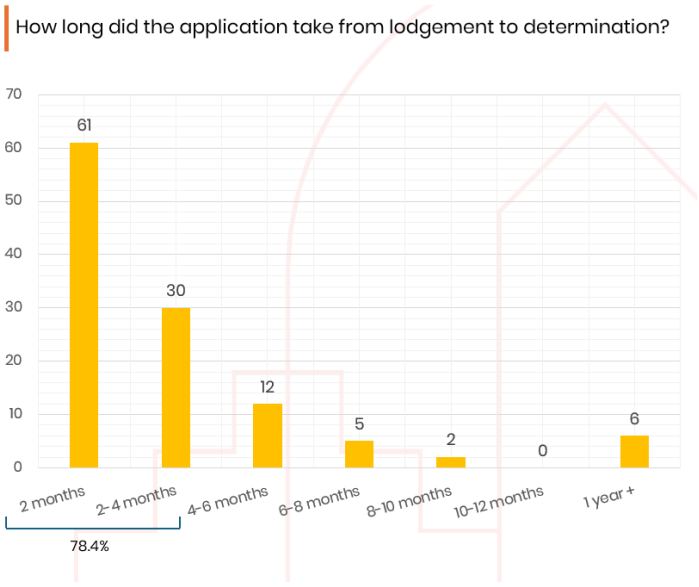
Overall perceptions of timeframes remain largely stable, with most applicants reporting acceptable turnaround times.

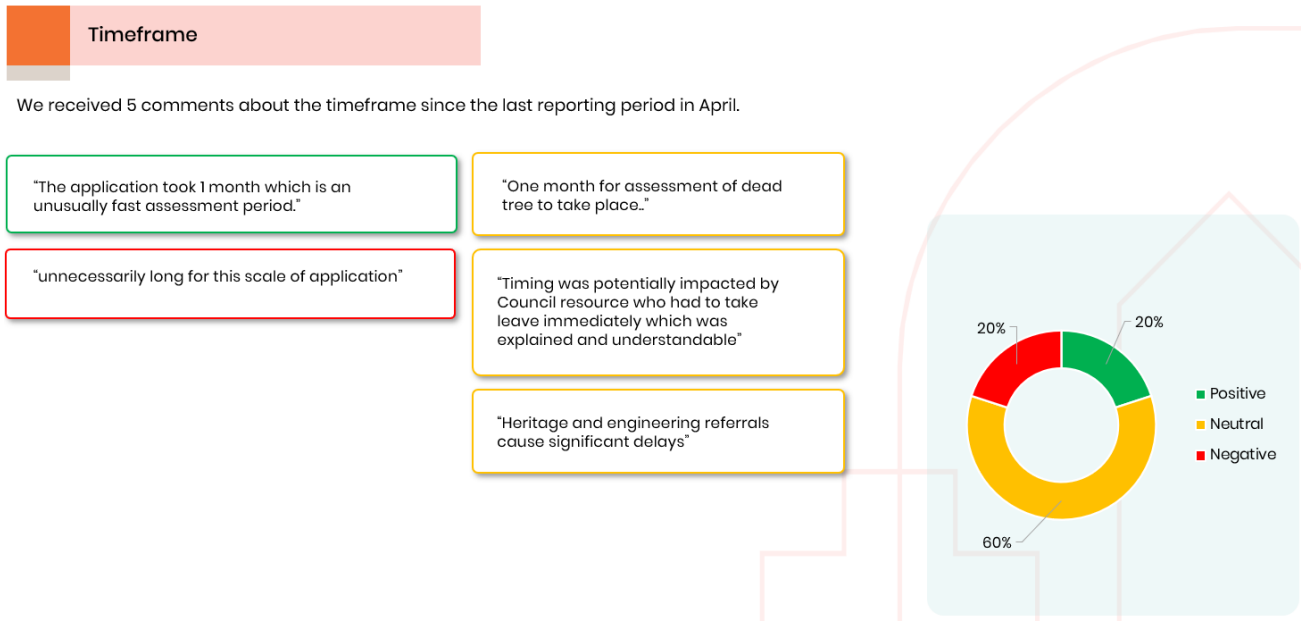
Key findings include:

- **82%** of respondents confirmed the Notice of Determination was issued within 14 days of determination.
- **78.4%** of applications were determined within two to four months, with shorter timeframes commonly highlighted in positive feedback.

Where dissatisfaction is expressed, it is most often linked to delays caused by internal referrals, stop-start progress during assessment, or limited visibility while applications await dependent inputs.







Survey findings – Lodgement process

Overall perceptions of timeframes remain largely stable, with most applicants reporting acceptable turnaround times.

The lodgement stage continues to generate the highest volume of mixed feedback. Positive comments highlight:

- Strong staff support helping applicants navigate the NSW Planning Portal.
- Courteous, patient assistance that enabled applications to be completed successfully, particularly for infrequent or vulnerable applicants.

At the same time, recurring issues remain evident:

- Confusion around required documentation and portal questions.
- Payment timeframes and BPAY processing inconsistencies, creating stress and rework.
- Perceived misalignment between application types (e.g. tree works) and Planning Portal requirements.

Lodgement process

We received 7 comments about the timeframe since the last reporting period in April.

"It was the best experience I have ever had with any council. The planner has a big future."

"We would like to acknowledge Council's planning team for a cooperative approach to assist with the DA and the timely manner in which it was all handled. We have noted IWC's approach to working through DAs with applicants and having them determined, and this is encouraging to experience."

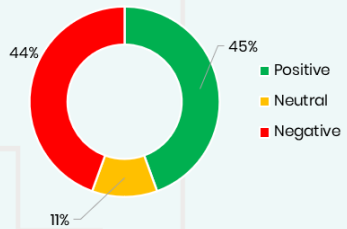
"The process was difficult at the start; however, it was supported by Council staff who helped with the application. Throughout the DA process, the Council staff were very courteous and contactable, which helped with open discussions."

"I appreciate that you considered all the information that I sent and came to a prompt, reasonable decision. Thank you.."

"Fee payment: gives 2 days, and a BPay number, then says BPay may take up to 5 days. In this case, the owner paid via BPAY on the day of receipt, then received multiple emails stating it would be rejected for non-payment. need to sort this out. "

"The payment terms are unreasonable and difficult to comply with. Two days is simply not enough time to coordinate payment with our clients. When DA invoices are not paid on time, the application is rejected, and we need to resubmit, wasting our time and resources."

"Incredibly time-consuming and complicated for the applicant and council staff member to lodge an application with the state government for simple dead tree pruning."



Customer experience focus

Drawing together the May survey results, the priority customer experience focus areas remain unchanged and continue to align with existing improvement efforts:

- Consistency and tone in communication, particularly around Requests For Information letters and expectation setting.
- Improved visibility of progress and explanation of delays, especially where internal referrals influence timeframes.
- Reducing customer effort at lodgement, through clearer guidance, more intuitive pathways, and better alignment between application types and portal requirements.

There are a number of improvement initiatives both underway or completed in response to customer feedback including:

- Ongoing advocacy with the NSW Planning Portal team for improvements to the lodgement process, including attending a workshop with DPHI in April 2026;
- Initiation of amendments to payment terms for the lodgement process to minimise impacts to customers;
- Customer service training for all assessment officers; including an introductory session for new starters on commencement and refresher training for the entire team.
- Ongoing review of feedback from survey information to implement improvements.

Progress on Housing Delivery

The following matters are reported to the Major Residential Development Panel on a monthly basis and have been adapted for reporting to Council.

State Significant Developments Applications (SSDA)

These are the current and determined State Significant Development Applications (SSDAs), within Inner West Council LGA since May 2025. All applications can be found on the Department's Major Project Website - Major Projects search | Planning Portal - Department of Planning and Environment.

Updates to the below applications are highlighted in blue in the below table:

Address & Link to project page	Summary of Proposal	Number of Dwellings	Housing SEPP Bonus / Years for Affordable Housing	Number of Affordable Housing / Key worker	Status	HDA
Rozelle Village	Mixed use development with affordable housing	227	15	59	Approved 14/05/2025	
194-Wardell Road and 46 Pine Street, Marrickville Maronite Sisters	Demolish and redevelop Village 1 to provide a four-storey, 100-bedroom facility with basement car parking (currently 54 beds)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Approved 30/04/2026	
Lots bound by Victoria Road, Sydenham Road, Farr Street and Mitchell Street, Marrickville The Timberyards by RTL Co	Redevelopment of the site for a rental housing precinct	1181	25	590	Approved 17/02/2026	
Newington College 200 Stanmore Road, Stanmore Newington College	Redevelopment of Newington college	N/A	N/A	N/A	Prepare EIS	
Leichhardt Oval (IWC Application) Leichhardt Oval	Refurbishment and upgrade works	N/A	N/A	N/A	SSDA Lodged and on exhibition from 12 Jan to 12 Feb 2026. Applicant requested to respond to submissions	

Parramatta Road, Pyrmont Bridge Road, Camperdown Westconnex-Dive-Site	WestConnex Dive Site Build-to-Rent Subdivision, construction of mixed build to rent. Stage 1A (Stage 1B – Build to Sell, Stage 02 – Build to Sell) SSDA & Concurrent re-zoning	220	15	220	Approved 23/12/2025	√
67,73-83 Mary Street, 50-52 Edith Street & 43 Robert Street, St Peters Precinct 75	Amending DA to DA/2021/0800 increasing the floor area by 4842m2 & additional 265 dwellings (16 affordable)	265	15	Nil additional affordable housing 16 units included in existing approval	Approved 29/5/2026	√
Rozelle Village	Modification 1 S4.55 (1A) Modification for Condition Amendments relating to site contamination and hours of construction	-	-	-	Approved 29/09/2025	
Mixed-use development, 307-315 Parramatta Road	16 Storey mixed used with 154 dwellings, retail, basement & public domain works.	154	15	21	Submission made Applicant requested to provide additional information	√
122-128, 130 Pyrmont Bridge Road & 206 Parramatta Rd, Annandale	22-storey mixed-use and concurrent rezoning for 281 build-to-rent units, 15% affordable housing, ground floor retail	281	15 (10)	281 (including 29 affordable)	Submission made. Applicant requested to provide additional information	√
Rozelle Village	Rozelle Village Mod 2 - Layout and wind mitigation measures + additional parking & reduction of apartments	-3			Approved 12/02/2026	
Total	**-**	**2325**		**1171**		

Housing Delivery Authority (HDA)

The HDA was a State Government announcement in 2025, to boost housing supply and improve affordability in order to address the housing crisis and meeting Housing Accord targets. The State of NSW has an ambitious target to deliver 377,000 new homes over five years by July 2029 under the National Housing Accord.

To accelerate the delivery of housing the HDA leads a streamlined State Significant Development Application (SSDA) pathway and SSDA with a concurrent rezoning process.

a. Declared Proposals

The table below provides the declared proposals and their status with new items highlighted in blue:

Date	Address	Suburb	Summary of Proposal	Concurrent rezoning	Number of Dwellings -indicative	Status
19-Feb-25	40-76 William Street	Leichhardt	Residential Flat Building	Not mentioned	200	Prepare EIS
7-Mar-25	67 Mary Street (Precinct 75)	St Peters	Shop top housing	Yes	200	SSDA & SARP lodged (see above table)
24-Mar-25	307-315 Parramatta Road	Leichhardt	Shop top housing	Yes	110	SSDA & SARP lodged (see above table)
24-Mar-25	245 Marion Street	Leichhardt	Shop top housing	Yes	125	SEARS issued 17/11/2025 Prepare EIS
4-Apr-25	122-130 Pyrmont Bridge Road, 206 Parramatta Road	Annandale	Shop top housing	Yes	162	SSDA & SARP lodged (see above table)
2-May-25	99-101 Pyrmont Bridge Road, 190-196 Parramatta	Annandale	Shop top housing	Yes	99	SEARs requested & issued
16-May-25	63-77 Pyrmont Bridge Road	Annandale	Shop top housing	Yes	180	SEARs requested & issued
15-Jul-25	104 – 108 Victoria Road	Rozelle	Shop top housing	Yes	130	SEARS Issued 18/12/2025 Prepare EIS
29 Aug 25	52-54 Pyrmont Bridge Road	Annandale	Shop top housing	Yes	600	Not yet requested SEARS
17 Feb 26	58-76 Stanmore Road	Stanmore	Shop top housing	Yes	750	SEARs requested & issued
31 Mar 26	1–15 Byrne Street, 29–41 O'Hara Street & 20–22 Central Avenue	Marrickville	Residential Flat Building	Yes	250	Not yet requested SEARS
31 Mar 26	185 Parramatta Road	Haberfield	Residential Flat Building	Yes	200	Not yet requested SEARS
TOTAL					**3006**	

Source: Housing Delivery Authority https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/housing/housing-delivery-authority

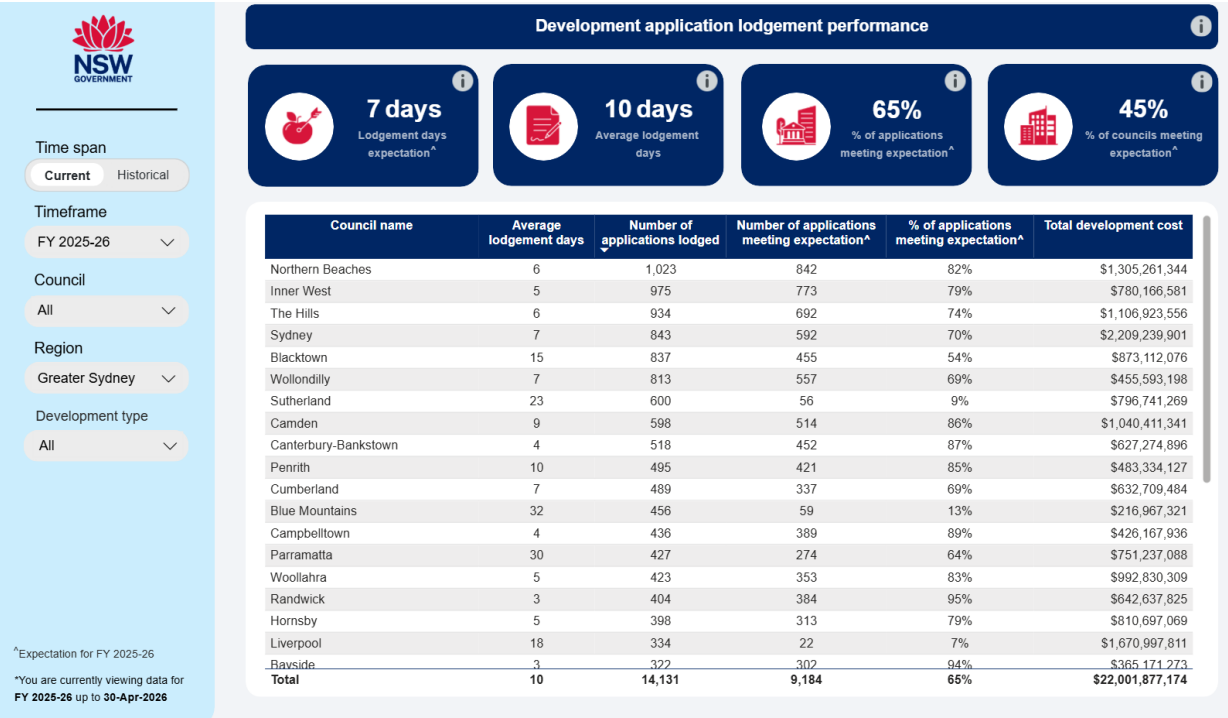
Development Assessment Performance against Ministers Expectations

The Environmental Planning & Assessment (Statement of Expectations) Order 2024 set the expectations for Council's for both lodgement and assessment timeframes for development applications.

The league tables can be viewed online via the following link Council League Tables

Lodgement Performance for FY 25/26

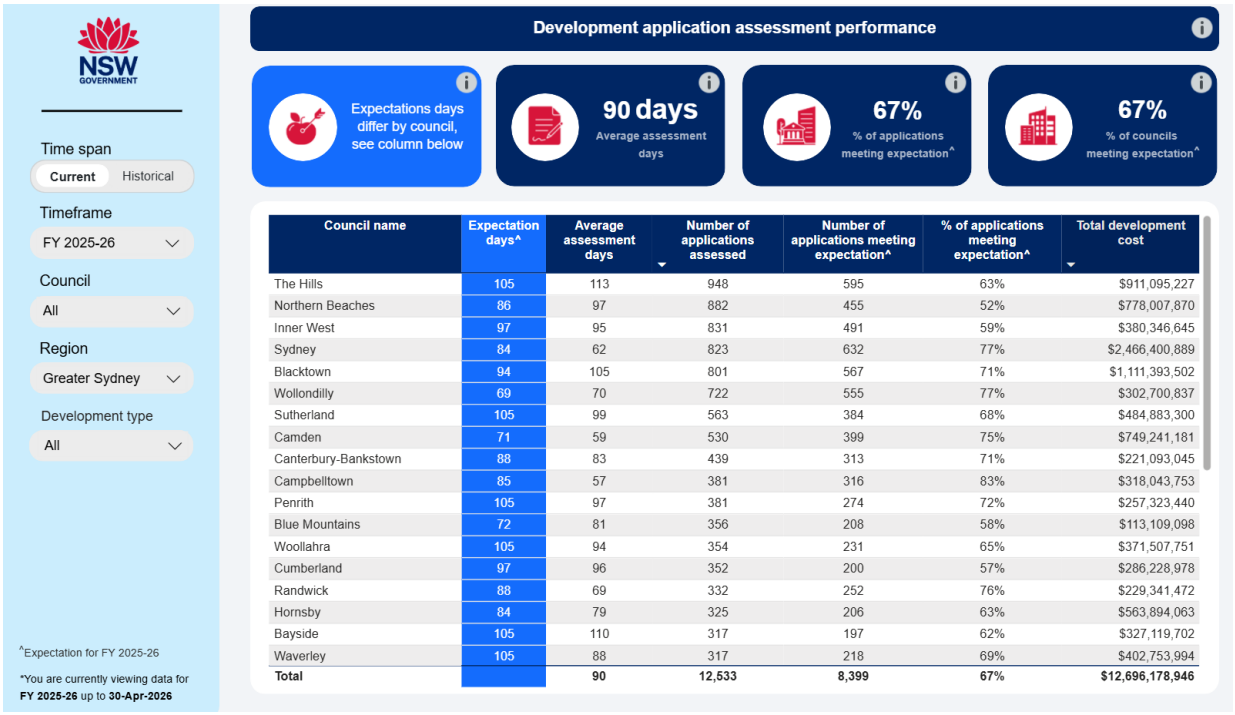
For the months of July to the end of April the lodgement of applications took on average 5 days which meets the expectation for 2025 to 2026 of 7 days.



Council name	Average lodgement days	Number of applications lodged	Number of applications meeting expectation^	% of applications meeting expectation^	Total development cost
Northern Beaches	6	1,023	842	82%	$1,305,261,344
Inner West	5	975	773	79%	$780,166,581
The Hills	6	934	692	74%	$1,106,923,556
Sydney	7	843	592	70%	$2,209,239,901
Blacktown	15	837	455	54%	$873,112,076
Wollondilly	7	813	557	69%	$455,593,198
Sutherland	23	600	56	9%	$796,741,269
Camden	9	598	514	86%	$1,040,411,341
Canterbury-Bankstown	4	518	452	87%	$627,274,896
Penrith	10	495	421	85%	$483,334,127
Cumberland	7	489	337	69%	$632,709,484
Blue Mountains	32	456	59	13%	$216,967,321
Campbelltown	4	436	389	89%	$426,167,936
Parramatta	30	427	274	64%	$751,237,088
Woollahra	5	423	353	83%	$992,830,309
Randwick	3	404	384	95%	$642,637,825
Hornsby	5	398	313	79%	$810,697,069
Liverpool	18	334	22	7%	$1,670,997,811
Bayside	3	322	302	94%	$365,171,273
Total	**10**	**14,131**	**9,184**	**65%**	**$22,001,877,174**

Assessment Performance for FY 25/26

Timeframes for assessments from 1 July to 30 April 2026 took an average of 95 days which meets the Minister's expectations of 97 days.



Council name	Expectation days^	Average assessment days	Number of applications assessed	Number of applications meeting expectation^	% of applications meeting expectation^	Total development cost
The Hills	105	113	948	595	63%	$911,095,227
Northern Beaches	86	97	882	455	52%	$778,007,870
Inner West	97	95	831	491	59%	$380,346,645
Sydney	84	62	823	632	77%	$2,466,400,889
Blacktown	94	105	801	567	71%	$1,111,393,502
Wollondilly	69	70	722	555	77%	$302,700,837
Sutherland	105	99	563	384	68%	$484,883,300
Camden	71	59	530	399	75%	$749,241,181
Canterbury-Bankstown	88	83	439	313	71%	$221,093,045
Campbelltown	85	57	381	316	83%	$318,043,753
Penrith	105	97	381	274	72%	$257,323,440
Blue Mountains	72	81	356	208	58%	$113,109,098
Woollahra	105	94	354	231	65%	$371,507,751
Cumberland	97	96	352	200	57%	$286,228,978
Randwick	88	69	332	252	76%	$229,341,472
Hornsby	84	79	325	206	63%	$563,894,063
Bayside	105	110	317	197	62%	$327,119,702
Waverley	105	88	317	218	69%	$402,753,994
Total		**90**	**12,533**	**8,399**	**67%**	**$12,696,178,946**

Development Assessment performance against KPI's

The table below provides an update on the performance of key process steps, that were previously reported to Council via a Bi-Monthly report and now reported on a quarterly basis. Some of these are also now reported via the Delivery Plan/Operational Plan.

Council officers continue to work on the *Development Assessment Customer Service Action Plan* which sets out the progress on the initiatives identified though Industry Professional workshops, external review prepared by Centium and various Council resolutions relating to customer service as well as recommendations from the outcomes of the DA survey.

Key Process Steps	Customer Experience KPI	FY 24/25	Q1	Q2	Q3	April 26
Pre DA Minutes	Letter sent in 10 days of meeting - Median	10	12	7	12	7
Submit DA on Planning Portal to Lodgement in T1	100% in 10 days (Maintain current average of 7.5 calendar days)	58%	68%	98%	96%	98%
Call Applicant and/or Property Owner to advise responsible officer for the DA	100% in 10 days of allocation. Introduction, explain process, answer questions and case manage the process	46%	85.9%	98%	97%	93%
Neighbour Notification posted	100% in 7 days following payment of all fees	74%	86%	52% in 7 91% in 14 days*	64% in 7 99% in 14 days*	78% in 7 100% in 14 days
Internal referrals obtained	80% response in 14 days	46%	52%	49%	46%	42%

Site inspection	100% inspections are recorded on the council record.	66%	93%	98%	97%	94%
Acknowledgment of receipt of submissions	100% of submissions received are acknowledged in writing	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Automation of progress update of significant milestones	Change in assessment officer (within 5 days)		Tech solution being deployed	Tech solution deployed no current data	Tech solution deployed no current data	No current data
Determination	Median within 85 days	69 days	56 days	68 days	70 days	65.5 days

Formal handover protocol for development applications changing assessing officer

Noting both the Council resolution to develop a formal handover protocol and process, this has been developed and implemented. In the event of a change of assessment officer the Applicant is advised in writing, identifying the new assessment officer, including contact details and offering a meeting with the new officer. To assist a smooth transition, where possible, the previous officer will also attend the meeting.

An automated business process has been implemented into Technology one to enable the process to be consistent and tracked, and therefore reportable. The new process has been actioned for a single application since it went live in Council's system on 14 April 2026.

Revised plain-English *Request for Further Information* template

A plain English review has been completed for the Request for Information template. Training and reviews are ongoing to assist specialists in conveying technical information as clearly as possible.

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no legal and risk implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications

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

Conclusion

The Major Residential Development Panel continues to provide a structured forum for oversight of significant residential applications. The 12-month review of the Panel's Terms of Reference also supports targeted refinements to improve the efficiency and value of the Panel going forward.

The report highlights the substantial pipeline of housing delivery activity across the Inner West, including major residential applications, State Significant Development Applications and Housing Delivery Authority proposals.

A range of actions to improve both customer experience and internal referral timeliness have been implemented. Council continues to maintain strong development assessment performance against key State benchmarks.

Attachments

1. ⇩ Major Residential Development Panel Terms of Reference - Recommended Amendments

MAJOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Terms of Reference

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Stages of review 3
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MAJOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Objectives of the panel

The objective of the panel is to:

- Streamline the assessment process by providing advice and guidance on complex development applications, modification, review applications as well as rezoning planning proposals.
- Accelerate the approval process to contribute to the delivery of new housing in the Inner West.
- Have consideration for planning infrastructure and legal considerations.
- Ensure efficiency, consistency and clarity on the assessment process
- Ensure development is of a high quality design and sustainability standard.

At the Council meeting 18 February 2025 the following was resolved:

1. *That Council establish a new Residential Development Panel to assess significant residential development applications and proposals under the new Inner West Local Environment Plan (LEP).*
2. *That the new panel provide a simplified and consistent approach to the assessment of significant residential developments, accelerating the approval and determination process and contributing to the delivery of new housing in the Inner West.*
3. *That the new panel convene regularly and will be responsible for reviewing and assessing significant residential development projects in accordance with the new LEP. This should include both the determination of applications Council is the consent authority for, as well as the assessment process for applications that are to be determined by the Eastern Sydney Planning Panel.*
4. *That panel membership will include the following key decision-makers:*
   a) *General Manager;*
   b) *Director of Planning;*
   c) *General Counsel; and*
   d) *City Architect (once recruited).*
5. *That panel responsibilities will include:*
   a) *reviewing significant residential development applications and rezoning proposals based on planning, infrastructure, and legal considerations;*
   b) *ensuring efficiency, consistency and clarity in the assessment process; and*
   c) *reporting regularly to Council on the outcomes of panel reviews and the progress of housing delivery within the Inner West.*
6. *That Council officers develop and report criteria for significant residential development assessments to the April 2025 Council meeting. These criteria will guide the new Panel in reviewing applications for major developments under the new LEP and should include a value threshold, the scale and size of the development, and high-quality design and sustainability standards.*

MAJOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Application Threshold

1. Planning Proposals (where Council is not the proponent) that propose mixed or residential development

2. Development Applications, 4.55 Modification and 8.2 Review applications that:
- include 5 or more new dwellings;
- Incorporate Co-Living or Boarding House; or
- Subdivision for residential development that would result in additional housing

Other Matters to be considered by the panel.

The panel will ensure reasonable assessment timeframes, by managing any resourcing or performance issues that may be impacting on referral and assessment timeframes.

The panel will see first hand any process issues that may impact on timeframes and oversee any improvement initiatives in the development assessment area. The panel will also be reviewing the number of Land and Environment Court matters and ways to reduce the number these and their costs.

Any survey feedback, customer sentiment analysis, assessment and referral timeframes will be reported to the panel.

Panel members

The panel shall consist of:

- The General Manager
- Director of Planning
- General Counsel
- City Architect

A minimum of 3 panel members are required for a quorum. Each member needs to appoint a delegate if they are unable to attend.

Schedule of Meetings

Meetings of the Panel will be scheduled on a monthly basis with an agenda listing the items for consideration one week prior. If no items are listed on the agenda, the meeting will be cancelled.

The meetings shall be held on the last Thursday of the month at 2pm unless otherwise agreed by the Panel.

If timeliness becomes an issue, arrangements will be made for the Panel to meet out of schedule either via email correspondence or virtually.

Stages of review

Matters that meet the threshold for consideration by the panel will be placed on the agenda once the application reaches post-notification stage and monthly thereafter

MAJOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Unless otherwise agreed by the panel.

For applications proposing 20+ dwellings, or faith based housing developments, the Applicant is invited to present to the panel at the initial review

Participants

The Senior Manager and Managers will present the matters for consideration of the panel. Assessment officers and Team Leaders will be requested to present to the panel on an 'as needs' basis.
Matters that are the subject of Land & Environment Court appeals will be presented by the General Counsel or representative from the legal team with input from the Development Assessment officers.

Panel Meetings

Each meeting typically comprises:

- project introduction
- questions and clarifications
- review of relevant documentation
- recommendation of the panel

MAJOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Additionally at each panel meeting, for information purposes, the Panel will be provided with an update on any:

- Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARS)
- State Significant Development Applications
- EOI for Housing Delivery Authority

Voting rights

All members have formal voting rights on matters considered by the Panel. Decisions are to be made by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached on a matter, the matter will go to vote. The General Manager may choose to use a casting vote where necessary.

Minutes of the Meeting

Minutes of the meeting will be prepared during the meeting. The draft minutes will be reviewed by the Senior Manager either during or post meeting to ensure accuracy. The minutes will be placed on the relevant application file.

The date and summary of the meetings shall be outlined in the assessment report.

After the Meeting

The assessment officer will follow through with the recommendation of the panel. If further information comes to their attention which would otherwise affect the recommendations of the panel, the item will return for reconsideration.

Report to Council

The General Manager will report on the outcomes of panel reviews and progress of housing delivery on a quarterly basis.

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed in May 2026 to evaluate its effectiveness and be reported back to Council.

Version Control

Version	Date	By / Comments
1	March 2025	Draft
2	June 2025	To incorporate Council resolution
3	May 2026	Recommended amendments for consideration

MAJOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Attachment 1 – Meeting Minutes Template

Major Residential Development Panel Meeting Minutes

Date		**Application No:**	
Address			
Proposal			
Attendees		**Panel Members**	

Summary of application stage and key issues for Panel Consideration

Recommendations of the Panel

Item: **C0626(1) Item 6**

Title: **Metro Station Activations in Sydenham, Marrickville and Dulwich Hill**

Author: Simone Plummer - Director Planning

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Endorse the proposed Activation Plan outlined in this report to support the opening of the Sydenham to Bankstown Metro Stations.**

2. **Note the additional funding requirements associated with the proposed initiatives and endorse allocation of up to $67,000 as part of the quarter 1 budget review, should sufficient State Government funding not be secured.**

Executive Summary

This report outlines:

- A coordinated activation plan for Sydenham, Marrickville and Dulwich Hill to support the Metro opening in late 2026.
- A focus on boosting local businesses, improving wayfinding, and enhancing precinct vibrancy.
- Key initiatives including banners, business promotion materials, signage, digital marketing, and live music activations.
- A mix of funded actions and unfunded elements (notably wayfinding and larger activations that require further budget decisions.
- Business engagement with Service NSW, public domain upgrades, and NSW Government funding advocacy.

Purpose

To present a coordinated activation plan in response to Council's resolution of 21 April 2026, and to outline supporting actions to activate precincts and support local businesses ahead of the opening of the Sydenham to Bankstown Metro line in the second half of 2026.

Strategic Direction

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

3: Creative communities and a strong economy

Background

At the Council meeting held on 21 April 2026, Council resolved the following C0426(1) Item 43:

1. *That Council develop a plan to celebrate the opening of the Metro from Sydenham to Bankstown, due to take place in the second half of 2026.*
2. *That Council acknowledge that businesses and residents in Marrickville and Dulwich Hill have experienced significant disruption during the period of the conversion, but that once the service is open, significant numbers of people from across Sydney will visit our suburbs and support local businesses and residents will have access to a rapid public transport service every 4 minutes in the peak.*
3. *That Council request Council staff join with Service NSW to doorknock local businesses in the precincts surrounding Marrickville and Dulwich Hill stations to assess how council can assist in the period leading up to the opening and determine what support might be useful post-opening.*
4. *That Council notes planning by council staff to improve the public domain in Illawarra Road and Dulwich Hill funded through the Mainstreet Revitalisation Program, forming part of the 2026-2027 Budget considerations.*
5. *That a report be brought back to the June 2026 Council meeting detailing a plan for activations at the precincts surrounding Sydenham, Marrickville and Dulwich Hill stations that includes, but is not limited to:*
   a) *Public domain activations, including banners, posters, or other decorations;*
   b) *Provide businesses with Inner West Council pennants and collateral;*
   c) *A wayfinding plan, including footpath decals, signage and a precinct map surrounding stations, to connect people to key local attractions and shopping centres;*

d) Encouraging and facilitating buskers to perform in public spaces and parks in close vicinity to Sydenham, Marrickville and Dulwich Hill stations;
e) Activations in the Calvert Street carpark, aligned with the Plug and Play program, and in the new public square adjacent to Dulwich Hill Station;
f) A shopfront window dressing competition, welcoming visitors to our suburbs; and
g) *Other low-cost activities or initiatives that support local businesses and showcase our business districts.*

Discussion

Activation Plan

The table below sets out Council's activation plan in response to Point 5 of the resolution, outlining proposed initiatives across the three precincts.

Initiative	Proposed Response	Lead / Budget Implications
a) Public domain activations (banners, posters, decorations)	This presents an opportunity to refresh the banner design within the Dulwich Hill Station precinct. A new suite of designs will be developed for use across banners, corflute signage and bunting, which will be distributed to businesses to support activation within the precinct. For Illawarra Road, a tailored design will be produced for use on bunting flags to assist businesses in decorating their shopfronts and venues. In addition, new banners are being installed along Marrickville Road as part of the Glow Up Program.	Economic Development and Communications and Engagement $12,000 from 26-27 Economic Development budget
b) Inner West Council pennants and collateral provided to businesses	Bunting and pennants will be distributed to businesses to support shopfront activation and participation in precinct-wide celebrations.	Economic Development $5,000 from 26-27 Economic Development budget
c) Wayfinding plan	Marrickville Station: Wayfinding pedestal signs with local area maps have recently been	Public Domain

Initiative	Proposed Response	Lead / Budget Implications
	installed at two locations along Illawarra Road, at the intersections with Schwebel Street and Petersham Road. Additional directional signage can be installed at key intersections to guide visitors to major destinations, including the library, town hall, Cooks River, and surrounding business precincts. Dulwich Hill Station: There is an opportunity to enhance wayfinding between the station, the GreenWay, the Cooks River, and the Dulwich Hill Village shopping centre on Marrickville Road. A precinct map sign could be installed in the new pedestrian plaza on the southern side of the station. Directional signage should focus on strengthening connections between the Metro station and the Dulwich Hill village via the GreenWay. Additional wayfinding signage will be installed along Marrickville and Sydenham Roads to direct pedestrians and complement the tourism strategy signage currently under development. Wayfinding signage may comprise a mix of permanent blade signs and temporary corflute signage installed on existing or new posts. Funding is required to support detailed design, including identification of sign locations and content, as well as fabrication and installation. The work will be delivered using in-house resources, with support from the graphics team, and will have implications for the broader public domain work program.	$30,000 (unfunded)
d) Encouraging and facilitating buskers	Unpaid busking is not consistent with Council's approach to supporting the creative community and live music sector within the LGA. Instead, it is recommended that paid	Creative Communities

Initiative	Proposed Response	Lead / Budget Implications
	performances by local musicians be supported at key Metro station locations following the opening, with live music incorporated into the activations outlined under item (e) below.	
e) Calvert Street car park and Dulwich Hill Station plaza activations	Calvert Street car park: Preliminary considerations indicate that an activation aligned with the Plug and Play program could be delivered, with a minimum cost of $30,000. Dulwich Hill Station Plaza: Given the small scale of the site, it is proposed that a two-week program of pop-up live music be delivered following the Metro opening.	Creative Communities $30,000 (unfunded) Economic Development $7,000 (unfunded)
f) Shopfront activation	It is proposed that bunting and posters be provided to businesses as a practical and accessible alternative to a competition. Businesses will be encouraged to use these materials to decorate their premises and contribute to precinct-wide celebrations marking the opening of the Metro.	Economic Development Delivered within the same $5,000 budget as Item 5b).
g) Other low-cost activities or initiatives to support local businesses and showcase our business districts	An online campaign will be delivered to showcase the business districts and attract visitors ahead of and following the Metro opening.	Communications and Engagement

Other Actions from the Resolution

Council has engaged with Service NSW in response to Point 3 of the resolution to progress a joint business doorknocking initiative aimed at identifying how best to support local businesses before and after the Metro opening. Service NSW has indicated its interest in participating, with further details, including timing, scope and resourcing, currently being developed.

In relation to Point 4 of the resolution, a range of public domain improvements are currently being developed for Illawarra Road, arising from existing Council resolutions and priorities. Proposed works include decorative lighting, installation of a parklet, decommissioning of existing artwork and delivery of a replacement mural near the station, as well as new street furniture.

At Dulwich Hill Station, a targeted review has identified minor works to be delivered ahead of the Metro opening, focusing on presentation, safety and routine maintenance rather than capital upgrades.

In response to Point 6 of the resolution, a letter from the General Manager was sent to the Minister for Transport, Music and Night-time Economy on 30 April 2026 seeking funding support for the proposed station activation initiatives.

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications

A number of items will be funded from the existing draft 2026/27 budget, however $67,000 remains unfunded which will result in updates to the Quarter 1 budget if State Government funding is not secured.

Conclusion

The proposed activation plan provides a coordinated and practical approach to supporting local businesses and enhancing the visitor experience ahead of the Metro opening. It focuses on improving presentation, wayfinding and activation, while responding to the disruption experienced during construction by positioning local centres to benefit from increased visitation and improved connectivity.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 7**

Title: **King Street Special Entertainment Precinct**

Author: Simone Plummer - Director Planning

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Endorse the Planning Proposal to amend the Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022 to establish a Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) in Newtown and St Peters and submit it to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces seeking a Gateway Determination under sections 3.22 and 3.34 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.**

2. **Place the Planning Proposal and draft Development Control Plan (DCP) amendments on public exhibition and undertake community consultation in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Framework and any Gateway Determination requirements, should the Planning Proposal receive a favorable Gateway Determination.**

3. **Requests delegation from the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to manage the plan making functions of the Planning Proposal.**

4. **Delegates authority to the General Manager to make minor and/or technical modifications to the Planning Proposal, DCP, and Special Entertainment Precinct Management Plan prior to exhibition.**

5. **Continues to work collaboratively with the City of Sydney to:**
    a) **Undertake joint community consultation; and**
    b) **Report post-exhibition findings to both Councils within the same calendar month.**

Executive Summary

This report:

- Seeks Council approval to submit a Planning Proposal to Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) for a Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) along King Street in Newtown and St Peters in partnership with the City of Sydney.
- Recognises King Street as a single, continuous cultural and entertainment corridor.

- Aims to enhance night-time economy (live music, performance, activity) while safeguarding residential amenity.
- Proposes sector-based controls: Northern sector (higher intensity, trading to 2am–4am); Southern sector (moderate activity, trading to midnight–2am).
- Incorporates reduced regulatory barriers and outlines next steps including Gateway determination by State Government before formal public exhibition.

Purpose

This report seeks Council endorsement to submit a Planning Proposal to State Government to establish a Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) along King Street in partnership with the City of Sydney, recognising King Street as a shared precinct for cultural and entertainment activity.

Strategic Direction

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

Background

King Street, Newtown is a long-established cultural, entertainment and economic corridor spanning Inner West and City of Sydney local government areas. Although divided administratively, the street operates as a single destination, supporting day and night activity through a mix of retail, hospitality, live music and late-night venues.

At the Council meeting held on 12 November 2024, Councill resolved the following in part, C1124(1) Item 11:

2. *That Council investigates opportunities to work with City of Sydney Council on a joint proposal that designates King Street, Newtown as an additional Special Entertainment Precinct.*
3. *That Council notes its early engagement for a month from 7 March to 7 April 2024 received overall support for the six new precincts (Balmain 66%, Dulwich Hill 90%, Leichhardt 84%, Marrickville North 94%, Marrickville Town Centre 91% and Rozelle 83%).*
4. *That Council reviews the additional public engagement schedule and considers bringing it forward earlier than February 2025.*

At the Council meeting held on 9 December 2025, Council resolved the following, C1225(1) Item 51:

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.*

Key principles endorsed were:

- Consistent planning and regulatory approach for clarity and certainty
- Alignment between councils to support live music and a safe, inclusive night-time economy
- Ongoing collaboration on planning, engagement and regulation

Work undertaken includes:

- Joint technical discussions on trading hours, sound controls and regulatory alignment
- Engagement with the Newtown–Enmore business community
- Review of existing SEPs to inform an evidence-based, locally responsive approach

The Planning Proposal was referred to the Inner West Local Planning Panel where it received their support *Attachment 4*.

Discussion

The proposed SEP supports the continued evolution of King Street as a vibrant, cultural and economic hub. It allows businesses to integrate live music and performance as part of daily operations while maintaining appropriate safeguards for residential amenity.

Precinct Boundary

The boundary focuses on properties along King Street, with limited inclusion of adjoining sites where they have strong functional links. Consideration was given to land use zoning, proximity to residential areas, acoustic impacts, and contribution to the night-time economy.

Sector-Based Approach

- **Northern sector**: Adjacent to Enmore Road SEP with established late-night activity near Newtown Station, supports higher intensity use. Trading hours extend to 2am, with eligible venues permitted until 4am. Higher sound thresholds apply.

Note: Properties on Australia Street are capped at 1am to limit impacts at the commercial-residential interface.

- **Southern sector**: More sensitive residential context; standard trading to midnight with extensions to 2am for live music venues under strict criteria. Lower sound limits apply.

Incentives for Live Music

The proposal leverages Liquor & Gaming NSW incentives, including reduced licence fees and extended trading hours, removing the need for separate development applications. Embedding these incentives in the framework ensures consistency with local controls and promotes uptake.

Collaboration with City of Sydney

Controls have been developed jointly to maintain consistency along the entire corridor. Consultation and implementation will also be coordinated to deliver a seamless experience for businesses and the community.

Next Steps

Pending a Gateway determination:

- Public exhibition of the Planning Proposal (*Attachment 1*), Precinct Management Plan (*Attachment 2*) and draft DCP amendments (*Attachment 3*)
- Joint community consultation with the City of Sydney and feedback assessment
- Report back to Council post exhibition
- 12-month management trial if adopted

Legal and Risk Implications

- Compliance with *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and State policies is required.
- Risk of community objection during consultation; mitigated through joint engagement and tailored controls.
- Implementation requires Gateway Determination and State approval, ensuring statutory compliance.

Financial Implications

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

Conclusion

The proposed King Street Special Entertainment Precinct offers a coordinated, evidence-based planning approach that balances economic activation with residential amenity.

Developed in collaboration with the City of Sydney, it supports a thriving night-time economy, promotes live performance, and delivers consistent regulation across boundaries.

By embedding State-led incentives and incorporating a 12-month trial period, the framework reduces barriers for businesses while protecting community interests. Endorsement of the Planning Proposal will allow its progression through formal assessment and public exhibition, ensuring further input before finalisation.

Attachments

1. Draft King Street SEP Planning Proposal Report

2. Draft Special Entertainment Precinct Management Plan

3. Draft Inner West DCP amendment - King Street Special Entertainment Precinct

4. Inner West Local Planning Panel Advice

Inner West Council

Planning Proposal

King Street Special Entertainment Precinct

IWC/PPAC/2026/0001

Planning proposal – King Street Special Entertainment Precinct

IWC/PPAC/2026/0001

Version 1

Version control table:

Version no.	Version 1			
Date	22 May 2026			
Milestone	Local Planning Panel			

PO Box 14, Petersham NSW 2049

Ashfield Service Centre: 260 Liverpool Road, Ashfield NSW 2131
Leichhardt Service Centre: 7-15 Wetherill Street, Leichhardt NSW 2040
Petersham Service Centre: 2-14 Fisher Street, Petersham NSW 2049

ABN 19 488 017 987

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Introduction

Inner West Council proposes to establish the King Street Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) centred on King Street, Newtown and the Princes Highway, St Peters to support the areas evolving role as one of Sydney's leading night-time and cultural destinations. This planning proposal expands Councils network of SEPs currently in operation in Balmain, Dulwich Hill, Enmore, Leichhardt, Marrickville, Marrickville North, and Rozelle.

Straddling the border of Inner West and the City of Sydney, the King Street SEP is a coordinated project between both Councils to reach a consistent policy approach on both sides of King Street.

King Street has long been recognised as a centre of culture, creativity and community life. While it is increasingly significant as a destination for late-night hospitality and live music, the proposal reinforces King Streets identity as a 24-hour precinct. The vision recognises the street's morning activity with cafes and bakeries, its service role for local residents providing groceries, florists and delis, and its all-day role as a place for fashion shopping, art galleries and lunchtime dining, while supporting its evening and late-night offerings as an entertainment and hospitality destination.

The SEP includes side streets where they contain businesses that contribute to the cultural offerings in Newtown such as Australia Street, Newtown which includes notable landmarks like the Courthouse Hotel and Continental Deli.

The SEP also reaches further south beyond King Street to include the Princes Highway in St Peters down to Campbell Street. This is an emerging destination currently undergoing significant redevelopment, including upcoming public domain works to narrow the road, install cycleways and widen the footpath for a better pedestrian experience, and outdoor dining opportunities.

This planning proposal seeks to amend the Inner West LEP 2022 (IWLEP 2022) to map the King Street SEP enabling Council to set trading hours and sound management framework for the SEP.

Trading hours are tailored to reflect the precincts different character areas. The existing core late-night trading area known as 'King Street Central' extends from Church Street down to Holt Street, extending Newtown Station and Pride Square to recognise the expanding cluster of live music venues, bars and entertainment uses and will allowing trading up to 4am without approval. Along King Street south and the Princes Highway where late-night trading is less concentrated and the neighbourhood is quieter, trading without approval is proposed until 2am. This aligns with City of Sydney's Councils complementary controls, ensuring consistent trading hours along the full King Street corridor regardless of the local government boundary.

Australia Street businesses are restricted till 1am without approval, reflecting the more residential nature of the street whilst giving the businesses there opportunity to benefit from the SEP.

Liquor licence trading hour incentives for venues that program regular live music are also built into the framework, extending the same incentives to DA trading hours, ensuring the objectives of the vibrancy reforms are realised in the King Street SEP. That being more live music, more opportunities for artists, a flourishing arts scene and better experiences for locals and visitors.

The trading hours and sound management plan are detailed in the King Street Special Entertainment Precinct Management Plan (Attachment 2). The draft DCP amendment (Attachment 3) updates the Inner West DCP to align trading hours and require new development to soundproof

against new entertainment sound criteria. The Inner West DCP is currently on exhibition, and it is envisaged that it will be adopted and the Marrickville DCP repealed prior to the finalisation of this planning proposal.

The proposal has strong strategic merit and aligns with Inner West Community Strategic Plan '*Our Inner West 2041*', the *Our Place Inner West: Local Strategic Planning Statement*, the Employment and Retail Lands Strategy 2020, the Eastern City District Plan, Draft Sydney Plan, and relevant Ministerial Directions. It balances economic and cultural opportunity with residential amenity through a bespoke sound plan and a monitoring and evaluation framework to manage unintended impacts.

With Gateway approval, the proposal will proceed to public exhibition alongside the management plan and DCP amendments. Following consideration of submissions, the LEP amendment will be finalised, and a year-long trial of the management plan will commence.

Background

Section 202 of the *Local Government Act 1993* was gazetted on 30 April 2021 enabling Councils to establish Special Entertainment Precincts (SEPs).
Inner West Council was the first to take advantage of this new legislation with the Enmore Road Special Entertainment Precinct. Initially run as a trial from September 2022, it was made permanent when gazetted in the IWLEP 2022 in December 2023. In 2025 six more SEPs were added to IWLEP 2022 in Balmain, Dulwich Hill, Leichhardt, Marrickville, Marrickville North, and Rozelle.

Aligned approach with the City of Sydney

In November 2024, Inner West Council resolved to investigate opportunities to work with City of Sydney Council on a joint proposal that designates King Street, Newtown as an additional Special Entertainment Precinct. In December 2025, Council further resolved to collaborate with the City of Sydney on a coordinated SEP for King Street, acknowledging its cross-boundary nature. The City of Sydney Council passed a similar resolution a their December 2025 Council meeting.

Key principles endorsed were:

- Consistent planning and regulatory approach for clarity and certainty
- Alignment between councils to support live music and a safe, inclusive night-time economy
- Ongoing collaboration on planning, engagement and regulation

The resolution recognised that a consistent policy approach between the two councils will provide clarity and certainty for local residents and businesses, strengthen delivery of the precinct, improve outcomes for live performance, and support shared objectives for a safe, inclusive and sustainable night-time economy.

The resolution noted the different approaches in trading hours and sound management between the Councils and that a unique approach for King Street be investigated given its position on the boundary between the two council areas.

Council staff have worked together to develop an aligned approach, jointly undertaking:

- Technical discussions on trading hours, sound controls and regulatory alignment
- Engagement with the Newtown–Enmore business community

- Review of existing SEPs to inform an evidence-based, locally responsive approach

This planning proposal reflects that direction. Trading hours are generally aligned with the City of Sydney's management plan, most notably allowing 2am trading across the entire King Street corridor. Incentives for live music have also been incorporated consistent with the City's approach. The trading hours permitted along King Street generally align with what is permitted on Enmore Road, whilst integrating with the City's live entertainment incentives.

Developing the proposal

In 2025 Council carried out a sound study with extensive testing of existing sound levels and modelling of scenarios to derive proposed sound levels that support the existing sound environment, live music and entertainment, and enable future growth in the sector, while protecting residential amenity.

For King Street specifically, Inner West have worked collaboratively with the City of Sydney on a generally aligned approach to trading hours and sound levels and have engaged with the Newtown Enmore Business Community to test the proposed approach.

Next steps

With Council and DPHI approval, the next step will be publicly exhibiting the planning proposal, alongside the precinct management plan and draft DCP amendments. Public consultation will be conducted concurrently with the City of Sydney wherever practicable, and will include consultation with business, residents, local organisations, and further consultation with the relevant agencies and local authorities.

Following public exhibition, the proposal will be brought back to Council prior to drafting and adoption of the planning controls. A year-long trial will be undertaken and assessed before finalisation of the management plan.

Part 1 Objectives and intended outcomes

Objectives

The objectives of this planning proposal are to:

- Amend the Inner West LEP 2022 to designate the subject area as a SEP
- Give effect to the draft King Street SEP Management Plan and Inner West DCP amendment

The objectives of the King Street SEP are to:

- Enable businesses to invest in and offer more live music, culture, entertainment and performance as part of their regular activities
- Foster vibrant, inclusive, mixed-use neighbourhoods that protects reasonable neighbourhood amenity
- Support the Central King Street area as a 24-hour precinct
- Improve quality, safety and diversity of the late-night offering
- Enhance economic outcomes, supporting businesses to thrive
- Streamline the process for businesses and Inner West Council to make it easier and more affordable to operate late night trading premises

To achieve the objectives, it is proposed to map each of the precinct under the IWLEP 2022 Special Entertainment Precincts mapping series, making Clause 6.32 of IWLEP 2022 applicable to the mapped lots. The intended mapping is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Intended outcomes

The intended outcomes of the planning controls are to introduce the following for the subject area:

- SEP trading hours which override development consents
- trading hour incentives for venues to provide live entertainment
- notification of special entertainment precincts on planning certificates and Inner West Councils website
- a sound plan with fixed maximum sound criteria
- a governance framework that responds to issues if they arise
- a monitoring and evaluation plan to measure the success of the special entertainment precinct, while also tracking potential unintended impacts

Part 2 Explanation of provisions

This planning proposal is for a new special entertainment precinct in Newtown and St Peters, extending along King Street, Newtown and the Princes Highway, St Peters between Church Street at the north and Campbell Street at the south. It also covers, commercial properties on Eliza Street, Australia Street and Bedford Street in Newtown. It will map these locations in the special entertainment precinct mapping series of the IWLEP 2022, thus giving effect to Clause 6.32 of the IWLEP 2022 to each mapped lot. Clause 6.32 of the IWLEP 2022 currently reads:

"6.32 Special entertainment precinct

(1) This clause applies to land identified as "Inner West Special Entertainment Precinct" on the Special Entertainment Precinct Map.

(2) For the Local Government Act 1993, section 202, a special entertainment precinct is established on the land to which this clause applies."

Special entertainment precinct management plan

Clause 202D(2) of the Local Government Act 1993 requires that:

"Before the special entertainment precinct is established, the council for the area in which the special entertainment precinct will be located must prepare a plan (a precinct management plan) that provides for the following –

(a) the trading hours for premises in the special entertainment precinct,

(b) the regulation of sound from entertainment activity from premises in the special entertainment precinct,

(c) that the process for managing complaints in relation to licensed premises in the proposed special entertainment precinct is the process set out in the Liquor Act 2007, Part 5, Division 3."

The draft King Street Special Entertainment Precinct Management Plan (the management plan) is provided in **Attachment 2**. In accordance with the *NSW Government Special Entertainment Precinct Guideline*, the management plan includes:

- a sound management framework including a plan for regulating noise from entertainment activity, for different locations in the SEP
- trading hours for licensed and unlicensed premises
- compliance processes for unlicensed premises
- compliance processes for licensed venues
- thresholds or local circumstances for when a SEP may be suspended or revoked and the processes that will be undertaken
- the exclusion of adult entertainment, sex service, restricted premises gaming areas in hotels and business premises primarily providing gambling services

The management plan is for the use of businesses, residents, Council, Liquor & Gaming NSW, and NSW Police in understanding their role and responsibilities in the management of late trading and entertainment sound in and around the King Street SEP.

The intent of the proposed amendment is to provide clarity to businesses, residents, developers, planners, and regulatory authorities on sound level expectations from entertainment sound in the precincts.

Draft Inner West Development Control Plan amendment

The draft Inner West Development Control Plan (DCP) amendment proposes updates to Inner West DCP to align it with the provisions of the King Street SEP, to ensure development in the area is

consistent with the objectives and intended outcomes of this planning proposal. With approval, the draft Inner West DCP amendment will be exhibited concurrently with the planning proposal.

Part 3 Justification

Section A – Need for the planning proposal

Q1. Is the planning proposal a result of an endorsed local strategic planning statement,strategic study, or report?

The planning proposal is a response to recent resolutions by Council, new legislation made by the State Government, and to achieve actions under the endorsed Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) and Employment and Retail lands Strategy (ERLS). It's also a result of the NSW State Government's plan to revitalise the NSW night-time economy, including the establishment of new SEPs and fulfillment of the NSW 24-hour Economy Strategy 2024.

Recent changes to state legislation as well as Council strategies, resolutions and other triggers that support the planning proposal are discussed below.

Special Entertainment Precincts under the Local Government Act 1993

On 30 April 2021 Section 202 of the *Local Government Act 1993* was gazetted. It enables the establishment of SEPs by a Council. This planning proposal has been developed in accordance with this legislation.

This legislation was further refined in December 2023 through the passing of the Vibrancy Reforms. This includes making Liquor and Gaming NSW the sole authority for entertainment sound related complaints, as well as enabling Council to grant additional trading hours to businesses without approval and clarify that the precinct management plan sound criteria overrides DA conditions.

Council resolutions

There have been two Council resolutions to establish the King Street SEP:

Resolution title	Date	Content
Update on planning proposal for Additional Special Entertainment Precincts	12 November 2024	• That Council investigates opportunities to work with City of Sydney Council on a joint proposal that designates King Street, Newtown as an additional Special Entertainment Precinct.
Notice of Motion: Coordination of the King Street SEP with City of Sydney	9 December 2025	1. That Council note Inner West Councils 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 Councils 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.

Local Strategic Planning Statement & Employment and Retail Lands Strategy

Endorsed in March 2020 by Council and the Greater Sydney Commission, the Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) sets out the vision for the Inner West in 2036 with a set of actions that to achieve that vision. Planning Priority 9 – "a thriving local economy" directly supports this planning proposal. Action 9.1 to implement the Employment and Retail Lands Strategy (ERLS) includes:

"Identifying areas for night-time economic activity and implement appropriate LEP/DCP controls that encourage a diverse night-time economy, including the provision of a clear policy position on the rights of existing venues and neighbouring residents that incorporates the 'agent of change' principle."

This is similarly addressed by two actions of the ERLS, specifically:

- **Action 1.8.1** Embed the agent of change principle into Inner West planning regulations to protect live music venues and late-night precincts as well as employment and industrial areas. Note that this principle states that a person or business (the agent) introducing a new land use is responsible for managing the impact of that change, and
- **Action 1.8.2** Identify areas with existing and expected higher noise levels, including both industrial and entertainment noise. Implement a means of managing the expectations of noise amongst existing and future residents in and around these areas.

Establishing the King Street SEP will directly achieve these actions. It is in an area with a vibrant and emerging night life with live entertainment, experiences, and hospitality offerings. Not only is it an area with existing night-time economic activity, there are also many existing venues including pubs, restaurants, cafes, small bars, artisan food and drink premises that are well suited to hosting live entertainment in the SEP. Putting in place plan to regulate sound by quantifying acceptable noise levels from venues will empower venues to program live entertainment , confident they can operate within defined sound limits. Trading hour allowances and incentives will also give further opportunities for businesses to participate in the night time economy and add to the vibrancy of the area.

SEPs also require the attenuation of certain types of development within and around the precincts. Under the proposed Inner West DCP amendment, sensitive land uses are required to attenuate against permitted sound levels from venues. Similarly, new venues are required to demonstrate they can comply with the allowable sound levels. This is an agent of change approach to the

management of entertainment sound as required by Action 1.8.1 of ERLS.

Q2. Is the planning proposal the best means of achieving the objectives or intendedoutcomes, or is there a better way?

Section 202C(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* states that "A special entertainment precinct may be established - by the council for the area in which the precinct will be located, by identifying the precinct in a local environmental plan that applies to the land on which the precinct will be located."

In September 2025, NSW Productivity and Equality Commission carried out a review of regulatory barriers impeding a vibrant 24-hour economy. The report found that businesses are constrained by regulations and rising costs. They concluded that SEPs can make it faster and simpler for councils and businesses to deliver entertainment and extended trading while managing local amenity.

Through the additional trading hours and incentives, a more balanced approach to entertainment sound compliance and greater flexibility for businesses to program entertainment and live music, the planning proposal will help achieve the intended outcome of enabling businesses to invest in and deliver more live music, culture, entertainment, and performance as part of their ongoing offer.

Trading hours in a precinct management plan can override those on a development consent. This will help to reduce the administrative burden on councils and businesses, making it easier and more affordable to operate late night trading premises. The management plan gives operational certainty, which will also help to enhance economic outcomes, supporting businesses to thrive.

Section B – Relationship to strategic framework

Q3. Will the planning proposal give effect to the objectives and actions of the applicableregional, or district plan or strategy (including any exhibited draft plans or strategies)?

The draft Sydney Plan is the new regional strategic plan, to replace the adopted Greater Sydney Regional Plan. The Sydney Plan will guide how the NSW Government manages growth in the Sydney region over the next 20 years. It covers 33 local government areas and lays out a plan for housing, infrastructure, jobs, sustainability and vibrant communities. The draft Plan was released in December 2025 and exhibited for public comment until February 2026, and is currently under review.

Response 6 of the draft Sydney Plan 'Create a more vibrant Sydney' is directly relevant to this proposal. Council action 6.3 is 'Establish special entertainment precincts where appropriate to accommodate critical community, arts, cultural and retail uses as part of Council-led precinct planning". This Proposal directly addresses that action.

Greater Sydney Regional Plan: A Metropolis of Three Cities

The Plan sets a 40-year vision (to 2056) and a 20-year plan to manage growth and change. It sets an overarching strategic planning policy to align land use, transport, and infrastructure outcomes for Greater Sydney concurrently with Future Transport 2056 (Transport for NSW) and State Infrastructure Strategy (Infrastructure NSW). The Plan provides a set of objectives under the 10 Directions set out in Directions for a Greater Sydney 2017-2056.

Objective 9 of the Plan states that "Stimulating the night-time economy supports dynamic places

and boosts local economies. This can generally occur in mixed-use centres with adequate noise control, locally appropriate operating hours and safe late-night travel options."

This planning proposal will assist in achieving this objective by making it easier for businesses to trade later in mixed-use centres, identifying locally appropriate trading hours. The proposal also ensures adequate noise control, through the management plan's sound criteria, which have been set in response to local context.

Eastern City District Plan

The Eastern City District Plan is a 20-year plan to manage growth in the context of economic, social, and environmental matters to achieve the 40-year vision for Greater Sydney. It further explores the objectives of the Greater Sydney Regional Plan as discussed above. Several planning priorities under the Plan are directly supported by this proposal. They include:

- E4 – Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich and socially connected communities.
- E6 – Creating and renewing great places and local centres and respecting the District's heritage. (Newtown is specifically identified as a distinctive dining and night-time precinct)
- E11 – Growing investment, business opportunities and jobs in strategic centres, and
- E13 – Supporting growth of targeted industry sectors.

In particular, Action 14 requires Councils to "Facilitate opportunities for creative and artistic expression and participation, wherever feasible with a minimum regulatory burden, including:

a. arts enterprises and facilities, and creative industries

b. interim and temporary uses

c. appropriate development of the night-time economy."

This planning proposal seeks to decrease the regulatory burden for artistic expression through incentive hours and for development of the night time economy. By designating most of our commercial and mixed use centres, the proposal aligns with plan's priorities of renewing great places and growing business opportunities and jobs in strategic centres.

Q4. Will the planning proposal give effect to a councils endorsed local strategic planning statement, or another endorsed local strategy or strategic plan?

Yes, the planning proposal is consistent with Our Inner West 2041 - Community Strategic Plan the endorsed Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), and the Employment and Retail Lands Strategy (ERLS).

Our Inner West 2041 - Councils Community Strategic Plan, 2025

The Our Inner West 2041 - Community Strategic Plan identifies the community's vision for the future, long-term goals, strategies to get there and how to measure progress towards them. Strategic direction 3 of the plan regards creative communities and the local economy. This planning proposal makes progress towards achieving several outcomes identified under this direction, including the following:

- Strategic Direction 3: Creative communities and a strong economy

- Each of the precincts represent opportunities for the creative and cultural industries.
- Live music is part of the Inner West's identity. Enmore/Newtown is the epicentre of the Inner West live music scene, renowned across Australia as a premier destination to experience live and local music. This framework will not only support the current venues through the precinct, but also encourage new venues to establish

Our Place Inner West - Local Strategic Planning Statement

The planning proposal gives partial effect to Planning Priority 9 – A thriving local economy, namely the following objectives under it:

- The local economy is diverse, strong, and resilient
- Inner West has a thriving and diverse evening and night-time economy
- Inner West continues to grow as a leading creative and cultural hub
- Main streets and centres are designed to be unique, lively, safe, and accessible

There is a single action under this planning priority, to implement the Employment and Retail Lands Strategy (ERLS), when approved. The ERLS includes actions relevant to this proposal. Theyhave been discussed within the answer to question one above.

Q5. Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable State Environmental Planning Policies?

The planning proposal is generally consistent with all the State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPP) in place. Consistency is demonstrated in the table below.

State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP)	Comment
SEPP (Housing) 2021	Consistent Higher noise attenuation standards will apply to all types of residential accommodation within and around the precincts. This will ensure housing is built to withstand current and future entertainment sound levels for the amenity of residents. The DCP controls proposed to give effect to this are not in conflict with the SEPP.
SEPP (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021	Consistent The SEP is located on a high traffic carriageway with peak hour clearways, buses, private vehicles, and trucks. Residential accommodation and other sensitive receivers would already require acoustic attenuation to ensure sensitive receivers can co-locate with loud roadnoise. Proposed DCP controls to require attenuation of sensitive receivers will not conflict with the requirements under the SEPP. Although required anyway, the DCP controls specifically

	state that consideration of aircraft, road and rail noise must be considered and addressed separately to entertainment venue noise.
SEPP (Primary Production) 2021	Consistent
SEPP (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021	Consistent
SEPP (Resilience and Hazards) 2021	Consistent
SEPP (Resources and Employment) 2021	Consistent

Q6. Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable Ministerial Directions (s.9.1 directions)?

Section 9.1 directions are directions to councils from the Minister for Planning, Industry and Environment that need to be considered or given effect to in the preparation of draft LEPs.

The planning proposal has been assessed against each Ministerial direction. The consistency ofthe planning proposal with these directions is shown in the table below.

Directions under s.9.1 (2)	**Comment**
1.1 Implementation of Regional Plans	Not applicable
1.2 Development of Aboriginal Land Council Land	Not applicable
1.3 Approval and Referral Requirements	Consistent. The proposal will decrease the need for development applications, through trading hours in the management plan which override development consents. Therefore, approval and referral requirements will be reduced.
1.4 Site Specific Provisions	Consistent. No additional land uses or changes tozoning are proposed under this planning proposal.
1.5 – 1.22 Place Based Directions	Not applicable
3.1 Conservation Zones	Not applicable
3.2 Heritage Conservation	Consistent No changes are proposed which would result in negative impacts to heritage conservation.

3.3 Sydney Drinking Water Catchments	Not applicable
3.4 Application of C2 and C3 Zones and Environmental Overlays in Far North Coast LEPs	Not applicable
3.5 Recreational Vehicle Areas	Not applicable
3.6 Strategic Conversation Planning	Not applicable
3.7 Public Bushland	Not applicable
3.8 Willandra Lakes Region	Not applicable
3.9 Sydney Harbour Foreshores and Waterways Area	Not applicable
3.10 Water Catchment Protection	Not applicable
4.1 Flooding	Not applicable
4.2 Coastal Management	Not applicable
4.3 Planning for Bushfire Protection	Not applicable
4.4 Remediation of Contaminated Land	Not applicable
4.5 Acid Sulfate Soils	Not applicable
4.6 Mine Subsidence and Unstable Land	Not applicable
5.1 Integrated Land Use and Transport	Yes The proposal supports the continued growth of appropriately zoned land. The precinct is located in an area well serviced by public transport, including late night public transport options.
5.2 Reserving Land for Public Purposes	Not applicable
5.3 Development Near Regulated Airports and Defence Airfields	Not applicable

5.4 Shooting Ranges	Not applicable
6.1 Residential Zones	Yes The proposal will not reduce the capacity of land within the precincts for residential development. It will ensure future residential accommodation developed in the area is designed to mitigate against entertainment sound, preserving adequate amenity for the enjoyment of future residents.
6.2 Caravan Parks and Manufactured Home Estates	Not applicable
7.1 Business and Industrial Zones	Consistent. The proposal will support the operation and objectives of land zoned for employment, commercial, services, retail, and industry by making it easier to trade later and making the acceptable sound levels coming from premises clear to businesses and residents. Council expects this proposed special entertainment precinct to increase business confidence and lead to the establishment of new businesses.
7.2 Reduction is non-hosted short-term rental accommodation period	Not applicable
7.3 Commercial and Retail Development alongthe Pacific Highway, North Coast	Not applicable
8.1 Mining, Petroleum and Extractive Industries	Not applicable
9.1 Rural Zones	Not applicable
9.2 Rural Lands	Not applicable
9.3 Oyster Aquaculture	Not applicable
9.4 Farmland of State and Regional Significanceon the NSW Far North Coast	Not applicable

Section C – Environmental, social and economic impact

Q7. Is there any likelihood that critical habitats or threatened species, populations orecological

communities, or their habitats, will be adversely affected as a result of the proposal?

No.

Q8. Are there any other likely environmental effects as a result of the planning proposal andhow are they proposed to be managed?

Increased patronage to existing live music venues and the potential establishment of new venues that will draw their own audiences may lead to indirect environmental impacts like an increase in noise and littering.

Any additional noise generated by venues from amplified sound and patron noise from within venues will be regulated and enforced under the management plan. The compliance procedures for such incidents are outlined in this plan. Regulating this environmental effect is at the core of this planning proposal.

Q9. Has the planning proposal adequately addressed any social and economic effects?

The economic and social impacts resulting from the planning proposal are expected to be positive.

Nightlife and creative industries have faced significant disruption from past lockout laws, which restricted trading hours and reduced opportunities for late-night cultural activity. The COVID-19 pandemic compounded these challenges, leading to prolonged closures, job losses, and later, rising costs. Introducing special entertainment precincts is one of a series of measures Inner West has undertaken to address these impacts and support night life and creative industries.

In September 2025, NSW Productivity and Equality Commission carried out a review of regulatory barriers impeding a vibrant 24-hour economy. The report found that businesses are constrained by regulations and rising costs. They concluded that special entertainment precincts can make it faster and simpler for councils and businesses to deliver entertainment and extended trading while managing local amenity.

Through the incentive hours, the planning proposal will help achieve the intended outcome of enabling businesses to invest in and deliver more live music, culture, entertainment, and performance as part of their ongoing offer. Trading hours in a precinct management plan can override those on a development consent. This will help to reduce the administrative burden on councils and businesses, making it easier and more affordable to operate late night trading premises. The management plan gives operational certainty, which will also help to enhance economic outcomes, supporting businesses to thrive.

Nevertheless, there is potential for unintended consequences, such as:

- Increased antisocial behaviour
- Loss of residential amenity
- Homogenisation of the area (loss of day trading business, loss of small or independent business, etc)
- Lack of affordability / inclusion of offer

The management plan includes a monitoring and evaluation framework. Indicators and data sources have been identified for these potential unintended consequences. They will be monitored on a regular basis and reviewed by the precinct working group, with the potential to adjust the

policy, or suspend or revoke the special entertainment precincts if needed.

Section D – State and Commonwealth interests

Q10. Is there adequate public infrastructure for the planning proposal?

The proposal does not change development potential, so any impact on requirements for public infrastructure would be minor.

The proposal is likely to result in an increase in footfall in the King Street, Newtown precinct, particularly at night. This precinct has good public transport accessibility, including rail, buses and nightrider buses. It is also well supported by taxi and rideshare services.

Q11. What are the views of State and Commonwealth public authorities consulted inaccordance with the Gateway determination?

In line with the *NSW Government Special Entertainment Precinct Guideline*, the following organisations were notified of our intention to designate special entertainment precincts and consulted on the draft proposal:

- Office of the 24-Hour Commissioner
- Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
- Liquor & Gaming NSW
- NSW Police
- City of Sydney Council (proposed SEP on shared boundary)

There is no objection to the proposal on the part of these public authorities.

Part 4 Mapping

Updates to the Special Entertainment Precinct map under the IWLEP 2022 are required to meet the intended outcomes of the planning proposal. These maps are included in **Attachment 1**.

Part 5 Community Consultation

Agency and local authority consultation

In line with the NSW Government Special Entertainment Precinct Guideline, the following organisations were notified of our intention to designate special entertainment precincts and consulted on the draft proposal:

- Office of the 24-Hour Commissioner
- Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
- Liquor & Gaming NSW
- NSW Police
- City of Sydney

Coordination with City of Sydney Council

In line with the Council resolution of 9 December 2025, Inner West has worked collaboratively with The City of Sydney on the King Street Special Entertainment Precinct, recognising that the precinct spans both local government areas and that residents, businesses and visitors experience King Street as one continuous street. The two councils have worked together on a generally aligned approach to trading hours and sound levels, ensuring consistent controls relating to trading hours along the full length of the King Street corridor regardless of local government boundary. Officers from both councils have met regularly to share evidence, align approaches to sound assessment and trading hour proposals, and ensure that consultation, communications and rollout of the precinct are coordinated. The City of Sydney has passed an equivalent motion in support of this coordinated approach, and public exhibition will be conducted concurrently with the City of Sydney where practicable.

Engagement with the Newtown Enmore Business Community

The Newtown Enmore Business Community (NEBC) has been engaged throughout the development of the proposal. As a peak business representative body for King Street and the surrounding area, the NEBC has provided valuable local knowledge about hospitality, retail and cultural businesses operating in Newtown, the lived experience of trading in the precinct, emerging business clusters off King Street, and opportunities and challenges for the night-time economy in Newtown. The NEBC nominated a number of premises and side-street locations for inclusion in the precinct, which the Inner West and the City of Sydney have reviewed on their merits and which have informed targeted refinements to the proposed precinct boundary. The NEBC will continue to be engaged through public exhibition and implementation.

Future consultation

With Council approval and DPHI gateway determination, the next step will be public exhibition of this planning proposal, alongside the management plan and DCP amendment. Public consultation will be conducted concurrently with the City of Sydney wherever practicable, and will include notification of affected parties and consultation with business, residents, visitors, local organisations, and further consultation with the relevant agencies and local authorities.

Part 6 Project timeline

Action	Date
Gateway Determination	Q3 2026
Public exhibition and government agency consultation	Commence Q3 2026
Consideration of submissions	Q3 2026
Post exhibition consideration of proposal by Council	Q4 2026
Drafting of LEP provisions	Q4 2026
Finalisation of LEP and DCP and forwarding to Department of Planning and Environment for notification	Q4 2026

Year-long trial commences	Q1 2027
Year-long trial ends	Q1 2028

Attachment 1 – Special Entertainment Precinct map

Attachment 2 - King Street Special Entertainment Precinct Management Plan

Attachment 3 – Draft amendment - section 2.13 of the Inner West DCP

INNER WEST

King Street Special Entertainment Precinct Management Plan

V1

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Title	**King Street Special Entertainment Precinct Management Plan**
Summary	This Management Plan sets out how entertainment sound and trading hours are managed within the King Street Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP). It aims to balance a vibrant night-time economy with the reasonable expectations of residents. The Plan: • establishes trading hours and associated incentives • sets clear and consistent sound criteria • defines the roles of key stakeholders, including residents, businesses, Council, Liquor & Gaming NSW and NSW Police • outlines how complaints about entertainment sound are managed The SEP spans both Inner West Council and City of Sydney areas. This Plan has been prepared jointly to ensure a consistent approach across the precinct.
Document Type	Management plan
Relevant Strategic Plan Objective	• Strategic Direction 3: Creative communities and a strong economyStrategic Direction 5: Progressive responsive and effective civic leadership.
Legislative Reference	• *Local Government Act 1993* • *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* • *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* • *Liquor Act 2007*
Related Council Documents	• *Model Code of ConductGood Neighbour PolicyInner West Local Environmental Plan 2022Inner West Development Control Plan 2026*City of Sydney's King Street special entertainment precinct management plan
Version Control	V1 – Draft for consultation

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1 Introduction

The King Street Special Entertainment Precinct is centred on King Street, Newtown and extends into the Princes Highway, St Peters.

King Street is a vibrant, inclusive destination known for its diverse businesses, live music and cultural activity. It supports a mix of daytime and night-time uses and is a key entertainment destination in Sydney. The precinct fosters a welcoming atmosphere for all people, where culture, creativity, and community come together.

Although the precinct spans the Inner West and City of Sydney local government areas, it operates as a single destination. Both councils have aligned their approach to ensure consistent rules for businesses, residents and visitors.

2 Purpose

This Plan supports a diverse and active precinct while protecting residential amenity.

It aims to:

- support a diversity of businesses including both a vibrant daytime economy and a thriving night-time scene with live music, performance and cultural activity
- provide clear and consistent rules for businesses and residents
- enable the precinct to function as both a place to live and visit

The Plan sets:

- trading hours for businesses
- sound criteria for entertainment activity

Where this plan applies

This plan applies to land identified in the King Street special entertainment precinct under the *Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022*.

Entertainment Sound

The Plan:

- regulates sound from entertainment activity within business premises
- does not regulate:
  a. other types of sound such as mechanical, construction or waste-related sound
  b. temporary outdoor events or busking
  c. sound from private homes

Trading hours

The Plan:

- sets trading hours for all premises (licensed and unlicensed)

- prevails over any condition of development consent that imposes more restrictive trading hours
- does not reduce approved hours in any condition of development consent that permits longer trading hours
- allows applications for extended hours through the DA process
- does not regulate liquor licence trading hours – these continue to be managed by Liquor & Gaming NSW

Management and Compliance

The Plan:

- sets Council's approach to governing, monitoring and evaluating the SEP. Council is the lead regulator for entertainment sound from unlicensed premises.
- establishes processes for regulating unlicensed premises
- does not regulate licensed premises noise complaints. Liquor & Gaming NSW is the lead regulator for entertainment sound from licenced premises.

Exclusions

The plan does not apply to:

- adult entertainment or *sex services premises*
- *restricted premises*
- gaming areas or premises primarily used for gambling

3 Definitions

Term	Definition
Ambient noise level	The ambient noise level is the existing sound level in an area, usually measured using the equivalent continuous sound level (Leq). It includes the background sound and intermittent sounds.
Background noise level	The background level is the baseline sound level in an area or the 'urban hum'. It is roughly the level of the quietest periods during breaks between intermittent sounds such as passing cars or birds. It is usually measured using L90.
dBA	A-weighted decibels (dBA) measure in way that reflects how the human ear hears different frequencies. This scale matches well with how people experience loudness. An increase or decrease of about 10dB sounds roughly twice as loud or half as loud, while a change of 2 to 3dB is barely noticeable.
Decibel (dB)	Decibel (dB) is the unit used for measuring noise levels.

Term	Definition
Entertainment sound	Includes sound from music, other types of entertainment such as karaoke or trivia and patron noise.
Frequency	The rate of repetition of a sound wave. Frequency is measured in Hertz (Hz), or cycles per second. Human hearing ranges from around 20Hz to 20kHz (2000Hz).
Habitable room	Spaces within residential accommodation that occupants spend extended periods of time in for relaxation and sleep. For the purposes of this plan, that includes bedrooms, living rooms, sitting rooms and dedicated study rooms. It does not include hallways, kitchens, dining rooms, bathrooms or garages.
Indoor trading areas	Internal floor space that is fully enclosed and meets the definition of gross floor area (GFA) under the *Inner West LEP 2022*.
L10 (period)	This is the sound level that is exceeded for 10% of the measurement period. This is commonly accepted as the maximum noise levels.
L90 (period)	This is the sound level that is exceeded for 90% of the measurement period. This is commonly accepted as the background noise level or typical minimum noise level.
LAeq (period)	This is the average noise level over a measurement period, adjusted to reflect how the human ear hears sound. It represents the total sound energy over that time and expresses it as one continuous average level.
Low frequency	Long wavelength sound associated with low musical notes, bass and rumble. The audible low frequency octave bands of interest in room acoustics and sound insulation reviews are usually from 31.5Hz to 125Hz.
Octave band	The most used frequency bands are octave bands, in which the centre frequency of each band is twice that of the band below it.
Outdoor trading areas	Include all external dining areas on private or public land including courtyards, beer gardens, rooftops, balconies, colonnades, verandas, footpath dining areas or on-road dining areas.

Term	Definition
Sensitive Receiver	A property affected by entertainment sound. Most often the receiver is residential accommodation, but it could also be health services facility, place of public worship, tourist and visitor accommodation or information and education facilities.
Venue	A business of any type (including food and beverage, entertainment, retail) which is or could be the source of entertainment sound.

4 Location

Within Inner West Council local government area, the SEP includes:

- King Street, Newtown
- Princes Highway, St Peters (St Peters Station to Campbell Road)
- Properties fronting Pride Square
- Commercial land on Australia Street and Eliza Street

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Figure 1: King Street Special Entertainment Precinct

5 Objectives

The objectives of the SEP are to:

1. Support businesses to provide live music, performance and entertainment
2. Foster vibrant, inclusive mixed-use neighbourhoods
3. Improve the quality, safety and diversity of day and night activity
4. Support local economic growth
5. Simplify planning and approval processes for late trading

6 Trading Hours

Businesses may trade up to the hours set out in this Plan.

These hours:

- override development consent conditions where those hours are more restrictive
- do not reduce existing approved hours where they are more permissive
- do not affect liquor licence hours

Licensed premises must comply with trading hours imposed by Council, either through a development consent or this Plan (where it overrides development consent), as well as liquor licence trading hours. Where liquor licence trading hours are more restrictive than Council imposed trading hours, the licence holder must apply to Liquor & Gaming NSW to vary the licence.

Businesses may apply for trading hours beyond those set out in this Plan through a development application (see Section 2.13 of the Inner West DCP).

Identifying the trading hours that apply to a business

Precinct Areas

Within Inner West LGA, King Street SEP is divided into three precincts for the purpose of applying trading hours:

- King Street Central (green)
- King Street South and St Peters (blue)
- Australia Street (purple)

To identify which precinct a business is located in, refer to the map in Figure 1 or on Council's website – [link to be inserted].

Applicable Trading Hours

Trading hours vary by precinct and whether use is indoor or outdoor. Refer to:

- Table 1 – Trading hours for *indoor areas*
- Table 2 – Trading hours for *outdoor areas*

Business categories

SEP trading hours also vary across three categories of businesses in each precinct:

Category A

- Licensed venues with capacity over 120 patrons
- Large performance venues (over 250 patrons)

Category B

- Smaller licensed venues (up to 120 patrons) or unlicensed premises with potential amenity impacts (such as such unlicensed restaurants, gyms in residential buildings, takeaway food shops and convenience stores)
- Performance venues up to 250 patrons

Category C

- Unlicensed retail and business premises. Examples include grocery stores, clothing stores, bookstores, homewares, dry cleaners, banks and hairdressers.
- Excludes takeaways, cafes and restaurants, convenience stores, gyms in residential buildings and convenience stores which fall within Category B.

Table 1: Trading Hours for Indoor Trading Areas

Area	Trading Provision	Category A	Category B	Category C
King Street Central	**SEP trading hours**	6am – midnight	6am – 2am	6am – 4am
	Program incentive*	Additional to 1am	Additional to 3am	-
	Dedicated venue*	Additional to 2am	Additional to 4am	-
King Street South and St Peters	**SEP trading hours**	6am – midnight	6am – 2am	6am – 2am
	Program incentive*	Additional to 1am	-	-
	Dedicated venue*	Additional to 2am	-	-
Australia Street	**SEP trading hours** *no approval needed*	6am - midnight	6am - midnight	6am – 1am

Area	Trading Provision	Category A	Category B	Category C
	Program incentive*	Additional to 1am	Additional to 1am	-
	Dedicated venue*	Additional to 1am	Additional to 1am	-

*See heading below for further details on program incentives and dedicated venues

Table 2: Trading Hours for Outdoor Trading Areas

Weekdays (Sun – Thurs)	Weekends (Fri, Sat & days before a public holiday
8am – 11pm	8am - midnight

Live music and performance incentives

Eligible venues may receive:

- 80% reduction in liquor licence fees
- Extended trading hours:
  - Up to 2 additional hours on performance nights, to the maximum hours specified for ***dedicated venues*** in Table 1 above
  - Up to 1 additional hour where regular programming occurs, to the maximum hours specified for ***program incentives*** in Table 1 above

Eligibility is determined by Liquor & Gaming NSW. To access these incentives, businesses must meet Liquor & Gaming NSW's eligibility criteria and be included on its published list of approved venues. Applications can be made via the Liquor and Gaming NSW website.

Once a business is on the approved list, the incentive trading hours set out in Table 1 prevail over any more restrictive conditions of development consent. A modification to the development consent is not required to access the **dedicated venue** or **program incentive** hours.

7 Sound Plan

Objectives

- To support businesses that provide live music and entertainment while protecting reasonable neighbourhood and residential amenity
- To provide operational certainty and protect venues from unreasonable noise complaints
- To ensure the management of SEPs recognises and responds to its unique context and future desired character
- To have sound criteria which are measurable and easily applicable for regulators

Approach

The Plan:

- sets fixed sound limits across mapped Sound Category Areas (SCAs)
- varies limits by:
  - location
  - time of day

Time periods

- Day/evening: 7am–10pm
- Early night: 10pm–midnight
- Late night: midnight–2am
- Early morning: 2am–7am

Sound levels are typically measured at the boundary of the affected property. However internal criteria also apply where the venue and receive share walls or are in the same building.

Expectations

The King Street SEP is a lively mixed-use neighbourhood. Our approach to the SEP aims to balance more live music, activity and nightlife with the reasonable expectation of residential amenity.

This plan provides sound level limits for compliance and regulation. It also sets expectations to proactively manage sound. Everyone has a role to play in keeping this balance.

Venues

Must take reasonable steps to minimise impacts, including:

- managing sound systems
- closing doors/windows when required

- adding acoustic seals to doors and windows
- monitoring sound levels
- managing patron behaviour
- setting up outdoor dining so people sitting together are close and tables are small to help reduce sound levels
- responding to complaints
- adjusting performance or operational settings when issues arise

Venues that already have Plans of Management (PoMs), development consents or acoustic reports with recommended operating conditions, such as using sound limiters and closing doors and windows at specific times, are to continue using these measures to minimise disturbance.

The best way to manage sound is at the source. If you're renovating, consider acoustic upgrades that support long-term compliance, improve the experience for your customers and help maintain a lively, well-managed nightlife environment.

New or significantly changed venues must manage sound in line with Section 2.13 of the Inner West DCP.

If you're opening a new venue or relocating, it helps to think about this sound plan early when choosing a site. Picking the right location can reduce how much acoustic treatment you need and may allow more entertainment activity. Suitable sites for more intense entertainment activity are usually:

- further away or well shielded from homes
- in louder sound category areas (SCA KS1, SCA KS2 and, SCAs 1 and 2) and away from quieter areas (SCAs 3 and 4)
- have entry and exit points on main streets rather than residential streets
- close to good public transport
- in buildings with strong acoustic performance
- located in basements

Residents

In a busy city, it's normal to hear some entertainment activity. Our sound management approach and expectations change with the time of day:

- 7am to 10pm – flexible to support live music and activity
- 10pm to midnight – a transition period
- Midnight to 2am - an extended transition period on weekends in high activity areas
- after 2am – stricter setting to protect residential amenity.

Residents are also expected to take reasonable steps to manage everyday entertainment sound in their homes. Practical options include:

- using a fan, air conditioner or white/pink noise device to help mask sound
- adding acoustic seals to doors and windows
- closing windows when it makes sense to do so

Alterations and additions to existing homes and new homes that require a development application to Council that are located within a SCA may need to incorporate sound attenuating measures. Please see Section 2.13 of the Inner West DCP.

If you're seriously or unreasonably disturbed by entertainment sound:

- get more information about making a noise complaint for a **licensed venue** by visiting the Liquor & Gaming NSW website
- get more information about making a noise complaint for an **unlicensed venue** by visiting the City of Sydney website.

Sound Category Areas

There are six Sound Category Areas (SCAs) in the sound plan designed to balance night time activity with residential amenity.

King Street and the Princes Highway are covered by the SCA KS1 and KS2 sound categories, and the side and back streets are covered by SCA 2-4. SCA KS 1 is the highest area, and SCA 4 is the lowest. SCA 4 applies to all sites that are not otherwise mapped with an SCA.

The criteria that apply are based on the SCA applying to the receiver, not the SCA of the venue creating the sound.

Identify the SCA that applies to a property in Figures 2 – 4 below. SCA is unmapped meaning, street facing boundaries without an SCA mapped apply the SCA 4 criteria.

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Figure 2: Northern King Street and Australia Street Sound Category Area mapping

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Figure 3: Southern King Street Sound Category Area mapping

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Figure 4: St Peters Sound Category Area mapping

Sound criteria for venues

The sound criteria that apply depend on the location and type of receiver.

Entertainment sound from venues in a SEP must not exceed the sound criteria in Tables 3 and 4, as measured at public land fronting boundary of the residential receiver.

The criteria apply to the total sound emission from patrons and music (amplified and unamplified) both inside the venue and within designated outdoor areas.

The criteria apply to the cumulative level of all venues. In areas with multiple venues, the contribution from each individual venue should be at least 3dB below the values in Tables 3 and 4.

The sound criteria do not apply to outdoor patron sound between 7am and 10pm when this is the only source of sound. This includes patron sound from outdoor dining on public streets, and from outdoor areas within a premises. The criteria do apply to outdoor patron sound between 10pm and 7am the following morning.

If the assessment location is not accessible for measurement, or if the entertainment level at the assessment location cannot be measured due to extraneous noise, the sound level can be calculated by a qualified acoustic consultant based on measurements at the venue and at interim locations.

If the receiver is not residential, entertainment sound from venues must not exceed the sound criteria in Table 3 with the adjustments in Table 5. If the adjustment results in a value which exceeds 75dB, then 75dB should be used as the applicable criteria. In areas with multiple venues, the minus 3dB adjustment should be made before the adjustments in Table 5.

Measured externally

The criteria in Table 3 apply at the street fronting boundary of the sensitive receiver at 1.5m above ground level. In the event the entertainment sound is affecting a habitable room at the rear of the building with no street fronting boundary adjacent, the measurement should be taken at the nearest street fronting boundary of another property between the habitable room and the venue as drawn on a map with a straight line. The SCA applying to that street fronting boundary will become the assessable sound criteria.

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Table 3: Sound Criteria – measured externally (cumulative levels, Laeq for dBA and Lzeq for octave bands)

Sound Category Area (SCA)	Days of the week	Day/Evening (7am–10pm)				Early night (10pm–midnight)				Late night (midnight–2am)				Early morning (2am–7am)			
		dBA	Octave bands – dB			dBA	Octave bands – dB			dBA	Octave bands – dB			dBA	Octave bands – dB		
			31.5	63	125		31.5	63	125		31.5	63	125		31.5	63	125
SCA KS1	Sun 6pm– Thu 6pm	**68**	67	69	69	**60**	63	64	64	**55**	59	55	55	**50**	59	52	52
	Thu 6pm–Sun 6pm	**68**	67	69	69	**65**	65	67	67	**57**	59	57	57	**55**	59	55	55
SCA KS2	Sun 6pm– Thu 6pm	**65**	65	66	66	**60**	63	64	64	**52**	59	52	52	**50**	59	52	52
	Thu 6pm–Sun 6pm	**65**	65	67	67	**63**	65	67	67	**55**	59	55	55	**50**	59	52	52
SCA1	Sun 6pm– Thu 6pm	**65**	69	68	66	**60**	64	63	61	**55**	59	58	56	**50**	59	52	53
	Thu 6pm–Sun 6pm	**65**	69	68	66	**65**	69	68	66	**60**	64	63	61	**55**	59	52	53
SCA2	Sun 6pm– Thu 6pm	**60**	64	63	61	**55**	59	58	56	**50**	54	50	46	**50**	54	50	46
	Thu 6pm–Sun 6pm	**65**	69	68	66	**60**	64	63	61	**55**	59	58	56	**50**	54	50	46
SCA3	Sun 6pm– Thu 6pm	**55**	59	58	56	**50**	54	50	46	**45**	49	45	41	**45**	49	45	41
	Thu 6pm–Sun 6pm	**55**	59	58	56	**55**	59	58	56	**50**	54	50	46	**45**	49	45	41
SCA4 – unmapped	Sun 6pm– Thu 6pm	**50**	54	50	46	**50**	54	50	46	**45**	49	45	41	**45**	49	45	41
	Thu 6pm–Sun 6pm	**55**	59	58	56	**50**	54	50	46	**45**	49	45	41	**45**	49	45	41

Sound criteria where internal measurement is required

Internal sound criteria in Table 4 are only used when the external criteria in Table 3 aren't suitable. This includes situations where the receiver is structurally connected to the venue (for example, sharing a wall or located in the same building) and noise travels mainly through internal structures.

The internal sound criteria apply inside the most-affected area of a habitable room of the receiver, 1.5m above the floor and at least 1m from any surfaces.

The internal sound criteria in Table 4 applies to residential accommodation across all SCAs. For non-residential sensitive receivers, refer to Table 5. Adjustments detailed in Table 5 are to be made to the criteria in Table 4.

Windows and doors should be closed for internal criteria assessment.

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Table 4: Sound criteria – measured internally (cumulative levels, Laeq for dBA and Lzeq for octave bands

Sound Category Area (SCA)	Days of the week	Day/Evening (7am–10pm)				Early night (10pm–midnight)				Late night (midnight–2am)				Early morning (2am-7am)			
		dBA	Octave bands – dB			dBA	Octave bands – dB			dBA	Octave bands – dB			dBA	Octave bands - dB		
			31.5	63	125		31.5	63	125		31.5	63	125		31.5	63	125
SCA KS1	Sun 6pm– Thu 6pm	**53**	62	60	57	**45**	58	55	52	**40**	54	46	43	**35**	54	43	40
	Thu 6pm–Sun 6pm	**53**	62	60	57	**50**	60	58	55	**42**	54	48	45	**40**	54	46	43
SCA KS2	Sun 6pm– Thu 6pm	**50**	60	57	54	**45**	58	55	52	**37**	54	43	40	**35**	54	43	40
	Thu 6pm–Sun 6pm	**50**	60	58	55	**48**	60	58	55	**40**	54	46	43	**35**	54	43	40

Table 5: Non-residential receiver sound criteria adjustments

Receiver type	Basis	Adjustment (relevant to basis)			
		Broadb and L_{Aeq} criteria	Octave band L_{Zeq} criteria		
		dBA	31.5 Hz	63 Hz	125 Hz
Tourist and visitor accommodation (including hotels, motels, backpackers' accommodation and serviced apartments)	Sound criteria the relevant time period and SCA	+ 8dB	+ 4dB	+ 6dB	+ 6dB
Hospitals (as measured from a ward or sleeping room)	Sound criteria the relevant time period and SCA	+ 5dB	+ 2dB	+ 3dB	+ 3dB
Schools (as measured from a classroom)	Only the day/evening criteria in the relevant SCA	+ 0dB	+ 0dB	+ 0dB	+ 0dB
Commercial premises (including business, office and retail premises)	Only the day/evening criteria in the relevant SCA	+ 10dB	+ 5dB	+ 7dB	+ 7dB
Places of public worship, educational establishment, and health services facilities and other land uses (other than those stated above)	Only the day/evening criteria in the relevant SCA	+ 5dB	+ 2dB	+ 3dB	+ 3dB

Compliance measurement guidance

Compliance measurements should be conducted at a time and day considered to be representative of the typical worst-case impact. A valid measurement should be at

least 15 minutes long, with allowance for post-processing to exclude data samples affected by extraneous noise. This may result in reporting a shorter duration Leq for measured venue sound.

Measuring venue sound output in real conditions can be difficult because of other sources of sound. This is especially true at night, when the criteria focus on protecting resident's acoustic amenity. In most cases, an experienced acoustic specialist will need to establish methods to estimate the venue's noise contribution.

An Leq criterion is used because it's consistent and can be used in calculations, such as adding or subtracting noise sources. At the same time, existing ambient noise – such as traffic, rail, ferries, aircraft and mechanical plant – can influence the readings at the sensitive receiver.

Measurements taken at the sensitive receiver will often need to be supported by further measurements closer to the venue. These can be used to develop transfer functions that help identify how much of the sound at the sensitive receiver is coming from the venue.

A sound level meter will usually record L1, L10 and Leq. Looking at L1 and L10 can help distinguish steady, music-type sounds from other background noise. An experienced operator will also note which sounds are dominant during the measurement and which ones are likely to influence the Leq reading.

In the case where external criteria apply but direct measurement is not possible at the assessment location, the calculation of sound level at the assessment location can be done by measuring at the venue and/or interim locations and calculating sound reduction of the airborne propagation (e.g., distance, shielding, air absorption).

Sound criteria for build and construction

- New residential development must include acoustic protection
- New or modified venues must manage sound impacts
- Requirements are set out in Section 2.14 of the Inner West DCP

The required sound criteria are broadly aligned with this sound plan. This means new developments will be designed to suit the sound conditions of the area. Over time, these acoustic improvements will support a well-managed, sustainable nightlife that balances activity with residential amenity.

8 Governance and engagement

Special Entertainment Precinct working group

[To be established during the engagement phase.]

Monitoring and evaluation

Council will monitor the SEP using:

- compliance data
- external agency data
- community and business feedback

Objectives and outcomes

The objectives and outcomes are used to assess the performance of special entertainment precincts over time.

Objective 1: Enable businesses to invest in and offer more live music, culture, entertainment and performance as part of their regular activities

Desired outcomes:

- Businesses open earlier or stay open later
- Venues host more live music, performance or events
- More employment opportunities for performing artists

Objective 2: Foster vibrant, inclusive, mixed-use neighbourhoods that support local community amenity

Desired outcomes:

- Local communities can access a range of businesses and service, day and night
- Premises comply with sound limits

Objective 3: Improve quality, safety and diversity of the day, night and late-night offering

Desired outcomes:

- Nightlife reflects the local character of the precinct
- Diverse business types trade later
- Everyone safely enjoys nightlife in the precinct

Objective 4: Enhance economic outcomes, supporting businesses to thrive

Desired outcomes:

- Improved economic activity in the SEP
- More visitors in SEP during night and day

Objective 5: Streamline the process for businesses and the City of Sydney to make it easier and more affordable to operate late night trading premises

Desired outcomes:

- Fewer development applications for late night trading
- Less regulatory complexity, administrative effort and costs for businesses

Suspending or revoking special entertainment precinct status

Inner West recognises that SEPs play an important role in supporting a safe, vibrant and diverse night-time economy. Suspending or revoking a precinct is a **serious and**

exceptional action and will only occur when all reasonable options to resolve issues have been tried.

Under the NSW Special Entertainment Precinct Guidelines, both Inner West and the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces must follow mandatory procedures before a precinct can be suspended or revoked.

This section explains what is considered before taking this action, and the evidence and governance requirements that must be met.

When suspension or revocation may be considered

Inner West will only consider suspension or revocation when significant, ongoing issues cannot be resolved through usual compliance approaches. These may include education, engagement, negotiated agreements, improvement actions or regulatory enforcement. Action will only be considered when issues pose a long-term risk to public amenity, safety or the effective functioning of the SEP.

Suspension or revocation may also be considered when there is confirmed evidence – provided by Inner West, City of Sydney, Liquor & Gaming NSW or NSW Police – showing repeated non-compliance with the precinct management plan or other legislation. It may also follow a recommendation from an inquiry carried out by the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner.

Thresholds for suspension or revocation

A special entertainment precinct can only be suspended or revoked through a formal Council resolution, and only when all the following thresholds are met:

- **Cumulative amenity impacts** – Businesses in the precinct are collectively causing unreasonable disturbance that cannot be managed through standard compliance actions.
- **Sustained anti-social behaviour** – There are ongoing, elevated levels of anti-social behaviour or public safety incidents over a significant period, supported by verified reports and shared agency data.
- **Exhaustion of compliance pathways** – All reasonable compliance measures – such as targeted enforcement, monitoring and collaborative work with precinct operators – have been tried, and suspension or revocation is the only remaining option to protect community safety and amenity.

Requirements for any suspension or revocation

Any decision to suspend or revoke a special entertainment precinct must:

- **be supported by verified evidence** from Inner West, City of Sydney, Liquor & Gaming NSW, NSW Police and other agencies, showing a clear, ongoing failure to meet precinct expectations

- **reflect a coordinated, multi-agency position** agreed in principle by the working group, NSW Police, Inner West and City of Sydney staff and the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner
- **be a genuine last resort**, taken only after clear attempts to resolve issues with businesses, residents and partners.

Council may also choose to revoke the SEP if a strategic review finds the precinct model is no longer suitable or effective for the area. For example, where land-use patterns have changed, community needs have shifted, or another planning mechanism would better support local amenity and night-time activity.

Our approach to compliance

Inner West works to balance its legislative responsibilities, strategic priorities and available resources when making regulatory decisions. Our goal is to achieve the best outcomes for residents, businesses and visitors, while supporting a vibrant and safe neighbourhoods.

Council will prioritise:

- education and engagement
- proportionate enforcement
- collaboration with stakeholders

Who to contact for assistance

Type of complaint	Inner West Council	Liquor & Gaming NSW	NSW Police	NSW Police Marine Area Command
Feedback about special entertainment precincts	✓			
Entertainment sound from a licensed premises		✓		
Entertainment sound from an unlicensed premises	✓			
Entertainment sound from a marine vessel				✓

Type of complaint	Inner West Council	Liquor & Gaming NSW	NSW Police	NSW Police Marine Area Command
Environmental noise such as construction noise or rubbish collection	✓			
Crime or anti-social behaviour that requires immediate attention			✓	
General non-compliance of a business, including trading hours and patron capacity	✓			

Version Control – Policy History

This policy will be formally reviewed every three years from the date of adoption or as required.

Governance use only:

Document	**King Street Special Entertainment Precinct Management Plan**	***Uncontrolled Copy When Printed***	
Custodian	Daniel East	Version #	Version 1
Adopted By	Council	ECM Document #	xxxxxxxx
Next Review Date	[Insert date no later than 3 years post adoption e.g. August 2025]		

Amended by	Changes made	Date Adopted
[Council Department]	[Describe reason for major changes]	Day Month, Year
E.g. Governance & Risk	E.g. Part 6: Value of token gifts and benefits raised to $100	17 August 2022

2.13 24-Hour Economy

Overview

The Inner West has a vibrant "Main Street" culture and a thriving *night-time economy*. This section establishes the design and operational framework for commercial and mixed-use areas, aiming to balance economic vitality with high-quality residential amenity.

A critical priority of this chapter is managing the interface between active entertainment uses and residential occupancy. This DCP places the responsibility for noise mitigation on the new development. Proposals are to demonstrate through sophisticated acoustic design that they can support the Inner West's live music and entertainment culture without compromising the quiet enjoyment of residents.

The DCP establishes a regulatory framework to manage the unique acoustic environment of the Special Entertainment Precincts (SEP) within the Inner West. It is based on a "Fair Play" approach to sound management, ensuring that vibrant cultural venues and residents can coexist through the application of clear, measurable standards. These areas have been allocated a Sound Category Area (SCA) and are mapped across key vibrant hubs, including:

- **Core Hubs:** Enmore Road, Marrickville Town Centre, and Marrickville North.
- **Town Centres:** Ashfield, Balmain, Leichhardt, Rozelle, and Dulwich Hill.

Before applying for extended trading hours, applicants are to determine if their proposed hours are already permitted under the following:

- **Special Entertainment Precincts (SEP):** If the premises is located within a designated SEP (such as Enmore Road), trading hours are primarily governed by the *Inner West SEP Management Plan* (Refer to Appendix 1 for specific precinct-based hours and live music incentives).
- **State Policy (SEPP):** Standard operating hours for many small businesses across NSW are set out in the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 (Subdivision 23B)*

Consent for outdoor dining on *public land* adjacent to a premises is to be obtained through Council's *Outdoor Dining Licence application*. Trading hours for outdoor dining areas on *public land* are determined through that specific licensing process, not this DCP.

2.13.1 Extended Operating Hours

Objectives

O1. **Balance:** To maintain *neighbourhood* amenity while supporting local business growth.

O2. **Safety and Diversity:** To create a safe, inclusive, and vibrant night-time scene.

O3. **Culture:** To foster creative industries, live music, and entertainment.

Inner West Development Control Plan: Part 2 General Considerations for Development

O4. **Connectivity:** To align late-night closing times with public transport availability.

O5. **Accountability:** To ensure businesses have robust, up to date professional plans of management.

Controls

Hours of operation

C1. When determining trading hours for a premises Council will consider the following:

a) Type of premises

b) **Location**: Whether mapped for late-night activity, night-time activity, or unclassified (see Figure 2.13.1.)

c) Proximity to, and impacts on, residential dwellings

d) Specialist acoustic advice and recommendations

e) Availability of public transport within an 800m radius of the premises during operation

C2. Commitments in the Plan of Management to minimise *neighbourhood* disturbance

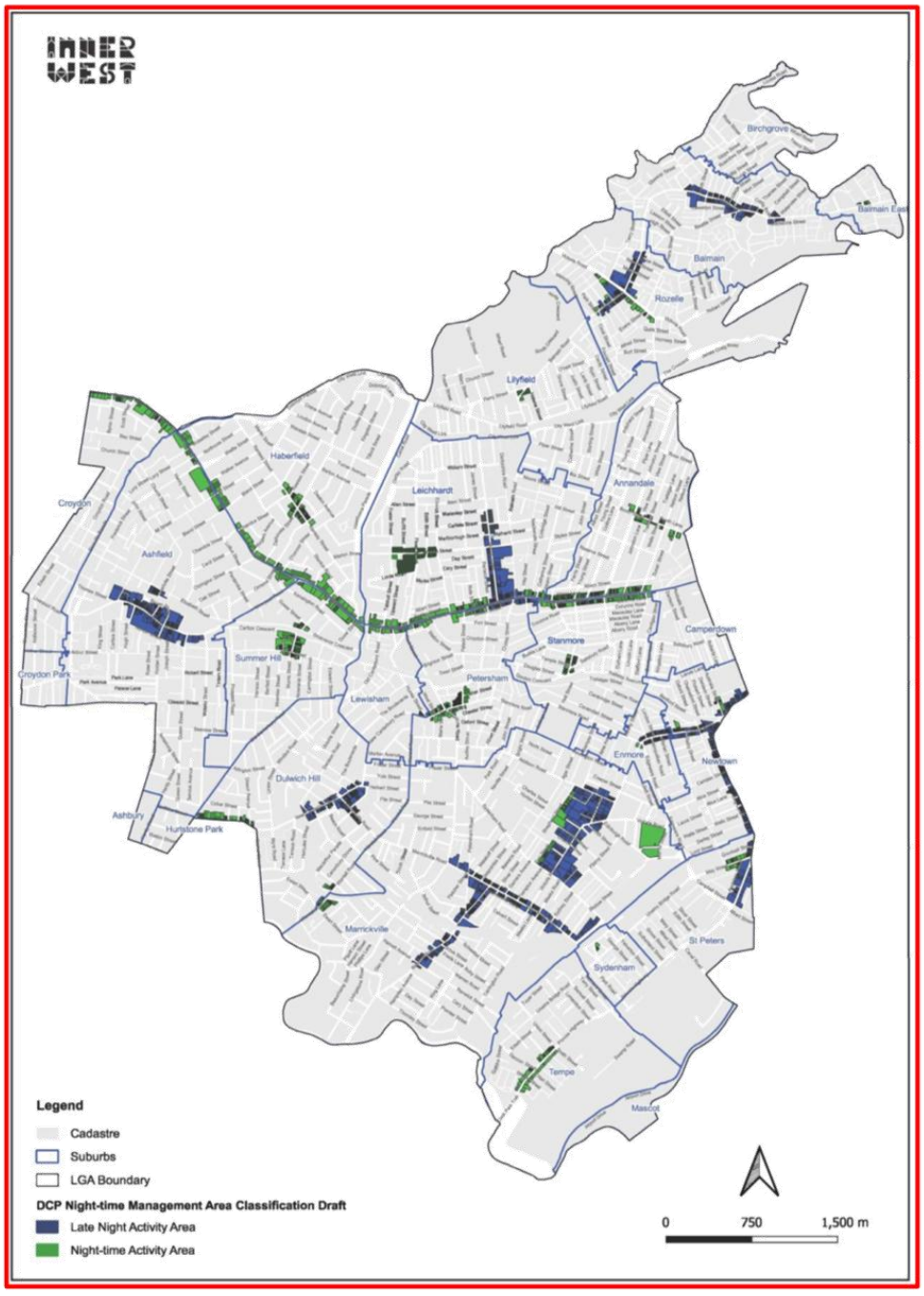

Figure 2.13.1 Night-time management area map

Inner West Development Control Plan: Part 2 General Considerations for Development

C3. Development is to comply with the trading hours specified in Table 2.13.1. In applying these hours, the following requirements apply:

a) **Trial Periods**: Standard trading hours are permitted without a mandatory trial period

b) **Merit Assessment**: Approval of standard trading hours is not automatic; all proposed hours will be assessed against the performance criteria in C1 to ensure local amenity is protected

c) **Extended Trading**: Any proposal to operate beyond standard hours will be subject to a time-limited trial period to monitor and manage potential social and acoustic impacts

Table 2.13.1. Typical trading hours permitted

Night-time management area classification	Premises category		Standard Trading hours
Late night activity areas	Category A	Indoor	6am – 2am the next day
		Outdoor	7am – midnight
	Category B	Indoor	24 hours
		Outdoor	7am – midnight
Night-time activity areas	Category A	Indoor	6am – midnight
		Outdoor	7am – 10pm
	Category B	Indoor	24 hours
		Outdoor	7am – midnight
Unclassified areas	Category A & B	Indoor	7am – 10pm or 7am - midnight for sites zoned E1, E2 and E3
		Outdoor	7am – 8pm or 7am - 10pm for sites zoned E1, E2 and E3

Premises Categories

C4. Category A premises include all licensed premises, *amusement centres*, *artisan food and drink premises*, *entertainment facilities*, *food and drink premises*, *function centres*, *information*, *restricted premises*, *sex services premises*, *education facilities*, *and recreation facilities* (indoor) located within the same *building* as *residential accommodation*.

C5. Category B premises include any premises that is not a category A premises

Initial 12-month trial for extended hours

C6. Any request to trade beyond standard hours requires an initial 12-month trial to monitor impacts on the *neighbourhood*.

C7. A recurring 2-year trial applies to any trading beyond standard hours for:

a) Premises located within Residential Zones

b) *Sex Services* and *Restricted Premises* operating between midnight and 7:00 am

Performance-based extensions

C8. Premises that fail to demonstrate a satisfactory management track record during the initial trial may be required to undergo a subsequent 12-month trial.

C9. Approval of a subsequent trial is contingent upon the applicant submitting an amended *Plan of Management* (POM) and evidence of physical or operational site improvements (such as acoustic treatment or updated security protocols) designed to mitigate previous issues.

C10. Continued failure to meet compliance standards during trials may result in the refusal of extended trading hours.

Permanent Hours

C11. Premises that have undergone a successful trial period may be granted permanent consent for later operating hours.

Plans of Management

C12. A detailed POM is to be submitted with all applications for new or modified operations trading between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am. The *POM* is to include:

a) **Signed Declaration**: A statement signed by the licensee or manager confirming they have read, understood, and will enforce the POM

b) **Business Information**: Registered business name and trading name

c) **Site Layout**: A detailed floor plan showing all activity areas, external windows, and doors

d) **Service Locations**: Location of waste storage, air-conditioning units, exhaust fans, and other mechanical plant

e) **Staffing and Capacity**: Maximum number of staff and security (with defined roles) and maximum patron capacity for each specific area of the premises

f) **Hours of Operation**: Clearly defined hours for each day of the week, including the expiry date for any trial hours

g) **Patron Management**: Detailed arrangements for queue management, entry/exit procedures, and strategies for managing patron behaviour both inside and immediately outside the venue

C13. **Logistics**: Procedures for deliveries, loading/unloading, and waste collection to minimise *neighbourhood* disruption

a) **Environmental Safety**: Spill clean-up procedures and staff training for any industries handling potential pollutants

b) **Source Identification**: Identification of all potential sound sources, including stages, outdoor areas, mechanical plant, gym equipment, and loading zones. Any venue intended for live music or amplified entertainment is to detail speaker orientation, volume limiters, and door/window management protocol

C14. **Mitigation Measures**: Specific operational actions to protect *neighbourhood* amenity, such as:

a) Timing for the closure of windows and doors

b) Directing amplified sound away from *building* openings

c) Installing *signage* and utilizing staff to remind patrons to leave the premises quietly

d) A process to regularly review and update the POM

e) Complaint recording and response procedures and managerial accountability commitments

f) Upkeep of a record of actions undertaken to address complaints from neighbours

2.13.2 Special Entertainment Precincts

Objectives

O6. **Economic & Cultural Vitality:** To support a vibrant, diverse, inclusive, and safe *night-time economy* while specifically strengthening the creative and cultural industries that depend on it.

O7. **Amenity Balance:** To maintain a reasonable level of amenity for *sensitive receivers* (such as residents) by balancing their expectations against the operational needs of Special Entertainment Precincts (SEPs).

O8. **Regulatory Precision & Limits:** To establish clear, measurable sound limits for entertainment venues based on specific *Sound Category Areas* (SCA) and times of the week.

O9. **Sustainable Co-existence (Futureproofing):** To require sound attenuation measures in both new *sensitive receivers* and new/modified entertainment venues, ensuring to ensure they can sustainably co-exist within the same urban environment.

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O10. **Adaptation of Mixed-Use Spaces:** To ensure that commercial tenancies in new mixed-use developments are designed from the outset to be easily adapted into entertainment venues without compromising the amenity of the residents above.

O11. **City of Sydney alignment:** To ensure sound criteria are consistent with the City of Sydney to enable coordinated management of the King Street SEP across council boundaries.

Controls

C15. Applicants are to refer to Figures 2.13.2 – 2.13.12, to determine if their property falls within a SEP and which specific sound limits apply under the SCA.

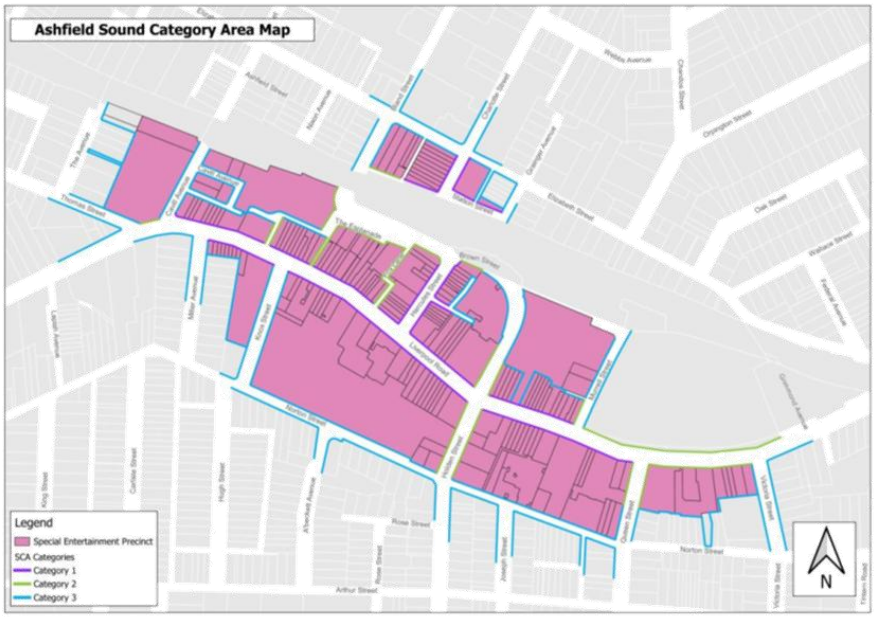

Figure 2.13.2 Ashfield Special Entertainment Precinct

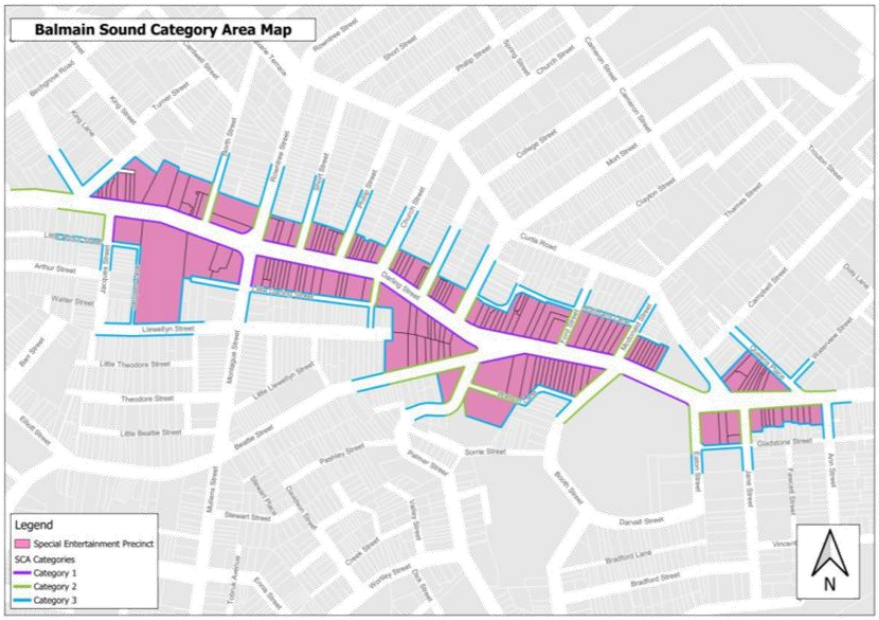

Figure 2.13.3 Balmain Sound Category Area map

Figure 2.13.4 Dulwich Hill Sound Category Area map

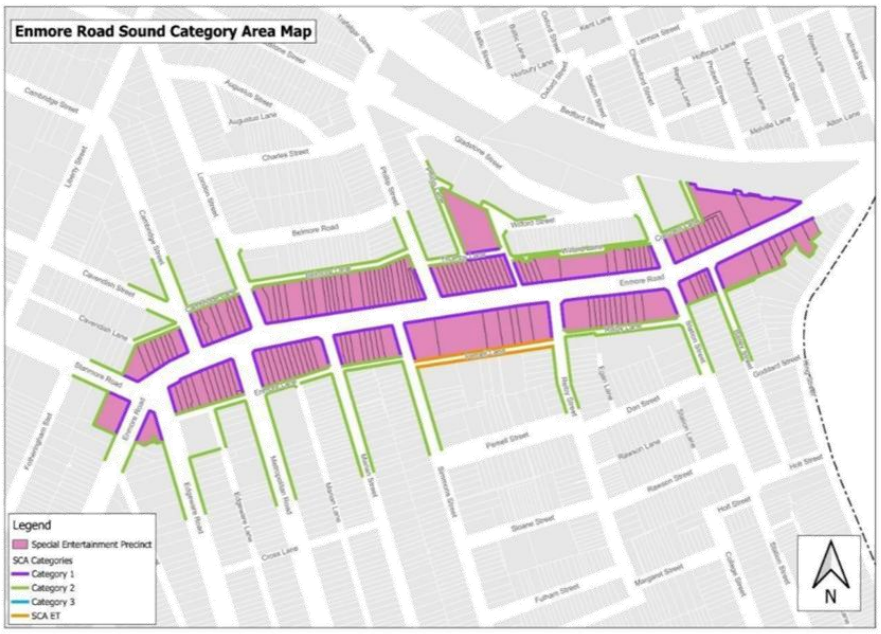

Figure 2.13.5 Enmore Road Sound Category Area map

Figure 2.13.6 Leichhardt Sound Category Area map

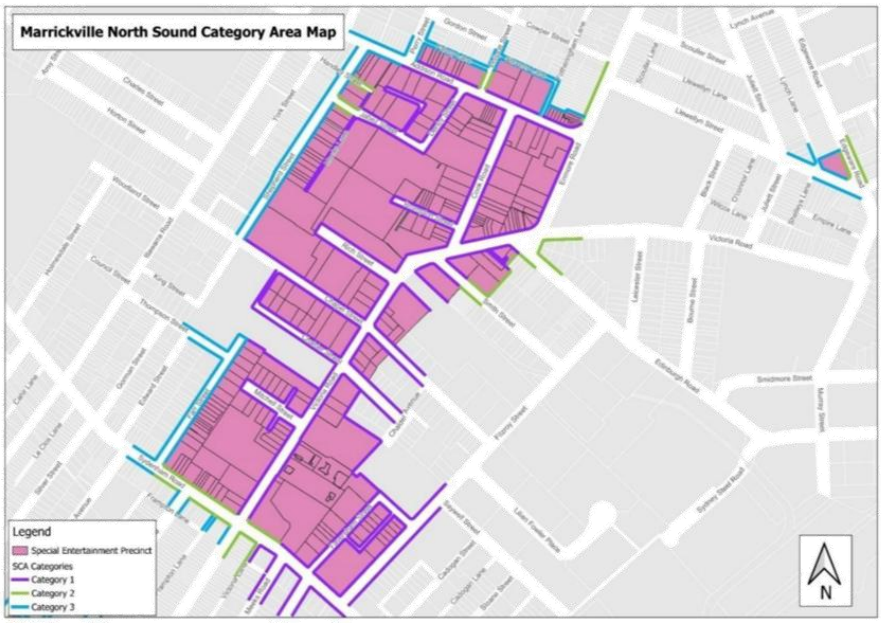

Figure 2.13.7 Marrickville North Sound Category Area map

Figure 2.13.8 Marrickville Town Centre Sound Category Area map

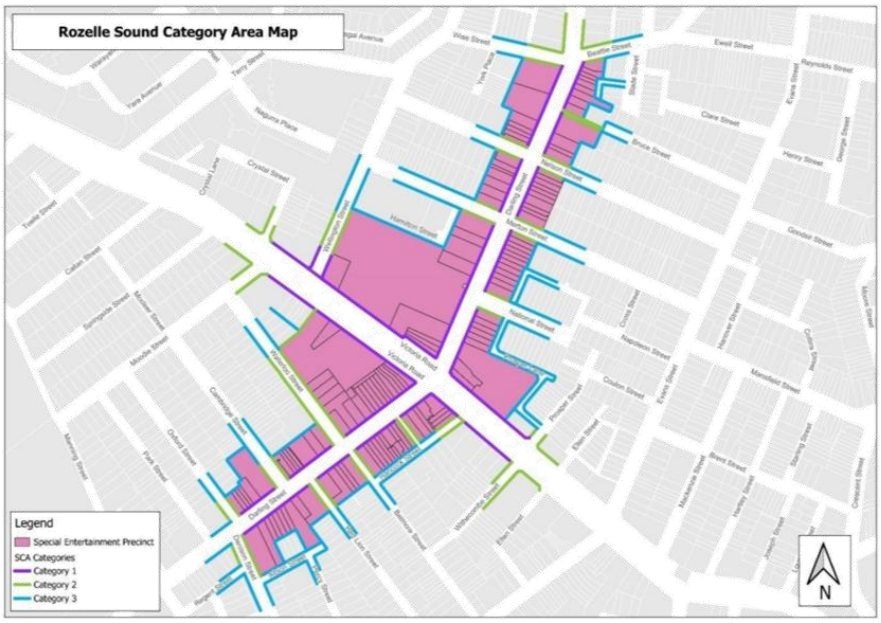

Figure 2.13.9 Rozelle Sound Category Area map

Figure 2.13.10 King Street Central Sound Category Area map

Figure 2.13.11 King Street South Sound Category Area map

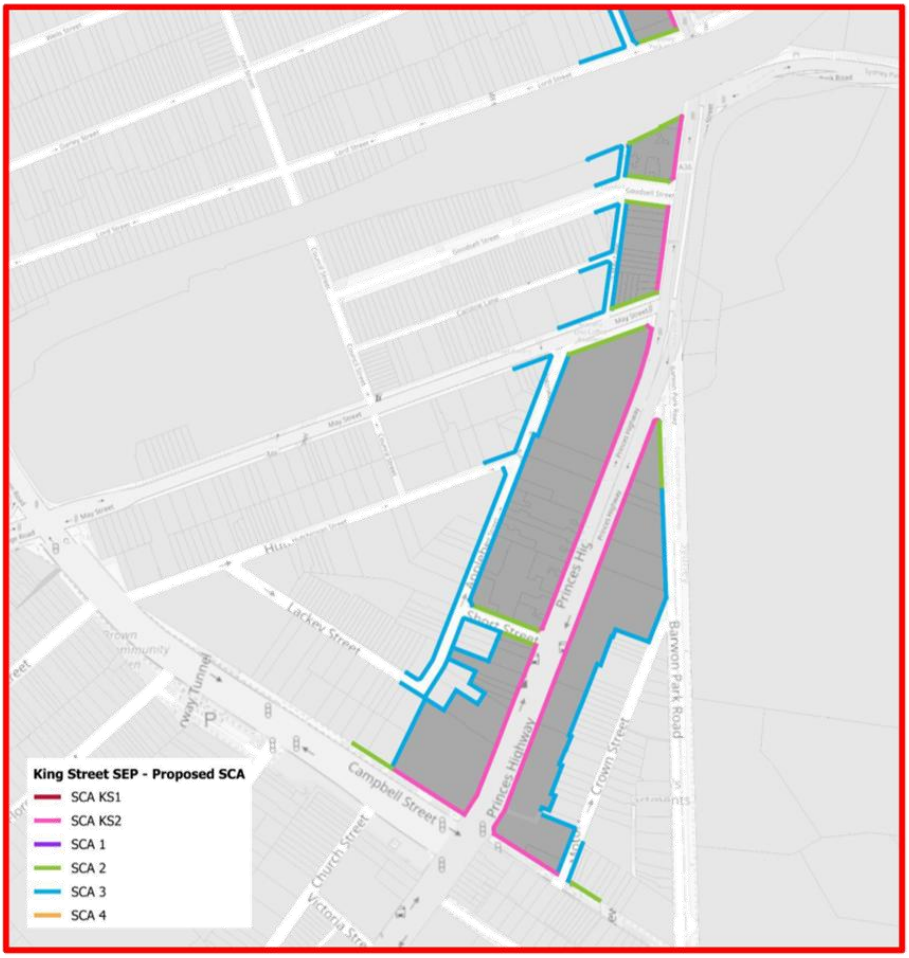

Figure 2.13.12 King Street - St Peters Sound Category Area map

Sound Category Areas

Controls

C16. Acoustic assessments are to be conducted at the property boundary of the *sensitive receiver* as defined by the SCA Map. Sound levels are to be measured at a height of 1.5m above the *finished floor level* for every floor of the *building* to ensure vertical compliance.

C17. *Entertainment sound* must not exceed the maximum sound limits for the relevant SCA in Table 2.13.2 (all SEPs except King Street) or Table 2.13.3 (King Street). Sound levels are to be measured at the boundary of the *sensitive receiver* and assessed by time of day and day of week in accordance with the applicable table.

Inner West Development Control Plan: Part 2 General Considerations for Development

Table 2.13.2. Maximum external sound levels for *entertainment venues* as measured at the street fronting boundary of sensitive receivers – applies to all SEPs except King Street

Sound Category Area (SCA)	Time of the week	Venue external assessment criteria, dBL eq(15minute)											
		Day / Evening (7am to 10pm)				Early Night (10pm to midnight)				Late Night (midnight to 7am)			
		Broad band dB(A)	Octave band (Hz) dB			Broad band dB(A)	Octave band (Hz) dB			Broad band dB(A)	Octave band (Hz) dB		
			31.5	63	125		31.5	63	125		31.5	63	125
SCA 1	Sun 7am to Thurs 7am	65	69	68	66	60	64	63	61	55	59	58	56
	Thurs 7am to Sun 7am	65	69	68	66	65	69	68	66	60	64	63	61
SCA 2	Sun 7am to Thurs 7am	60	64	63	61	55	59	58	56	50	54	50	46
	Thurs 7am to Sun 7am	65	69	68	66	60	64	63	61	55	59	58	56
SCA 3	Sun 7am to Thurs 7am	55	59	58	56	50	54	50	46	45	54	50	46
	Thurs 7am to Sun 7am	55	59	58	56	55	59	58	56	50	54	50	46
SCA ET	Sun 7am to Thurs 7am	65	69	68	66	60	64	63	61	50	54	50	46
	Thurs 7am to Sun 7am	65	69	68	66	65	69	68	66	50	54	50	46

Inner West Development Control Plan: Part 2 General Considerations for Development

Table 2.13.3. Maximum external sound levels for *entertainment venues* as measured at the street fronting boundary of sensitive receivers for King Street SEP

Sound Category Area (SCA)	Time of the week	Venue external assessment criteria, dBL eq(15minute)															
		Day / Evening (7am to 10pm)				Early Night (10pm to midnight)				Late Night (midnight to 2am)				Early Morning (2am – 7am)			
		Broad band dB(A)	Octave band (Hz) dB			Broad band dB(A)	Octave band (Hz) dB			Broad band dB(A) 63	Octave band (Hz) dB			Broad band dB(A)	Octave band (Hz) dB		
			31.5	63	125		31.5	63	31.5		31.5	63	125		31.5	63	125
SCA KS1	Sun 6pm–Thu 6pm	68	67	69	69	60	63	64	64	55	59	55	55	50	59	52	52
	Thu 6pm–Sun 6pm	68	67	69	69	65	65	67	67	57	59	57	57	55	59	55	55
SCA KS2	Sun 6pm–Thu 6pm	65	65	66	66	60	63	64	64	52	59	52	52	50	59	52	52
	Thu 6pm–Sun 6pm	65	65	67	67	63	65	67	67	55	59	55	55	50	59	52	52
SCA 1	Sun 6pm–Thu 6pm	65	69	68	66	60	64	63	61	55	59	58	56	50	59	52	53
	Thu 6pm–Sun 6pm	65	69	68	66	65	69	68	66	60	64	63	61	55	59	52	53
SCA 2	Sun 6pm–Thu 6pm	60	64	63	61	55	59	58	56	50	54	50	46	50	54	50	46
	Thu 6pm–Sun 6pm	65	69	68	66	60	64	63	61	55	59	58	56	50	54	50	46
SCA 3	Sun 6pm–Thu 6pm	55	59	58	56	50	54	50	46	45	49	45	41	45	49	45	41
	Thu 6pm–Sun 6pm	55	59	58	56	55	59	58	56	50	54	50	46	45	49	45	41

Inner West Development Control Plan: Part 2 General Considerations for Development

Acoustic requirements for Entertainment Venues

C18. A Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) prepared by a qualified acoustic specialist is to be submitted for all new or modified entertainment venues. The NIA is to:

a) Detail specific physical noise attenuation measures (e.g., soundproofing, airlocks) to ensure the development operates within the maximum sound levels in Table 2.13.2 (for SEPs other than King Street) and Table 2.13.3 (King Street SEP) measured at the boundary of *sensitive receivers*.

b) Where a venue shares a common partition (wall, floor, or ceiling) with a *sensitive receiver*, the NIA is to prove the venue can operate without breaching the internal noise criteria in Table 2.13.4.

c) Demonstrate compliance at the boundary of any site containing a *sensitive receiver* within 20 metres of the subject site.

d) Council reserves the right to require assessments for receivers beyond 20m based on local topography, built form, or complaint history.

e) These criteria apply specifically to new or modified floor space only.

Table 2.13.4. Sensitive receiver internal sound criteria

Receiver	Period	Broadband dBLAeq(15min)	Octave band centre frequency (Hz), dB		
			31.5	63	125
Residential accommodation – bedrooms	7am – 10pm	35	59	52	46
	10pm – 7am	30	54	47	41
Residential accommodation – other habitable rooms	7am – 10pm	35	59	52	46
	10pm – 7am	35	59	52	46
Tourist and visitor accommodation (bedrooms & sleeping areas)	–7am - midnight	38	62	55	49
	midnight - 7am	33	57	50	44
Information and education facilities	All times	35	59	52	46
Place of public worship	All times	38	62	55	59
Health services facility	7am – 10pm	40	64	57	51

	10pm – 7am (wards only)	35	59	52	46

Acoustic requirements for Sensitive Receivers

C19. A noise impact assessment (NIA) prepared by a suitably qualified acoustic specialist is to be submitted with any application for a new or modified *sensitive receiver* located within a SCA. The NIA must demonstrate that internal noise levels will comply with the criteria in Table 2.13.4 when subject to the maximum external sound levels in Table 2.13.2 (all SEPs except King Street) or Table 2.13.3 (King Street), measured at the property boundary of the *sensitive receiver*.

C20. Modified *sensitive receiver* applications include:

a) External and internal alterations to *sensitive receivers*. This includes alterations and additions to *residential accommodation*. This does not include changes that do not impact upon the sound levels

b) Operational changes to non-residential *sensitive receivers*

C21. For alterations and additions to any *sensitive receiver* development type, only apply the internal noise criteria in Table 2.13.4 to new or modified floor space.

C22. Where noise attenuation measures impact the provision of natural ventilation, alternative ventilation is to be provided to ensure the proposal complies with the NCC.

C23. Noise impact from other sources, such as *road* and rail are to be assessed separately in accordance with relevant standards and policies.

Mixed-use developments

C24. Any development application for a mixed-use *building* containing both *sensitive receivers* (e.g. apartments) and non-residential floor space is to include a NIA to ensure noise impacts on residents can be mitigated. The NIA is to model predicted noise levels, identify transmission paths, and recommend specific mitigation measures to ensure compliance with Council's noise criteria.

C25. The NIA and architectural plans are to:

a) **Internal Noise Criteria:** Demonstrate that non-residential areas can function as an active *entertainment venue* while maintaining the internal noise criteria for sensitive receivers within the building specified in Table 2.13.4.

b) **Low-Frequency Management**: Explicitly address L_{Ceq} (bass) noise levels, which are not typically captured by standard L_{Aeq} measurements but are the primary cause of resident complaints in mixed-use settings.

c) **Physical Attenuation:** Specify high-mass partitions, "box-in-box" construction, acoustic ceilings, and vibration isolation for mechanical plant and sound systems.

d) **Futureproofing:** Ensure the structural design allows for the adaptation of commercial spaces into entertainment venues without requiring retrospective upgrades to residential units (the "Agent of Change" principle).

C26. Locate non-sensitive commercial "buffer" zones (e.g. offices or storage) between the entertainment floor and residential apartments where possible.

C27. Prior to the issue of an Occupation Certificate, a post-construction acoustic test is to be submitted to Council. This test is to verify that the "as-built" construction meets the noise attenuation targets set out in the NIA.

C28. Any venue intended for live music or amplified entertainment is to submit a *Plan of Management* detailing speaker orientation, volume limiters, and door/window management protocols in addition to the requirements in C12.

INNER WEST
LOCAL PLANNING PANEL MEETING

1 June 2026

MINUTES

MINUTES of **INNER WEST LOCAL PLANNING PANEL MEETING** held via teleconference on 1 June 2026.

Present:	Alison McCabe as Chair; Vanessa Holtham; John Brockhoff; Allan Barnes.
Staff Present:	Daniel East Senior Manager Strategic Planning; Denise Benger, Team Leader Planning Policy; Jarrad Sheather Senior Strategic Planner; Stefano Ottavio Student Strategic Planner; Selena Topich, Business Administration Support Officer

Meeting commenced: 1:00pm and finished at 1:04pm (deliberations and decision followed)

**** ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

I acknowledge the original custodians of what we now know as the Inner West, the Gadigal and Wangal people of the Eora nation, and their elders past and present and emerging.

**** DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

Agenda Item 1	King Street Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP)
Description	Planning proposal to amend the Inner West Local Environmental Plan (IWLEP) 2022 to create new Special Entertainment Precinct on King Street in Newtown/St Peters.

ADVICE OF THE PANEL

The Panel:

1. Supports the Planning Proposal proceeding to a Gateway Determination as it considers the Planning Proposal has strategic and site-specific merit.
2. Notes the need for a comprehensive community consultation strategy following any favourable Gateway Determination that is coordinated with the City of Sydney Council given its proximity to the adjacent Local Government Area boundary.

The Inner West Planning Panel Meeting finished at 1:04pm

CONFIRMED:

Ms Alison McCabe
Chairperson

Item: **C0626(1) Item 8**

Title: **Business Roundtable Action Plans - Update**

Author: Simone Plummer - Director Planning

Recommendation

That Council receive a further update report on the implementation of the Business Roundtable Action Plans prior to the end of 2026.

Executive Summary

- This report provides an update on the implementation of the Haberfield, Crystal Street and Illawarra Road Business Roundtable Action Plans.
- The update covers completed actions, as well as progress on medium- and long-term actions across the three precincts.
- A number of actions have been completed or are scheduled, while others are progressing through investigation, coordination across Council, or engagement with external stakeholders.
- It is recommended that Council receive a further update report before the end of 2026 on outstanding actions and next steps.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an omnibus update on the implementation of actions arising from the Haberfield, Crystal Street and Illawarra Road Business Roundtable Action Plans, including progress on medium- and long-term actions and those that have been completed.

Strategic Direction

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

3: Creative communities and a strong economy

Background

In response to Council resolutions, a series of Business Roundtables were facilitated across key commercial precincts to identify local business priorities and challenges. Roundtables were held for Haberfield, Crystal Street and Illawarra Road on 8 September 2025, 25 November 2025 and 1 December 2025 respectively.

Insights from the roundtables informed the development of three place-based Action Plans to guide precinct-specific improvements and support local economic activity. The Action Plans focus on practical and deliverable initiatives, supported by cross-departmental coordination and engagement with the business community and external stakeholders, including Transport for NSW.

At the Council meeting held on 17 March 2026, Council resolved the following C0326(1) Item 7:

1. *That Council endorse the Illawarra Road Roundtable Action Plan for delivery.*
2. *That Council receive a report in June 2026 that provides an update on medium- and long-term actions from all business roundtable action plans, being Haberfield, Crystal Street and Illawarra Road. This report will also include an update of those actions that have been completed.*

Discussion

Progress is being made across all three Business Roundtable Action Plans, as detailed in the attached Action Plan update, and summarised below;

- Haberfield: Council is progressing amenity improvements through maintenance blitz programs, proposed banner arms and village signage, parking investigations, a future "Discover Haberfield" marketing campaign, planned policy reviews for

outdoor dining and local approvals, ongoing business engagement through ASHbiz and Council forums, and support for local activation through grant funding.

- Crystal Street, Petersham: Council is continuing daily cleaning and hotspot waste inspections, planning streetscape improvements for delivery in FY27, undertaking a parking review, seeking Transport for NSW review of traffic signal safety, progressing fairy light installation and additional tree planting, and delivering targeted safety and cleanliness measures.
- Illawarra Road, Marrickville: Council is developing longer-term options for streetscape and traffic improvements in discussion with Transport for NSW, progressing a replacement mural and parklet, exploring event and activation opportunities, arranging additional lighting and fairy lights, continuing regular maintenance blitzes, and advancing parking changes including angled parking on Schwebel Street.

For completeness, the attached document includes all actions from each Business Roundtable Action Plan, including short-term actions, alongside the requested medium- and long-term actions and completed items.

A number of actions have been completed or scheduled, while medium- and long-term actions are progressing through investigation, coordination with internal service areas, or engagement with external agencies.

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications associated with the recommendation of this report.

Financial Implications

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

Conclusion

Implementation of the Haberfield, Crystal Street and Illawarra Road Business Roundtable Action Plans is underway, with a number of actions completed and others in delivery through operational work. Other actions are being progressed through existing programs, further investigation, and coordination with relevant stakeholders.

It is recommended that a further report be provided to Council before the end of 2026 to update on outstanding actions and next steps.

Attachments

1.⇩ Business Roundtable Action Plan

Attachment 1: Business Roundtable Action Plan Updates

Haberfield Business Roundtable Action Plan					
Theme	**Summary of feedback**	**Actions**	**Lead/Partners**	**Timeframe***	**Update**
Amenity and Streetscape	Traders emphasised the need for improved cleanliness, lighting, signage, and general public domain upgrades to enhance customer experience	Review cleaning schedules, improve lighting, and assess opportunities for minor streetscape enhancements through existing maintenance budgets	Urban Maintenance, Economic Development	Short term	Ongoing - Council has introduced a street maintenance BLITZ program that is being rolled out across the LGA for main streets and business precincts to ensure they are well maintained. A maintenance BLITZ is scheduled to refresh the village. Eight new banner arms are proposed for installation on light poles along Ramsay Street, Haberfield allowing village welcome signage to be displayed, including a 125 years of Haberfield banners and Christmas-themed designs in December.
Parking and Accessibility	Limited parking turnover and restricted access impact business visitation.	Undertake a review of parking management and signage; explore time-limited parking options to encourage customer turnover	Traffic & Transport, Transport for NSW	Medium term	Council undertook a range of investigations in the Haberfield Town Centre last year to review parking management, signage, and opportunities to support turnover. These included: • Investigating removal of the bus stop near 66 Dalhousie Street, used only by school services and located approximately 200m from adjacent stops. Following objections from bus patrons and consultation with Transit Systems this action was not supported. and removal will not proceed.

					• Exploring reduced parking bay lengths to create additional capacity within Ramsay Street shopping village. This proposal will be included as part of future Main Street Revitalisation Program consultation. • Reviewed parking arrangements in front of the Ella Centre on Dalhousie Street and formalised mobility parking to improve accessibility. • Investigated extending 1P to 2P timed parking on Gilies Ave and Rawson Street to support nearby medical uses. Following a site assessment, including the adjacent 3P Council car park with acceptable utilisation levels, no changes were recommended given existing parking availability and off-street provision for some businesses.
Marketing and Promotion	Businesses would like to see stronger marketing positioning Haberfield as a heritage and food destination.	Develop a "Discover Haberfield" marketing and communications plan in collaboration with ASHbiz and traders.	Communications, ASHbiz, local businesses	Medium term	A "Discover Haberfield" marketing campaign will be undertaken in the second half of 2026. Council officers will liaise with ASHbiz on the campaign.
Regulatory Flexibility	Businesses requested simpler approval processes for	Review local approvals framework to streamline processes and	Strategic Planning, Health and Building	Medium term	A review of the Outdoor Dining Policy and Local Approvals Policy will be undertaken in early 2027. This will ensure approval pathways and guidance for traders remain clear and fit for purpose.

	signage, outdoor dining, and events	provide clearer guidance to traders.			
Business Collaboration and Communication	Desire for an ongoing forum to maintain communication and monitor progress	Establish a quarterly Haberfield Business Forum or precinct working group to continue dialogue and joint project delivery	Economic Development, ASHbiz	Ongoing	A meeting was held with Haberfield businesses and ASHbiz on 30 April 2026 to provide an update on progress against the Action Plan and to seek feedback on Glow Up initiatives for the precinct. Council will continue to support project based and issue specific meetings with local businesses and encourages traders to meet collectively, with the Business Chamber acting as the primary conduit for contact and collaboration with Council. In parallel, the Small Business Local Democracy Group provides an ongoing forum for the business community to engage directly with Council, share ideas, and contribute to project delivery.
Economic Activation	Opportunity to support activation through small-scale events and initiatives	Explore funding opportunities for local activation and events through State programs or Council grants.	Economic Development, State Government	Medium term	In 2025, Council introduced the Business Chamber Grant Program to support main street activation and strengthen local economic sustainability. The Program enables local chambers to plan and deliver a range of economic development activities. In April 2026, ASHbiz was provided guidance on how to access Council's Business Chamber Grant. Haberfield businesses are currently exploring

					opportunities to utilise this funding to support an event celebrating the suburb's 125 year anniversary. In February 2026, ASHbiz was provided with information on the Visa Vibe Grants Program, which supports innovative, inclusive and community-focused night-time economy initiatives.

Crystal Street Business Roundtable Action Plan					
Theme	**Summary of Feedback**	**Actions**	**Lead/Partners**	**Timeframe***	**Update**
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	Currently being serviced daily as part of the Operational Maintenance Program.
		Staff investigate renewal of aging street furniture, and feasibility of inground planting to enhance public amenity and streetscape.	Public Domain	Short term	An initial concept design was prepared by Public Domain in February 2026. Short-term funding was not available to enable renewal of the footpath and streetscape by 30 June 2026. Planning is underway to implement the design in the first half of FY27.

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.	Traffic & Transport	Medium term	A parking review will be undertaken, including data collection and analysis, to inform the development of a draft proposal for community engagement.
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.	Traffic & Transport, Transport for NSW	Medium term	A request for a review of the traffic signals has been submitted to Transport for NSW.

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.	Facilities, Urban Maintenance and Asset Planning	Short term	Cleanliness is managed through the Main Street program, including the removal of posters from polls. Offensive graffiti is prioritised and removed within 48 hours. The area is now included on the Waste Inspectors' hotspot list and is inspected for illegally dumped rubbish multiple times per week. The site is cleared once an investigation has been completed.
Safety improvements	There was a desire to enhance safety in the area and negative social impacts	A racism not welcome sign was installed at Corner Crystal and Brighton streets Petersham in December 2025.	Civil Works	Completed	Completed
		Investigate if fairy lights can be placed in the trees.	Economic Development	Short term	A contractor has been engaged to repair existing fairy lights across the LGA and to install fairy lights in four trees outside 104-110 Crystal Street Petersham – the Crystal St lights require approval from Ausgrid which with a 5 week minimum lead time which has commenced. Estimated completion is late July.

		Staff will examine if additional street trees can be planted to improve the attractiveness of the streetscape.	Street tree planting program	Short term	An initial concept design for streetscape improvements, including street tree planting, was prepared in February 2026. Short-term funding was not available to deliver the works by 30 June 2026. Planning is now underway to progress implementation in FY27.

Illawarra Road Business Roundtable Action Plan					
Theme	**Summary of Feedback**	**Actions**	**Lead/Partners**	**Timeframe***	**Update**
Beautification and traffic calming	Upgrade footpaths, enhance lighting, install public art, increase greening, provide additional street furniture, deliver general public domain improvements and review the current traffic calming initiatives to reduce the impact of speeding and assess the feasibility of making Illawarra Road one-way.	Investigate opportunities to widen footpaths as part of a substantial street upgrade, including assessing the feasibility of introducing a shared zone or converting Illawarra Road to one-way between Petersham Road and Marrickville Road. The investigation will consider traffic impacts,	Public Domain, Traffic and Transport, and Infrastructure Planning	Long term	Council officers met with Transport for NSW to discuss a potential one-way traffic and streetscape arrangement for Illawarra Road. TfNSW has requested that Council provide a more detailed and defined proposal to progress discussions. In response, the Public Domain team is developing options consistent with the Council resolutions seeking improvements to Illawarra Road.

		pavement renewal or expansion, street furniture, tree planting and lighting options. Improve the visual presentation of the brick wall adjacent to Marrickville Station. Investigate installation of a parklet to enhance public amenity.	Capital Works (Main Street Revitalisation Program) Capital Works (Main Street Revitalisation Program)	Short term Short term	It has been confirmed with Transport for NSW that the wall is located within the road reserve, enabling Council to undertake repainting works. Capital Works is now working with the Creative Communities team to decommission the existing artwork and progress a replacement mural. A tender has been called for the design and construction of a parklet. The tender closes in late May, with award of works anticipated in June.
Events and festivals	Council to deliver additional events and festivals, including utilising Calvert Street carpark, responding to business interest in a Vietnamese festival, and incorporating Illawarra Road into the annual	Opportunities for activations and events to be explored. Host an information	Events Public Domain	Medium term Short term	Event options for the Illawarra Road and Calvert Street car parks are currently being explored under a specific Council resolution relating to these sites, with a separate briefing to be provided to Council. Marrickville already hosts an established Lunar New Year festival, which includes significant Vietnamese cultural content. Electrical works to provide event power in Calvert Street car park have been

	Marrickville Music Festival.	session on how the community and businesses can utilise the Plug and Play initiative, including at the Calvert Street carpark.			completed. An information session on the Plug and Play initiative is proposed to be held in June 2026.
Lighting	Address lighting issues through a range of options, including fairy lights, globe lighting and Chinese lanterns, to improve safety at night to support the night-time economy.	Determine if feasible to install fairy lights on the three trees near 359 Illawarra Road	Economic Development	Medium term	A contractor has been engaged for the installation of the fairy lights, and electricity supply arrangements are being confirmed. The fairy lights adjacent to 359 Illawarra Rd require approval from Ausgrid which with a 5 week minimum lead time which has commenced. Estimated completion is late July.
		In support of the main street beautification investigation, undertake a lighting audit to assess and determine lighting options to enhance amenity and public safety on Illawarra Road.	Public Domain, and Infrastructure Planning	Medium term	A lighting audit will be undertaken following development of a feasible streetscape design plan, currently expected in late 2026 or early 2027.

Cleanliness and Maintenance	Increase footpath cleaning, street sweeping, removal of dump rubbish, including in laneways, and weeding and trimming of trees.	In late 2025, a maintenance blitz was completed on Illawarra Road which addressed these issues. Minor asphalt patching, pavement sealing, weeding and tree trimming works were also carried out. Quarterly audits are undertaken to address ongoing maintenance.	Civic Works Parks and Streetscapes Operations	Ongoing Ongoing	A maintenance blitz is scheduled for 18 June to refresh the precinct. Quarterly audits continue to be undertaken to support ongoing maintenance requirements.
Parking	Consider options to increase parking through acquisition of land, requiring private developments to include public parking, introducing angled parking on Schwebel Street, and installing a Kiss and Ride zone.	Council's transport strategies focus on managing parking demand and encouraging a mode-shift from private vehicles to active and public transport, rather than increasing parking supply.	Traffic & Transport	Long term	Council has recently undertaken public consultation on the Draft Parking Strategy and revised Parking Policy (exhibition concluded May 2026), with an engagement outcomes report to be presented to a future Council meeting. The strategy prioritises managing parking demand, reducing car dependency, and making more efficient and equitable use of existing parking, rather than increasing supply.

		An angle parking investigation in Schwebel Street is currently in progress.	Traffic & Transport	Short term	The Local Transport Forum considered the introduction of angled parking on Schwebel Street, between Leofrene Street and Station Street, on 18 May 2026 and resolved to support the proposal. The proposed changes would create additional 1P spaces, improving parking availability for nearby businesses. The recommendation is subject to endorsement by Council at the 16 June meeting.
		Drop-off and pick-up areas are provided on Station Street and Illawarra Road through a combination of No Parking zones and locations with both No Parking and Kiss and Ride signage.	Traffic & Transport		There is an existing pick-up and drop-off zone is located on Station Street. No further action required.

*Short term – for delivery within 6 months

*Medium Term – for delivery by end of this Term of Council – September 2028

Item: **C0626(1) Item 9**

Title: **Resource Recovery and Social Housing Collaboration - Six Monthly Update**

Author: Simone Plummer - Director Planning

Recommendation

That:

1. **Council receive the report and note the progress of the collaboration between Council and Homes NSW to improve waste management outcomes across social housing estates in the Inner West.**

2. **That a further 6 monthly update report be brought to Council by the end of the year.**

Executive Summary

- Council staff and senior managers meet regularly with Homes NSW and contracted site cleaners to improve waste management outcomes across Homes NSW estates in the Inner West.
- Homes NSW representation includes officers with responsibilities in assets, infrastructure, waste, cleaning, tenant engagement, and policy
- Improved collaboration has clarified roles and responsibilities and will continue to support safer, cleaner, and more effective waste management across Homes NSW estates.
- Joint actions have strengthened waste management outcomes across Inner West sites

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a six-month update on its collaboration with Homes NSW to improve waste management outcomes across social housing estates in the Inner West. It outlines key actions, progress and ongoing priorities to address waste, recycling and illegal dumping issues at targeted sites.

Strategic Direction

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

5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

Background

At the Council meeting held on 9 December 2025, Council resolved the following C1225(1) Item 27:

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.*

Discussion

This report provides an update on the last 6 months of Council working collaboratively with Homes NSW and their cleaning contractors to improve waste management in social housing.

Attendees from Councils strategic and operational Resource Recovery Teams meet with Homes NSW counterparts in assets, infrastructure and waste, tenant liaison, engagement and strategy. Representatives from these teams meet regularly to address challenges and opportunities across multiple sites. Meetings were held on:

- 2 December 2025
- 13 January 2026
- 3 March 2026
- 14 April 2026

This partnership between Council and Homes NSW is developing a government-led awareness program for residents in public and community housing on local waste and recycling services . The Housing Portfolios operational policy team and their front facing client services officers are leading the communications with Homes NSW tenants.

- Council worked with Standards and Business Services Team, Operational Policy in the Housing Portfolio to develop a shared understanding of key waste challenges and opportunities for Homes NSW in order to develop staff training collateral.
- Council service information and tips are being included in tenant sign-up packs for new residents, this will assist in prioritising the education of tenants about managing waste.
- Council continues to provide Homes NSW with information for tenants through client services officers when meeting with existing tenants (e.g. property inspections).

Site specific intensive approach

Each location has different challenges with varied dwelling types, tenant needs and local community concerns. Sites require investigation, planning, infrastructure improvements, education, engagement and on-going monitoring. Homes NSW and Council have shared key contacts, including emails and phone numbers of operational and senior officers with direct access to email groups for the Homes NSW waste team for immediate resolution. This is working effectively with prompt response times, good communication and understanding of responsibilities between our organisations. The process at each site includes:

Site assessment

- Identifying key issues including bin location, servicing and cleaning challenges, littering, illegal dumping, broken and missing bins, sharps, bin location and access, signage and tenant engagement.

Infrastructure

- Bin audit to replace broken bins and provide the correct number of garbage, recycling and FOGO bins for each property.
- Bin area improvements, installation of signage, zoning bin type and ensuring stickers on bins.

Education and Monitoring

- Information on waste and recycling services is printed, also provided online, uses visual prompts and is available in 10 community languages to increase access to information.
- Tenancy officers chat to residents, provide printed information and send SMS messages to tenants. This educates tenants identified through monitoring as sources of illegal dumps.
- Homes NSW cleaning contractors monitor and report back issues, install Council signage and provide information to tenants as needed.

Collaboration

- The establishment of relationships built between Council and Homes NSW was key to improved waste management across housing estates. Homes NSW Infrastructure and tenant liaison contacts were shared with Councils Fire Safety and Regulatory Services Managers to enable them to action Council resolutions around social housing.

Locations

Homes NSW and Council Resource Recovery (operations and planning) work intensively on an estate at a time to resolve issues and engage tenants. Homes NSW Cleansing contractors have been instrumental in monitoring and supporting improvements at each site. Key estate updates include:

1. Cahill Place, Marrickville - Improved cleaning through Homes NSW contractors. Bin replacements, service points, sharps bins, information to tenants and monitoring reduced contamination and illegal dumping.
2. Elliott Street, Balmain - Increased waste and recycling bin capacity following a bin audit, bin signage, monitoring and cleaning has reduced littering and dumping.
3. White Street, Lilyfield - Old blue lid and containers recycling bins were replaced with new commingled recycling for all townhouses and shared bin areas for apartments in December 2025. Information was provided to tenants through letterbox drops, direct conversations, tenancy staff and signage following a clean up of the site and removal of broken and old bins. Councils' waste inspector monitors the site weekly and stickers illegal dumps that are under investigation. Homes NSW provide support through regular communications with tenants who are leaving bins out or are dumping. Homes NSW contractors clean the site twice weekly. Thus far these actions have resolved complaints from the local community about poor waste management and illegal dumping.

4. Livingstone Road, Petersham - A site visit with Homes NSW in May 2026 identified issues and opportunities. The bin storage area will be rebuilt, bins cleaned, signage installed, and a booked clean up area has been identified. The site has been cleaned and tenants have and continue to be engaged regarding waste and recycling services.

Legal and Risk Implications

Some sites have sharps (syringes) or anti-social behaviour, but this is managed through policies and procedures with staff trained in handling sharps and in dealing with difficult customers.

Financial Implications

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

Conclusion

A collaborative approach between Council and Homes NSW continues to strengthen as both organisations work on properties together toward improved waste outcomes. Regular meetings and direct communication between stakeholders (Senior Managers, operational staff, assets, cleaning contractors, waste inspectors, service crews, education, tenant liaison, strategy and tenants) are key to the successes being seen on sites and across estates. Previously issues were tackled ad-hoc and in isolation with no long-term improvement.

Council and Homes NSW will continue to work together to better manage waste and engage tenants across more locations in the Inner West.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 10**

Title: **Post Exhibition - Good Neighbour Policy**

Author: Simone Plummer - Director Planning

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Adopt the Good Neighbour Policy.**
2. **Update the Policy Register and publish the adopted Good Neighbour Policy internally and externally, where appropriate.**

Executive Summary

- This report presents the outcomes of the public exhibition of the revised Good Neighbour Policy held from 30 March to 27 April 2026.
- The exhibition sought feedback on policy changes and clarified regulatory responsibilities following the NSW Government Vibrancy Reforms.
- Overall feedback showed wide support focused on the policy's balanced approach to residential amenity and a vibrant local economy and its emphasis on shared responsibility and early resolution.
- Some respondents raised concerns about amenity impacts, clarity of roles and the definition of "activity," including vessel-related noise.
- In response, definitions have been clarified and Council website information updated to improve guidance on complaint pathways.
- It is recommended that the Good Neighbour Policy be adopted subject to the proposed amendment outlined in the Discussion.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the outcomes and comments received during the public exhibition period and seek adoption of the Good Neighbour Policy.

Strategic Direction

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

Background

At the Council meeting on 17 March 2026, Council resolved the following C0326(1) Item 8:

1. *That Council endorse for public exhibition the revised draft Good Neighbour Policy as attached for a period of 28 days and seek community feedback.*

2. *That following the conclusion of the exhibition period the revised draft Good Neighbour Policy be brought back to Council for consideration and adoption.*

3. *That Council revert the change in Section 1, Purpose, to make it clear that Council is committed to keep premises operating wherever possible.*

4. *That Council in line with the adopted resolution of April 2024:*

    a) *Replace "noise" with "sound" across the policy; and*

    b) *Replace "noise disturbance" with "sound and activity management" in paragraph 3 of section 1, paragraph 3 of section 6, sub heading 7.1, paragraph 2 of section 7.2.*

The draft Good Neighbour Policy was subsequently placed on public exhibition.

Discussion

Prior to placing the draft Policy on exhibition, the requested changes, as detailed in points 3, 4a and 4b above, were made to align with the original April 2024 (and March 2026) resolution.

The revised draft Good Neighbour Policy was on public exhibition from 30 March 2026 to 27 April 2026. During public exhibition, there were 383 visits to the Your Say Inner West

project page, 11 participants completed the online survey and 1 email submission was received. Key themes arising from the engagement are summarised below:

Key Theme	Council Response
Clarification of roles and complaint pathways	Several respondents sought clearer information about who is responsible for managing different types of noise and activity, particularly following the Vibrancy Reforms. The Policy does clarify the regulatory responsibilities in that, Liquor & Gaming NSW is the lead regulator for sound and patron complaints from licensed premises, while Council continues to manage non-licensed premises, plant and equipment noise and other operational noise and provides guidance to residents on the appropriate complaint pathways.
Protection of residential amenity and activity impacts beyond noise	There was considerable concern about the impact of noise and activity on residents, especially those in established residential areas from waste, deliveries, footpath obstructions and increased vehicle movements. There was also a comment on what constitutes an 'activity'. Protecting reasonable residential amenity is a core objective of the Policy. For those matters where Council is the regulatory authority and the policy applies, Council applies a consistent and graduated response to manage unreasonable sound and activity impacts, while recognising that some level of sound and activity is expected in an urban environment. In some cases, Council may apply a coordinated cross-departmental approach to manage these activity matters.
Balancing vibrancy and liveability	Many respondents supported the intent of balancing a vibrant local economy with residential liveability, though with differing emphasis. However, the general agreement was that coexistence requires clear rules and fair enforcement. The policy clearly explains roles, responsibilities and how issues are handled so decisions are fair and consistent. While Liquor & Gaming NSW is the main contact for licensed venues, Council is still available locally to help guide residents and work with other agencies to resolve issues.

Of the 12 submissions received, 67% of respondents supported the revised Policy. The Policy was generally viewed as achieving a fair balance between protecting residential amenity and supporting local businesses, live music and events, with Council remaining a key local contact to help resolve issues early.

Those who were unsure or did not support the policy raised similar themes, expressing concern that vibrancy priorities may outweigh residential amenity, along with uncertainty about what constitutes an 'activity' and who is responsible for regulating maritime vessel-related noise. To address this, a new *sound and activity* definition has been added to Section 3 of the Policy (see A*ttachment 1*) and Council's Noise Pollution webpage will be updated to reflect the contact for maritime vessel-related noise.

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications

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

Attachment 2 has 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. ⇩ Good Neighbour Policy

2. ⇨ Engagement Outcomes Report - **Published Separately on Council's Website**

INNER WEST
Good Neighbour Policy
V3

INNER WEST

Title	**Good Neighbour Policy**
Summary	Council has implemented a Good Neighbour policy to provide guidance in the management of sound and activity management complaints for licensed and unlicensed premises.
Document Type	Policy
Relevant Strategic Plan Objective	• Strategic Direction 2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport. • Strategic Direction 3: Creative communities and a strong economy • Strategic Direction 4: Healthy, resilient, and caring communities
Legislative Reference	• *Local Government Act 1993* • *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* • *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* • *Food Act 2003* • *Public Health Act 2010* • *Liquor Act 2007*
Related Council Documents	• Code of Conduct • Compliance and Enforcement Policy • Service Charter
Version Control	See last page

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1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to support the community's live music venues, licensed premises, creative spaces, sporting clubs and commercial businesses by providing them with assurance that the Council takes a balanced approach to the coexistence of residents and businesses and will seek to keep premises operating wherever possible.

The policy specifically excludes construction businesses and the Development Assessment process as these have their own legal mechanisms and requirements that sit outside this policy.

The policy identifies the role of all stakeholders, such as residents, businesses, Council, Police and Liquor and Gaming NSW in managing sound and activity in an urban environment as well as outline Council's approach to amicably resolving these matters prior to taking any formal regulatory action.

2 Scope

This policy applies to all Councillors, Council Officers and contractors working for Council regardless of whether they are permanent, temporary, full-time, part-time or casual. For the purposes of this policy, the term contractor includes on-hired temporary labour services (agency staff) and sub-contractors.

3 Definitions

In the Good Neighbour Policy, the following terms have the following meanings:

Councillor	Inner West Council elected representative
Council Officer	Inner West Council members of staff (including full-time, part-time, casual and contracted staff)
Government Agencies	Include Liquor & Gaming NSW and NSW Police
Licensed Premises	Premises which hold a liquor licence under the Liquor Act e.g. live music venue, pub, club, food premises etc.
Non-licensed premises	Any other premises which do not sell or supply liquor e.g. residence, creative and community spaces, commercial premises etc.
Policy	Refers to the Good Neighbour Policy

Sound and activity	Disturbances caused by patrons, music, entertainment, plant and equipment, deliveries and other general operational sound
Stakeholders	Include licensees, businesses, residents, tenants, industry, community groups and Council

4 Statement

This Policy recognises Council's commitment in ensuring that good neighbourhood amenity is maintained for residents by applying a consistent regulatory response to managing sound and activity.

Council commits to liaise with other government agencies and stakeholders to seek their assistance in decision-making, mediation, and resolutions.

5 Objectives

Objective 1 – Neighbourhood Amenity

The neighbourhoods surrounding licensed and non-licensed premises are afforded reasonable amenity.

Objective 2 – Roles of Stakeholders

The roles of stakeholders are clear and committed to managing amenity expectations.

Objective 3 – Compliance

Implement a consistent and adaptable regulatory response in collaboration with the Government agencies to manage amenity expectations associated with licensed and non-licensed premises.

6 Handling of Complaints from Licensed Premises

Licensees have certain obligations to ensure any negative impacts on residents are minimised. It is reasonable to expect some level of sound from activities associated with licensed venues due to people arriving, leaving or general operation.

Note: Complaints that relate to plant and equipment servicing a licensed premises are investigated by Council as per Section 7.

The NSW Government has introduced Vibrancy Reforms, legislative and policy changes which aim to improve the night-time economy. These reforms make Liquor and Gaming NSW the lead regulator, investigating and responding to sound and activity

management complaints from licensed premises, including those located in Special Entertainment Precincts.

If you are concerned about the level of sound coming from a licensed venue, please visit Liquor and Gaming NSW and follow their prescribed criteria for making a sound complaint.

7 Handling of Complaints from Non-licensed Premises

7.1 Managing sound through mediation

When a sound or activity concern is raised with a premises, there is an expectation that the operator will provide a commitment to lessening future sound impacts on the neighbourhood.

Should sound and activity management be an ongoing issue that has been unable to be resolved through previous attempts, Council may facilitate a mediation session, voluntarily bringing together the customer and representatives from the premises to discuss, understand and resolve the issues.

Mediation will ideally be held face to face on neutral ground. There may be circumstances with scheduling conflicts or health concerns where an online meeting is preferred.

7.2 Steps to take before lodging a formal customer request

Residents are encouraged to take the following steps prior to lodging a formal sound complaint with Council.

Identify the location and the source

In urban environments, it can be difficult to determine the location and source of sound and activity. Accurately identifying the location and source of the sound will assist the Council Officer when approaching the premises to investigate the impacts.

Approach the premises

Council's experience shows that when neighbours approach one another with reasonable grievances, they tend to be resolved quickly. This is particularly helpful with afterhours concerns so matters can be addressed as they occur. Resolutions may involve minor negotiations associated with times of use of noisy plant and equipment, closing certain windows or doors, routine maintenance or servicing and lowering the volume.

Evaluate the response of the premises

If you are dissatisfied with the response or action taken by the premises or if you feel that the sound remains at an unreasonable level, a request should be lodged with Council

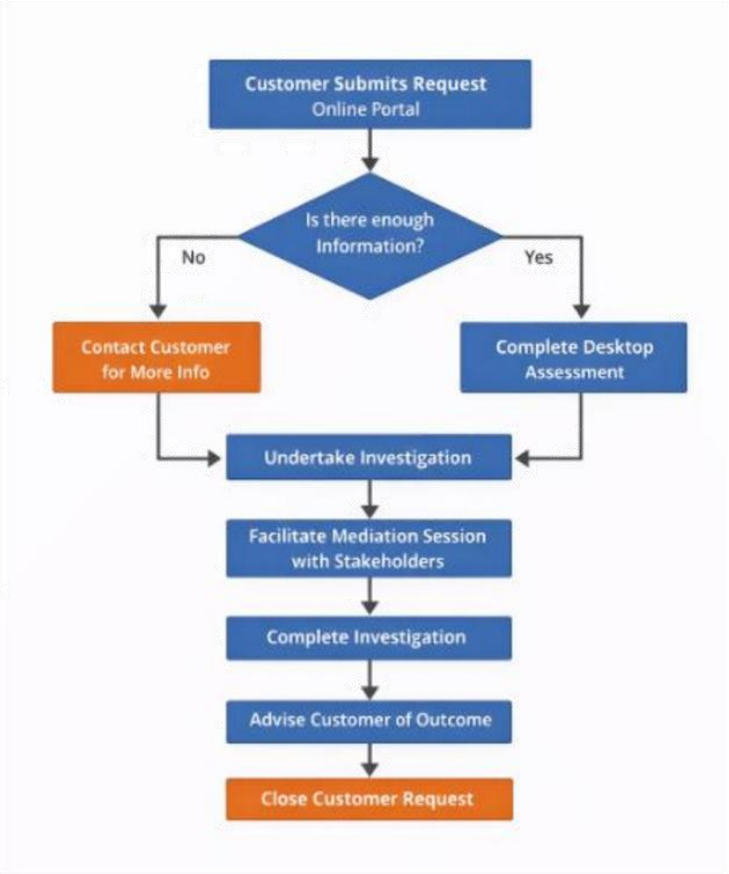
7.3 Council customer request handling procedure

Any customer requests associated with sound from a non-licensed premises, including those also located in a Special Entertainment Precinct, should be made to Inner West Council via the online portal. Regardless of when it is made, customer requests will be handled by Council in accordance with this Policy. Serious breaches that require immediate attention may be expedited or require involvement from multiple stakeholders.

Note: Section 7.5 where immediate attention is required outside of normal business hours, the Police are the appropriate point of contact.

If while resolving a sound and activity matter, Council officers become aware of other compliance issues the premises should be supported to keep operating as normal with a view to a coordinated approach in resolving all matters.

This flowchart illustrates the typical customer request handling process for non-licensed premises.



7.4 Managing sound though Council Investigations

Ongoing sound and activity management that cannot be resolved through the processes outlined in Section 7.1 above will need to be assessed against the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* or any other relevant legislation. This may involve the customer completing a sound and activity diary or the deployment of Council staff or a consultant to conduct sound monitoring at the premises at an undisclosed day and time. Any enforcement action will be considered in line with Council's Compliance and Enforcement Policy.

7.5 Police handling of reports

Police play a crucial role in compliance as they are a 24/7 operation and are granted powers under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* to conduct offensive sound and activity assessments. This is particularly important when Council is unavailable and immediate attention is required due to the significancy of the concerns.

8 Breaches of this policy

Breaches of this policy may result in an investigation of the alleged breach in line with relevant Council policies including the Model Code of Conduct.

Any alleged criminal offence or allegation of corrupt conduct will be referred to the relevant external agency.

9 Administrative Changes

From time-to-time circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made including branding, Council Officer titles or department changes and legislative name or title changes which are considered minor in nature and not required to be formally endorsed.

10 Version Control – Policy History

This policy will be formally reviewed every three years from the date of adoption or as required.

Governance use only:

Document	**Good Neighbour Policy**	***Uncontrolled Copy When Printed***	
Custodian	Director Planning	Version #	Version 2
Approved By	Council	ECM Document	39136028
Next Review Date	April 2027		

Amended by	**Changes made**	**Date**
Planning	New Policy	28 May 2019
Planning	Policy Review	9 April 2024

Item: **C0626(1) Item 11**

Title: **Vietnamese Memorial Consultation Plan**

Author: Caroline McLeod - Acting Director Community

Recommendation

That Council endorses the revised project scope and community-led consultation and commissioning approach for the Vietnamese refugee memorial in Marrickville.

Executive Summary

- In September 2025, Council resolved to recognise the contribution of Vietnamese refugees through a permanent memorial in Marrickville.
- Concerns regarding the consultation approach and cultural appropriateness were raised following the development of a lotus inspired artwork.
- Council's resolution of 19 May 2026 acknowledged these concerns and directed staff to undertake further engagement and present a revised approach.
- This report sets out a revised, community-led project approach to ensure the memorial is respectful, culturally appropriate and supported by the Vietnamese community.
- The approach includes a structured process involving community-led scoping, development of concept designs through an Expression of Interest process, and validation and broader consultation prior to final selection.
- The memorial is anticipated to be delivered in 2027/28 financial year.

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to provide an overview of the community engagement plan and timeline regarding developing the themes and scope for commissioning a memorial to recognise the contribution of the Vietnamese community.

Strategic Direction

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

4: Healthy, resilient and caring communities

5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

Background

At the Council meeting held on 29 April 2025, Council resolved the following C0425(1) Item 26:

1. *That Council receive and note the report.*
2. *That Council engage local business chambers / networks / associations, especially those supported by the Economic Development Team, to identify local organisations, businesses and performers that might be appropriate for Council to reach out to and encourage to participate.*
3. *That Council specifically acknowledge the enduring contribution made by the roughly 150,000 Vietnamese refugees that came to Australia following what is often referred to as the Fall of Saigon in 1975, many of whom settled in Marrickville.*
4. *That this acknowledgement take the form of a monument, plaque, tree planting or other significant acknowledgement in Marrickville, to be determined in consultation with the local Vietnamese community and Marrickville-Midjuburi Councillors.*

At the Council meeting held on 23 September 2025, Council resolved the following, C0925(1) Item 33:

1. *That Council note the resolution C0425(1) Item 26 of 29 April 2025 to acknowledge the contribution of Vietnamese Refugees to the Inner West.*
2. *That Councill further resolve that this acknowledgement should take the form of a permanent memorial and that it be located in the vicinity of Little Vietnam in Marrickville.*
3. *That Council begin consultation with the Vietnamese community and Marrickville community on the establishment of a permanent memorial.*

4. *That Council construct and dedicate the memorial prior to 30 April 2026, ensuring it is delivered within the year commemorating 50 years since the end of the Vietnam War.*
5. *That Council apportion funding from the main streets revitalisation fund to deliver the project.*
6. *That Council receive a progress report via councillor briefing note in September 2025, outlining the timeline, costs and consultation and engagement schedule for the establishment of a permanent memorial.*
7. *That Council engage staff from both the Communities Directorate and Infrastructure Directorate in the delivery of the memorial.*

At the Council meeting held on 19 May 2026, Council resolved the following C0526(1) Item 39:

That Council:

1. *Acknowledges the concern and hurt of the Vietnamese community about the consultation process undertaken by Council thus far on the plans for a memorial to commemorate Vietnamese refugees in Marrickville.*
2. *Requests:*
   a) *The General Manager and Director Community hold an urgent meeting with concerned residents, other stakeholders, and the Midjuburi ward councillors to discuss how Council can best support the development of a memorial that will be suitable for the Vietnamese refugee community;*
   b) *Establishment of a working relationship with the Bilingual Refugee Reference Group and other stakeholders from the Vietnamese community for community consultation on the memorial;*
   c) *Following consultation with the Bilingual Refugee Reference Group and other stakeholders, council staff prepare a report for the June council meeting outlining a renewed project scope and consultation plan prior to the commencement of an expression of interest process for an artist to produce the work; and*
   d) *Following consultation with the Bilingual Refugee Reference Group and other stakeholders, council staff prepare a future report to Council on developing a Vietnamese Refugee Heritage Day.*

Discussion

The development of Memorial to recognise the Vietnamese Community in Marrickville requires culturally informed engagement to ensure it is meaningful, respectful and supported by the Vietnamese community. A pop-up engagement and a proposal for a sculpture, saw the raising of concerns regarding the consultation approach and cultural appropriateness of the design. These concerns reflected limited early co-design and differing community views.

In response, Council has paused the existing approach and committed to a revised consultation and commissioning process that places the Vietnamese community at the centre of the memorial's development.

Council staff met with community members to discuss their concerns and inform this plan.

Revised Project Approach

The revised approach comprises three key stages, aligned with Council's procurement and community engagement policies and practices.

Stage 1: Community Workshop and Scoping

A facilitated workshop/s will be undertaken with members of the local Vietnamese community, including representatives of the Bilingual Refugee Reference Group, relevant organisations and stakeholders involved in previous consultation. An independent facilitator and interpreter will be engaged to support accessible and culturally appropriate engagement.

The workshop will clarify the purpose of the memorial, identify key themes, design principles and cultural considerations, including elements that should be avoided. These outcomes will inform a clear set of principles to guide the development of the Artist Brief

Stage 2: Expression of Interest Concept Development

An open Expression of Interest (EOI) process will call for qualified Artists to respond to an artist brief informed by the community workshop outcomes, including agreed themes, and cultural requirements. Concepts may include a contemplative space, public artwork or interpretive memorial. Inner West-based creative practitioners will be prioritised.

Up to three submissions will be shortlisted by Council Officers. The three shortlisted artists will be commissioned to further develop their concepts including costings, manufacturing processes, timelines etc.

Stage 3: Community Engagement and Approval Process

Developed shortlisted concepts will be presented to the workshop group for feedback. This feedback, combined with Officers comments regarding costs, construction methods, timeline and ongoing maintenance will be presented to Council for endorsement.

Subject to Council endorsement, preferred concepts will be exhibited to the broader Inner West and Vietnamese communities in accordance with standard consultation processes.

Procurement and Delivery

Once Council has endorsed the concept, Council Officer will commission the final design and delivery of the memorial.

Proposed Timeline

The proposed timeline enables a structured consultation and design process while allowing sufficient time for meaningful engagement:

Date	Action
June 2026	Commence engagement planning
August 2026	Undertake community workshop to develop and refine design themes, purpose and principles to inform the artist brief.
September	Conduct initial EOI seeking artists for basic concept. Council Officers shortlist up to three artists.
October 2026	Three shortlisted artists are commissioned to further develop concept designs, costings, construction methodology etc.
November 2026	Stakeholder Group provide feedback on the three concepts for consultation.
February 2026	Report to Council on workshop outcomes and seek endorsement to publicly exhibit the three shortlisted concepts to determine preferred option.
March 2027	Undertake a public vote on the preferred concept.
April 2027	Confirm preferred concept and commence procurement.
May 2027	Report to Council on outcomes of community consultation and engage preferred artist.
End 27/ beginning 28	Deliver and launch memorial.

Legal and Risk Implications

The risk of community concerns is mitigated by the extensive community engagement process.

Financial Implications

Funds be allocated in the 27/28 draft budget.

Conclusion

The revised approach responds directly to community concerns and places the Vietnamese community at the centre of the memorial's development. It provides a clear and structured pathway to deliver a respectful and culturally appropriate memorial supported by the community.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 12**

Title: **Halloween Celebrations**

Author: Caroline McLeod - Acting Director Community

Recommendation

That:

1. **Council endorse the proposal to run a Halloween competition for 2026 for Inner West residents.**

2. **Additional funding of $5,500 be incorporated into 2026/27 financial year budget.**

Executive Summary

- A 2026 trial Halloween competition is proposed to encourage resident participation across the Inner West.
- The proposal includes ward-based prizes, a judging panel, an online entry form and a competition webpage featuring submitted photos.
- The report sets out the delivery timeframe, communications activities and an unfunded budget requirement of $5,500 for 2026/27.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present a proposal for a 2026 Halloween community competition, including the delivery timeline, communications approach and budget implications, for Council's consideration and endorsement.

Strategic Direction

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

3: Creative communities and a strong economy

Background

At the Council meeting held on 17 March 2026, Council resolved the following *C0326(1) Item 4:*

1. *That Council endorse the proposed enhancements planned to promote community Halloween activities, to increase road safety messaging and clarify arrangements for street party road closures.*

2. *That, in addition, Council receives a report to the April 2026 meeting from the Events Team outlining a community event or competition element, such as (but not limited to) a "Spookiest House in the Inner West" or "Best Dressed in the Inner West" competition, to encourage community participation.*

3. *That the report in April 2026 includes clear delivery timelines for the event, and a supporting social media and communications plan for the event and for advertising the street closures application process well in time for Halloween 2026.*

Discussion

It is proposed that Council deliver a trial "Inner West Spookiest Halloween House" competition in 2026.

The competition would include:

- Cash prizes for one home in each ward to encourage participation.
- A judging panel comprising a Councillor, a community representative and a Council staff member.
- An online entry form and dedicated webpage to showcase competition information and photos submitted by residents.

- Promotion through Council's communications channels in line with the supporting communications plan.

Entries would open six weeks before Halloween, on Monday 21 September 2026, and judging would take place on Thursday 29 October 2026, with winners announced on or around Halloween.

Winning properties would be photographed and featured in social media content announcing the winners.

As part of the communications approach, Council would also promote information about Halloween-related road closures across the local government area.

Communications plan

- Promote the competition across September and October 2026.
- Produce a launch video featuring the Mayor.
- Include promotion in the September newsletter, social media, digital screens in Council facilities and relevant e-newsletters.
- A small digital advertising budget of $3,000 for social media promotion and targeted community networks such as Inner West Mums.
- Use ongoing social media posts to encourage entries and share information about approved street closures and locations to visit on 31 October.
- Provide entrants with a poster featuring the Inner West Council logo to print and display at participating properties.
- Publish road closure information on a separate page on Council's website.

Competition webpage

- Competition branding and entry information.
- A link to the online entry form.
- A photo gallery of images submitted by residents, updated weekly.

Announcement of winners

- Publish a social media post on 30 October featuring finalist images and encouraging the community to visit local streets the following day.
- Announce the winner on or around Halloween, subject to the winner's availability to participate in promotional content.

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no legal implications associated with this Report. The proposed competition presents manageable operational and reputational risks that can be addressed through clear eligibility criteria, published terms and conditions, and an appropriate assessment process. Any promotional activity involving photographs of private properties or participants would require consent through the entry process. Communications relating to Halloween road closures would need to be coordinated with the relevant operational teams to ensure information is accurate and published in a timely manner.

Financial Implications

Estimated costs include $2,500 for prize money and $3,000 for marketing, resulting in a total budget requirement of $5,500. Additional funding to be incorporated into 2026/27 financial year.

Conclusion

Endorsement of this proposal would enable staff to progress detailed planning for a structured Halloween initiative that supports community engagement, coordinated promotion and local participation in 2026.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 13**

Title: **New Public Plaza Adjacent to Balmain Town Hall**

Author: Peter Shields - Acting Director Property and Major Projects

Recommendation

That:

1. **Council endorse the public exhibition of design plans for a new public plaza adjacent to Balmain Town Hall and its proposed naming as 'Wran Place'.**

2. **The outcomes of the public exhibition of design plans and the naming proposal for the new public plaza adjacent to Balmain Town Hall are reported back for consideration by Council in September 2026.**

Executive Summary

- Council has resolved to improve the plaza space adjacent to the Balmain Town Hall and consult with the community on the design and a naming proposal for this space.
- A preliminary concept design for the area beside the Balmain Town Hall has been developed. The proposal creates a contemporary paved plaza that provides a safe and cohesive civic space by removing vehicles from routinely entering the area, improving parking arrangements on Darling Street and enhancing connectivity with the neighbouring courthouse frontage.
- The concept proposes short term works and opportunities for interpretation relating to the naming proposal. Long term works are identified but are subject to further investigation and future funding.
- Consultation is now ready to proceed seeking endorsement for community engagement which will seek community views on support for both the concept design and the naming of the space as 'Wran Place'.
- Subject to the outcomes of future community engagement, it is envisaged that a report to the September 2026. Council officers will seek support for an endorsed name to be referred to the Geographic Names Board, whilst the short term works in the plaza space are completed in 2027. The report recommends that capital funding of $350,000 for short term works is provisioned within the 2026/27 financial year budget.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek direction from Council on a planned strategy for community engagement for the design and naming of a new public plaza space beside Balmain Town Hall.

Strategic Direction

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

Background

At the Council meeting held on 5 December 2023, Council resolved the following in part, C1223(1) Item 13:

1. *That Council consult with local business and the community on the design of a new pedestrian space surrounding the Balmain Town Hall and other short-term improvements in the precinct. These considerations to be included in the 2024/2025 Budget.*

At the Council meeting held on 11 March 2025, Council resolved the following in part, C0325(1) Item 22:

1. *That Council undertake community consultation about naming the public area at the frontage of the Balmain Court House and Balmain Town Hall as Wran Square in honour of one of Balmain's most famous citizens, former Premier of NSW, Neville Wran.*

At the Council meeting held on 19 May 2026 Council resolved the following, C0526(1) Item 8:

1. *That Council consider the proposal at the June 2026 Council meeting pending:*
   a) *A report on the commemoration for Rochelle Porteous and celebration of Mary Gaudron; and*
   b) *More detailed designs of the commemoration of Neville Wran, including story boards and artwork to be located at the square.*

This report incorporates planning and naming activities that respond to the resolutions where it relates to the public space alongside Balmain Town Hall. The proposed

commemoration of Rochelle Porteous and celebration of Mary Gaudron are proposed at other locations and are the subject of Item 14 in this Council Meeting business paper.

Discussion

The space adjacent to the Balmain Town Hall serves as both a thoroughfare and gathering area for the community. The area is flanked by the Balmain Town Hall to the west, Darling Street to the north, Balmain Police Station and Courthouse to the east and the Balmain-Rozelle Occasional Care Centre to the south.

There have been numerous additions and changes made to this space over time, and it currently contains public toilets, a glass house, a shelter, outdoor furniture, an access driveway, pathways and vegetation. The space in its current configuration lacks cohesion and its prescribed community purpose as a public domain space could be significantly improved through the development of a public domain intervention plan.

Concept Design

The current location is heavily utilised by pedestrians to reach the buildings in the vicinity. Pedestrian links are poor, with pedestrian links conflicting with vehicles using the space. The space also suffers from narrowing paths and uneven surfaces. The plaza space presently with high levels of clutter, poor visibility, inconsistent materiality and furniture which requires replacement. Views of the Glass House are obscured, and the building curtilage is compromised.

A preliminary concept design has been developed to create a contemporary, safe and cohesive space for the area adjacent to Balmain Town Hall. Refer to Attachment 1.

The design seeks to:

- Provide an attractive paved plaza that opens up views to the Glass House and improves access to the public toilets, the occasional care centre and the Balmain Library meeting rooms;
- Celebrate the design character of the glass house by removing visual clutter from the existing bus shelter and vegetation, creating a new space where pedestrians can meet;
- Improve and frame the setting of the glass house;
- Provide a complementary and cohesive plaza space extending from the area in front of the courthouse at one end through to the Balmain Town Hall; and
- Recognise the important contribution made by Neville Wran to both the local area and NSW.

The design proposes to discontinue two parking spaces within the site. This will improve pedestrian safety outcomes for users of the space. It is proposed that two existing kerbside parking spaces in front of the Town Hall building become short stay 15 minute parking spaces, and the disabled parking on Darling Street is upgraded and made

compliant. These changes will accommodate drop off needs for the occasional care centre and library. The proposal also includes relocation of bin storage to a position to the rear of the town hall that is away from the plaza space.

The new plaza creates opportunities to present interpretive material in relation to people, place, buildings and community. Commemoration and interpretation relating to the proposed naming of Wran Place will be undertaken through interpretative signage and place making signage. Further opportunities in relation to acknowledging and celebrating key features of the site are also anticipated, such as the history of the Glass House, Courthouse, and the Town Hall. This can also include recognition of Neville Wran's grandfather who was a stonemason involved in the Town Hall's original construction. These placemaking initiatives will provide visual and physical connections between the various buildings on the site, as well as providing greater opportunities to further activate the plaza.

Story Boards and Artwork to be Located at the Square

In recognition of Neville Wran's significant contribution and service to the community of NSW, both as a parliamentarian and as Premier of NSW from 1976 to 1986, it is proposed to include in the design of the square interpretation panels which celebrate and acknowledge the outcomes Neville Wran championed in the areas of social diversity, environmental and infrastructure . The design, development and endorsement of these panels will be developed in close consultation with the Wran family and will form part of the overall design of the new square. An indicative image of a story board concept is included in the preliminary concept design for the square (Refer to Attachment 1).

Consultation

It is proposed that Council undertake community engagement to inform and capture feedback on both the plaza concept design and the naming proposal. Council will initially conduct direct consultation and will then proceed to engage with the community.

Direct consultation has occurred with the Wran family who are supportive of the concept design but have requested that the name is changed to 'Wran Place'. As part of any future design works further consultation will also be undertaken with the family regarding interpretive works.

Council will also consult with the NSW Police and NSW Department of Justice to gain agreement to undertake improvements to the landscaped frontages of the Courthouse and Police Station and construct a new pathway across the police station frontage.

It is proposed that the community engagement will include:

- Exhibition of a dedicated Your Say Inner West page for a minimum of 28 days;
- Seeking feedback via an online survey on the concept design for the space and the naming proposal which is recommended to be changed to 'Wran Place';

- Holding a pop-up on-site where community members, nearby property owners and local businesses have the opportunity to discuss the proposals directly with Council officers;
- Letterbox drops to nearby properties; and
- Social media posts.

Council's Your Say Inner West web page will include information relating to proposed short and long term improvements as well as the concept design included in *Attachment 1*.

All engagement relating to the naming proposed shall be in keeping with Council's community engagement protocols and Council's Naming Policy. Upon completion of the engagement, feedback will be analysed and any updates associated with the design or naming proposal can then be made. A report will then be submitted to Council in September 2026 recommending the next steps.

Naming of the Plaza Space

In New South Wales, the naming of public spaces generally requires the approval and official assignment of the Geographical Names Board (GNB) to be formally recognised as a "place". This procedure was followed with the naming of Pride Square in Newtown. Council will need to follow a similar approach to seek for the naming to be Wran Place, with:

a) formal Council resolution on the name; and
b) an Engagement Outcomes Report indicating community support for any name change application.

Should the concept design be approved, Council will then proceed with the detailed design and all necessary approvals. It is envisaged that the planned short term construction works may be completed by late 2027.

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications associated with this Report.

Financial Implications

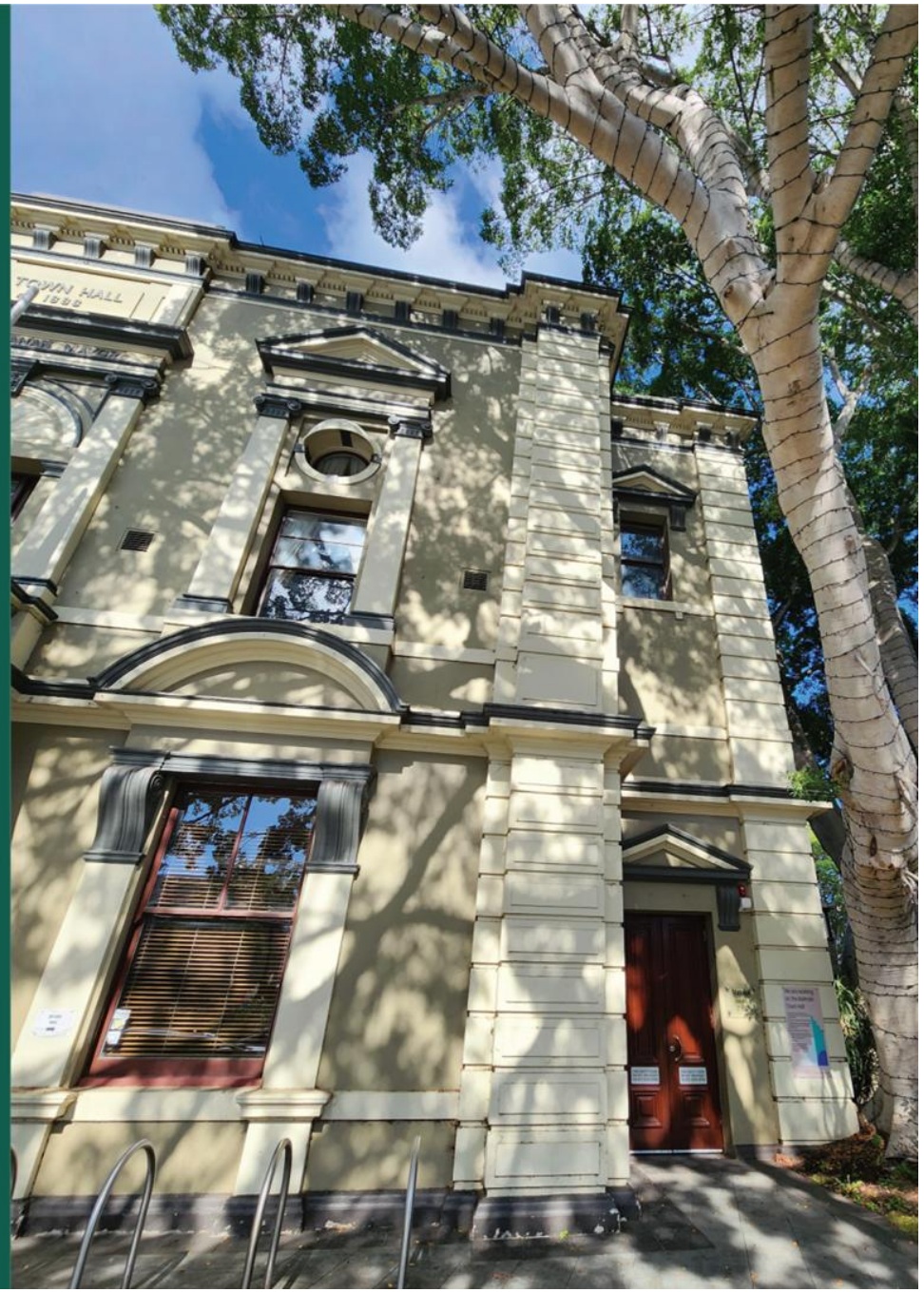
There is $350,000 in the draft 2026/27 financial year budget for the Balmain Town Hall frontage. This funding is considered adequate to deliver the proposed short term works. Funding for long term works would be the subject of future budget allocations. It is anticipated that some of these works may have external funding contributions.

Attachments

1.⇩ Draft Placemaking Conceptual Plan - Balmain Town Hall Plaza Space.

May 2026 Rev: 3.0

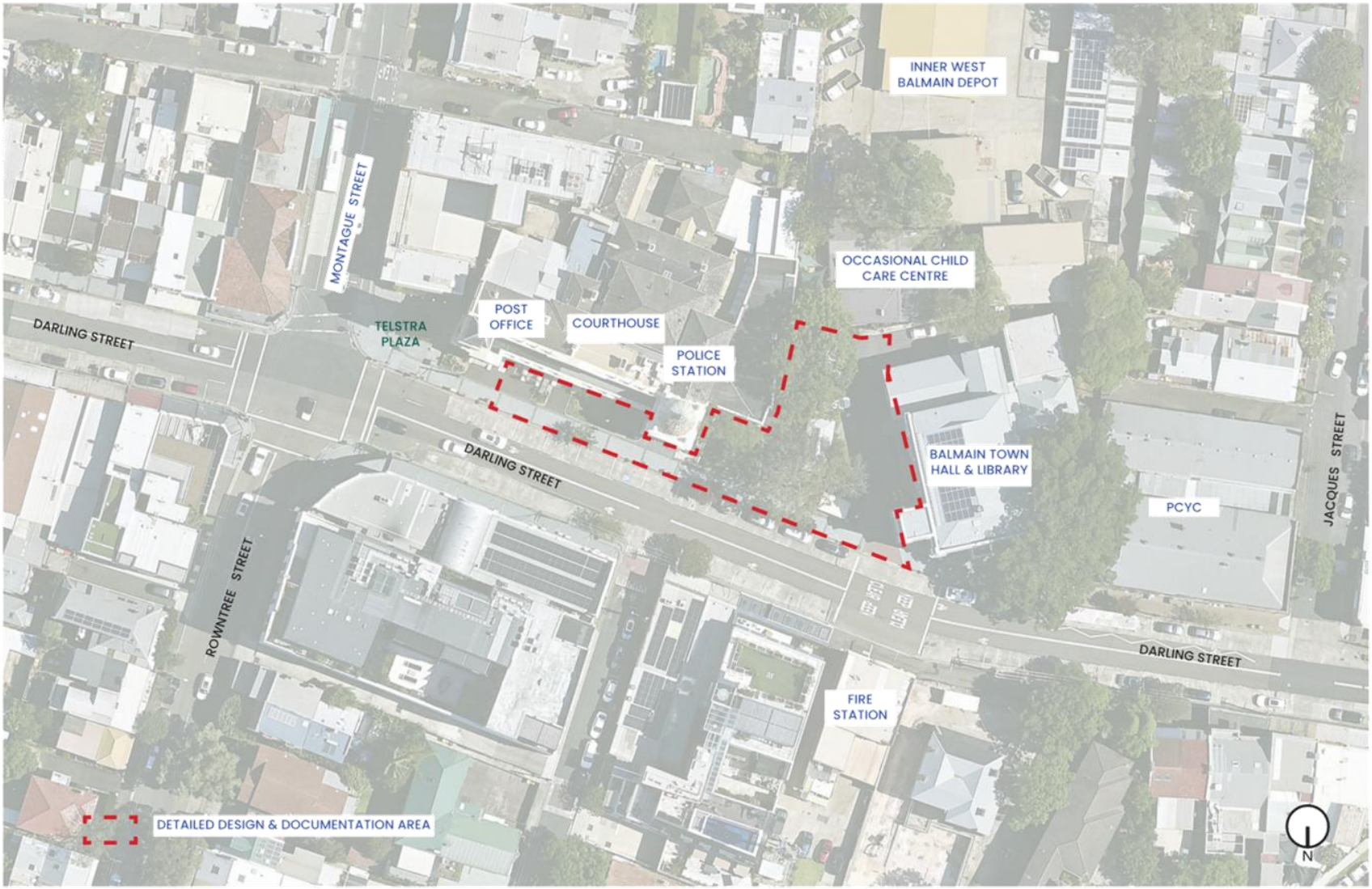
New Public Plaza Adjacent to Balmain Town Hall



INNER WEST

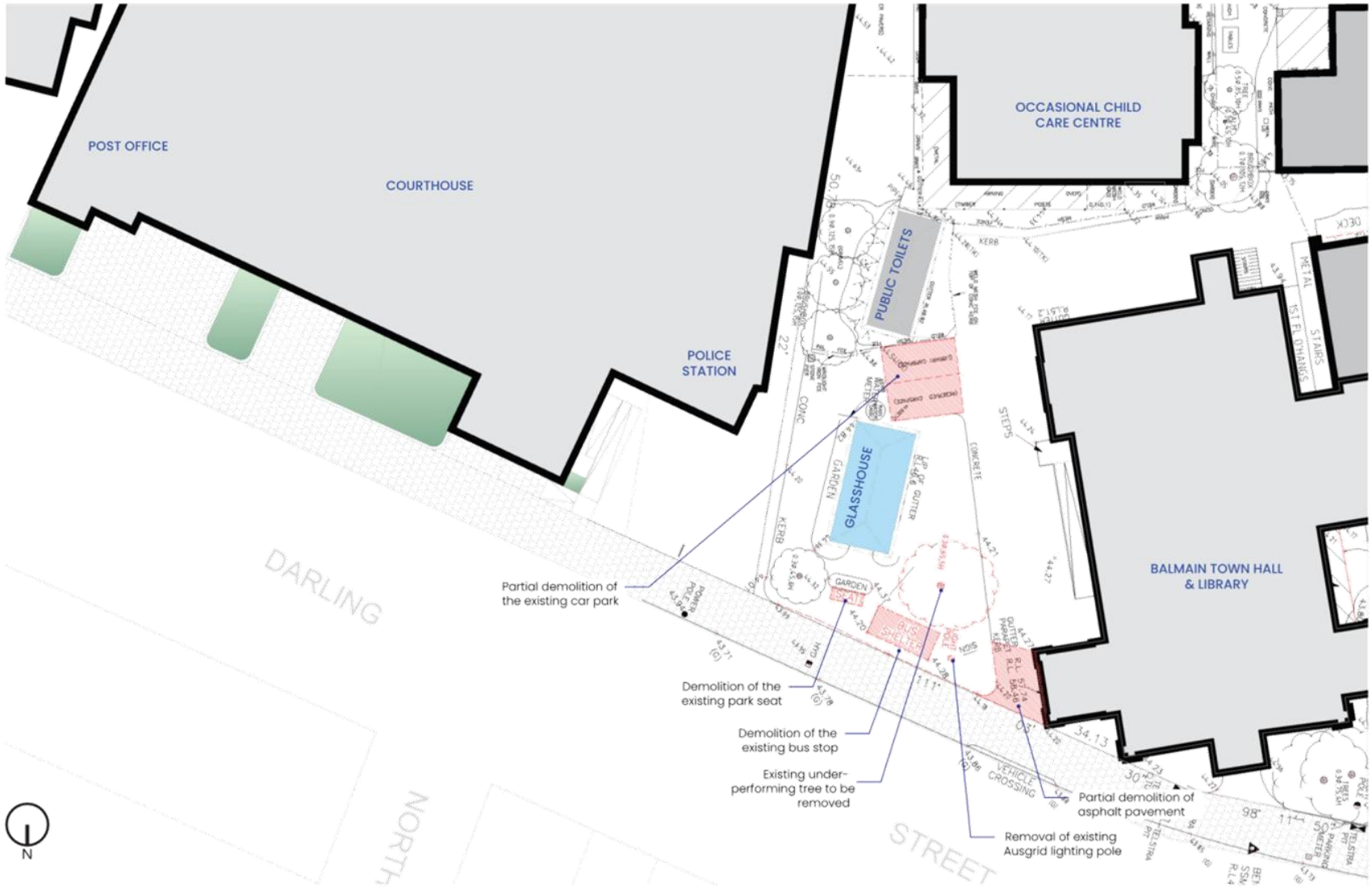
New Public Plaza Adjacent to Balmain Town Hall

Preliminary Concept Design - Context Map



New Public Plaza Adjacent to Balmain Town Hall

Preliminary Concept Design - Demolition Works



New Public Plaza Adjacent to Balmain Town Hall

Preliminary Concept Design - Short term work

New Public Plaza Adjacent to Balmain Town Hall

Preliminary Concept Design - Long term work

New Public Plaza Adjacent to Balmain Town Hall

Preliminary Concept Design - Short term works Perspective

New Public Plaza Adjacent to Balmain Town Hall

Preliminary Concept Design - Short term works - Night-time Perspective

Item: **C0626(1) Item 14**

Title: **Proposed Tribute for Mary Gaudron and Commemoration of Rochelle Porteous**

Author: Peter Shields - Acting Director Property and Major Projects

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Approve the public exhibition of the proposed naming of the rotunda at Pioneers Memorial Park, Leichhardt to be the Rochelle Porteous Rotunda.**

2. **Receive a further report in September 2026 detailing the outcomes of the public exhibition for the naming proposal.**

3. **Note the proposed tribute for Mary Gaudron is subject to further consultation, and a further report will be presented to Council detailing the proposed plans by August 2026.**

Executive Summary

- Council has resolved to recognise the important contributions made by Rochelle Porteous and Mary Guadron to the community over their respective careers.
- Following consultation with the family of Rochelle Porteous, is proposed that the rotunda in Pioneers Memorial Park in Leichhardt is named the Rochelle Porteous Rotunda. The installation is anticipated to include a naming sign and interpretive story board.
- In accordance with the Inner West Naming Policy, it is recommended that the public exhibition of the naming proposal proceeds, and the outcome be reported back to Council for consideration and approval.
- The fitting tribute for Mary Gaudron has progressed and currently subject to further consultation before the proposal may be considered by Council.

Purpose

To provide Council with an update on proposed plans to recognise the inspiring contributions made by Rochelle Porteous and Mary Gaudron through planned tributes.

Strategic Direction

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

4: Healthy, resilient and caring communities

5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

Background

At the Council meeting held on 11 March 2025, Council resolved the following in part, (C0325(1) Item 22):

3. *That Council investigate opportunities and locations for a tribute to long-term local resident and former High Court Justice Mary Gaudron for her contribution to the law, human rights, and gender equity in Australia*.

4. *That Council consult with the family of Rochelle Porteous about an appropriate way to commemorate her service to our community as a Councillor and Mayor through the naming of a public space or facility in her honour*.

This report provides a summary of activities undertaken in response to this resolution.

Discussion

Memorial for Rochelle Porteous

Rochelle was a long serving Councillor and Mayor on Leichhardt and Inner West Council who passed away in early 2025. She worked hard for her community with lifelong activism for social justice and environmental sustainability.

In consultation with Rochelle's immediate family, it has been recommended to name the rotunda in Pioneers Memorial Park, Leichhardt in honour of Rochelle's contribution to community life. It is proposed that the Rotunda be named the Rochelle Porteous Rotunda.

As the rotunda is a Council owned facility, it does not require approval from the Geographic Names Board however its proposed naming does need to publicly be exhibited for a period of 28 days and an engagement process undertaken with the

community. The results of which will need to be reported back to Council at the conclusion of the engagement process.

It is proposed that the rotunda would have appropriate naming signage added and an interpretive story board will be developed and located at the rotunda.

Subject to a future Council endorsement, and in accordance with the Inner West Council Naming Policy, it is proposed to publicly exhibit the naming proposal for 28 days. This includes letter box notification to all properties that surround Pioneers Memorial Park. The community will be encouraged to provide feedback via a Your Say web page.

Following the public exhibition, a further report will be presented to Council to consider the formal adoption of the proposed name.

Subject to Council approval the planned works may be completed by November 2026.

Tribute and Recognition for Mary Gaudron

Widely acclaimed as an inspiration for Women in leadership and law across Australia, Mary Gaudron is a lawyer and former judge who was first female justice to the High Court of Australia and the former Solicitor General of NSW. Mary was also the President of the International Labour Organisation's Administration Tribunal from 2011 until 2014.

Several options have been considered for a naming proposal. The preferred option being considered is to name a community building or room in honour of Mary Gaudron. Council officers are in discussion with the NSW Police and the NSW Department of Communities and Justice on options for naming a room in the former Balmain Courthouse in this regard. The finalisation of a suitable tribute for Mary Gaudron will also require further consideration and engagement with Mary Gaudron and her family given the need for any future tribute to have appropriate meaning and relevance.

It is anticipated that a further report is presented to Council by August 2026 recommending a naming proposal.

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications associated with this Report.

Financial Implications

There are financial implications associated with the implementation of the proposed recommendations outlined in the report. Funding to the value of $8,000 is required for the Rochelle Porteus Rotunda, and this can be sourced from existing budgets. Costs associated with a tribute for Mary Gaudron will be detailed in a future report to Council.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 15**

Title: **Inner West Furniture Audit and Future Furniture Planning**

Author: Peter Shields - Acting Director Property and Major Projects

Recommendation

That:

1. **Council notes:**
    a) **the audit of furniture in parks and streets is complete;**
    b) **future planning relating to this furniture will be based on service levels and Public Domain Guidelines currently under development; and**
    c) **additional furniture will be installed during the 2026/27 financial year in town centres and parks as part of planned capital projects and a targeted program to address critical gaps in furniture provision.**

2. **The draft Inner West Public Domain Guidelines are reported to Council by May 2027 with the intention that they will be publicly exhibited before subsequent adoption in late 2027.**

Executive Summary

- This report provides Council with an overview of the current quantity and location of parks and streetscape furniture assets within the Inner West Local Government area.
- The report also highlights Council's current work program as it relates to master planning for future park and street furniture asset improvements. The report does not include an audit of lighting improvement works on main streets or pedestrian crossings which are subject to future reports by Council.
- The development of service levels and an overarching set of Public Domain Guidelines are considered critical to guide placemaking standards and future furniture works. The development of these guidelines is now proceeding and will be completed in the 2026/27 financial year.
- There is an extensive program of capital works which is delivering new furniture and renewing existing assets in parks and streets. Once service levels and the

Public Domain Guidelines are set, additional capital programs will be implemented to progressively address gaps in service provision of furniture.

Purpose

This report responds to a Council resolution seeking a report summarising an audit of park and street furniture, and plans for addressing gaps in furniture provided.

Strategic Direction

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

Background

At the Council meeting held on 29 April 2025, Council resolved the following C0425(1) Item 45:

1. *That Council undertake an audit of street furniture across the Inner West, including but not limited to:*
   a) *Benches and resting points;*
   b) *Public lighting (particularly pedestrian-scale lighting);*
   c) *Drinking fountains;*
   d) *Bike racks and lockers; and*
   e) *Wayfinding signage and maps.*
2. *That Council focus the audit on key high-traffic locations, including:*
   a) *Main streets;*
   b) *Shopping complexes;*
   c) *Supermarkets;*
   d) *Post offices;*
   e) *Town Halls;*
   f) *Light Rail and Ferry stops, Train and Metro stations;*
   g) *Major sporting grounds; and*
   h) *Flagship parks.*
3. *That Council identify locations where additional street furniture and bike parking infrastructure are required to improve safety, comfort, and convenience for pedestrians and cyclists across the LGA.*

4. *That Council prepare a report for the November 2025 Council meeting outlining audit findings and recommendations, to inform consideration for inclusion in the 2026–2027 budget.*

This report provides further information of activities undertaken to respond to this resolution.

Discussion

1. Furniture Audit

A significant internal Council review and audit has been undertaken based on the current provision of street furniture across the Inner West. All assets, other than street lighting identified in the 29 April 2025 resolution of Council were included. The review considered furniture assets in both parks and streets. The total number of items identified in the audit for key furniture items was:

- 67 Bicycle Racks
- 1493 Park Seats
- 506 Street Seats
- 252 Picnic Tables and Seats
- 112 Park Shelters.

Asset information from this audit, along with any future changes to furniture, are recorded in Councils asset inventory. When furniture is replaced or installed it is treated as capital expenditure. Funding for the replacement of street furniture that is determined to be in poor condition is funded from the depreciation reserve. Funding for new or an upgrade of furniture is sourced from project delivery budgets.

The majority of park and street furniture is owned and maintained by Council. There are 159 bus shelters, 221 bins and 107 seats provided and maintained under contracts associated with bus shelters and associated out of home media. These three contracts expire in 2028 and will be the subject of separate reporting to Council on future arrangements.

2. Review of Furniture Audit Data

The furniture audit has highlighted that the Inner West Council has a significant portfolio of park and street furniture assets which support community wellbeing and amenity.

Some specific findings from the analysis of the audit data include:

1. *Localised furniture deficiencies*

There are deficiencies or concentrations of certain types of furniture. For example, there is a lack of bicycle racks in Ashfield and Stanmore. There are many similar examples for each furniture type. This variability means the provision of furniture is not equitable for the community.

2. *Variance in furniture typology*

   There has been no cohesive approach to the choice of furniture. Some furniture types may have higher visual appeal or poor capacity to meet need. There is a lack of consistency or legibility of furniture in one location and across the local government area. The large scale variability of furniture requires specialised arrangements for ongoing care which can result in extended time and higher costs for repair and maintenance.

3. *Variance in installation standards*

   Furniture has been installed incrementally and to differing standards. There are many instances where furniture does not meet current accessibility standards or is not suited to current community needs.

3. Future Furniture Planning

There are a series of initiatives that are already proceeding that will address the issues identified in the furniture audit:

Initiative	Benefit for Future Furniture Provision
Service Levels for the provision of furniture	**These service levels will confirm the type and frequency of furniture to use. This will ensure furniture meets compliance standards, is accessible, legible and equitable for the community.**
Public Domain Guidelines	**The planned service levels will be incorporated into these guidelines, and the community will be provided the opportunity to review them prior to adoption by Council. The guidelines will be useful for developers, project planning, asset planning, designers, installers and maintainers.**
Capital Program	**Capital works programs will all be funded to ensure furniture these guidelines and works are prioritised to address service gaps.**

Before the capital plans for furniture are determined in detail for the long term financial plan, it is critical that the service levels and a Public Domain Guideline is set to provide clear direction on future furniture needs.

4. Furniture Service Levels

There currently is no Inner West adopted standard for the type and frequency of furniture placement.

Council officers have recently completed benchmarking and a review of compliance requirements for all furniture types. There are many well regarded examples available for reference. For example *Locate a seat every 100m along a main street*.

Draft service levels are currently being developed for all furniture items. The service levels will be proposed for consideration by the community and Council when community engagement proceeds for the Public Domain Guidelines.

5. Public Domain Guidelines

Well-designed public spaces which are master planned in response to demonstrated community needs promote greater use and enjoyment by the community. They also contribute significantly to the establishment of a sense of place. Good design in the public domain includes design considerations around people movement and the need for spaces which provide for rest and relaxation. The spaces are accessible and inclusive. The design planning ensures equitable furniture provision that benefits all Inner West residents. The creation of these spaces requires thoughtful design which includes consideration around the provision of essential public domain elements including resting seats, well connected paths, shade, drinking fountains and bicycle support facilities.

Inner West Council does not have any adopted public design guidelines or standards that relate to park and street furniture. Currently strategic park and public domain master plans are the key planning tools utilised for new street and park furniture upgrades, however this is not adequate to meet the needs of future development to provide a cohesive approach to managing furniture. Many Councils meet this need by developing public domain guidelines.

In response to the identified need for these guidelines, it is proposed that in the 2026/27 financial year Council officers will prepare the first edition of the Public Domain Guidelines. The draft guidelines will be firstly presented to Council by May 2027 with the intention that they are then publicly exhibited and subsequently approved by Council in late 2027.

6. Additional Furniture Within The Inner West Capital Program

Council is committed to a significant strategic planning and capital delivery program which includes new furniture. While the furniture service levels and Public Domain Guidelines are under development, Council will continue to plan for furniture installations as part of capital projects and to meet identified service gaps.

This program has a core focus on improving public amenity within the Inner West including footpath renewals, lighting improvements, wayfinding signage, street furniture provision, pedestrian safety improvements and other public domain enhancement works. Council's current delivery program as it relates to main street and park improvement furniture works is summarised in *Table 2*.

Table 2. Public Domain and Park Capital Work Improvement Programs that include furniture in the 2025/26 financial year.

Project	Project Description	Status
Lewisham Town Centre	**Placemaking Improvements for streets around the Lewisham Train Station.**	**In progress**
Stanmore Village Street Furniture	**Stanmore Village Street Furniture Project**	**Completed**
Crystal Street Glow Ups	**Public Domain Improvements in Cystal Street Petersham**	**In Progress**
London Simmons Trail Street Plaza	**Short Term Plazza Creation and activation Project**	**Completed**
Sydenham Road Strategy	**Sydenham Road Intervention Strategy**	**In progress**
Caves Lane Dulwich Hill	**Improving Caves Lane Dulwich Hill**	**Completed**
Lackey Street Summer Hill	**Public Domain Master Planning and event use activation planning**	**In Progress**
Princess Highway Streetscape Improvement Plans	**Economic Upgrade**	**In Progress**
Greenway Master Plan	**Greenway Master Plan Implementation**	**Completed**
Cooks River Lighting Project	**Kendrick Park to Steel Park Lighting Improvements**	**In progress**
Wicks Park Plan of Management	**Wicks Park Master Plan**	**In progress**

Project	Project Description	Status
Jarvie Park Plan of Management	Jarvie Park Master Plan	In progress
Camperdown Park Plan of Management	Plan of Management to support the new Community hub	In progress
Camperdown Memorial Rest Park Plan of Management	Plan of Management and Master Plan for future parkland improvements	In Progress
Tempe Lands Master Plan	Master Planning for Tempe Lands	In progress
Mort Bay Park Upgrade	Park refurbishment Program	In Progress
Johnson Park Grade	Park masterplan upgrade	Completed
Richard Murden Reserve Inclusive Playground	Park Upgrade Program	Completed
Gumbramorra Swamp Recreation	Mackey Park Master Plan Delivery	In Progress
Playground Upgrades - Bill Peters Reserve, Illoura Reserve, Tom Kenny Reserve	Playground Refurbishment Program.	In Progress

7. Proposed Street Furniture Type

There are no identified standard types of furniture specific in the Inner West. The use of a regular type of street furniture ensures the public domain across the Inner West is attractive, legible, sustainable, equitable, compliant and can be effectively maintained with operational costs minimised and outages to the community reduced. It also ensures developers and other government agencies delivering infrastructure are required to provide a set type whenever they are delivering public domain or park works.

Planning is now underway for Council to proceed with a tender seeking for submissions for the supply of street furniture items. The successful tenders for each furniture type will feature in the Public Domain Guidelines.

8. Proposed Capital Program for Additional Furniture

In the interim, whilst the Public Domain Guidelines are being development, Council staff have identified a number of critical gaps in seating and bicycle parking in main streets, parks and sporting grounds across the local government area. Further to the furniture delivered in capital projects, an additional 25 seats and 25 bicycle parking facilities are proposed for installation in the 2026/27 financial year. All furniture installation works will be subject to engagement with adjacent property owners when in close proximity to a shopfront.

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the implementation of the proposed recommendations outlined in the report. Furniture proposed in 2026/27 will be funded from existing capital programs.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 16**

Title: **Update on St Peters Interchange Parkland Contamination**

Author: Peter Shields - Acting Director Property and Major Projects

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Writes to the NSW Priemer and Cabinet and:**
   a) **Seeks a timing commitment to complete the remediation and development of the Campbell Road Parkland site for future use as a sports field;**
   b) **Rejects any future transfer of the land planned for the Campbell Road Parkland or any ongoing management of land contamination but is willing to otherwise be responsible for the care, control and management of the use of the parkland once it has been completed in keeping with the approved conditions of consent.**
   c) **Rejects any future transfer of the land planned for the St Peters Parkland or any proposal for the care, control and management of the land.**

2. **Obtains an independent Just Terms Compensation valuation to determine the monetary compensation to be paid to Inner West Council in lieu of the St Peters Parkland and Campbell Road Parkland and then seeks for the NSW Government to pay this compensation, which will fund enhanced recreational assets for the benefit of the community.**

Executive Summary

- The St Peters Interchange remains subject to significant environmental, public health and compliance issues arising from its historic use as a landfill and the ongoing obligations associated with WestConnex construction. The EPA has declared the site Significantly Contaminated Land due to elevated methane and carbon-dioxide levels, necessitating extensive monitoring, risk management and remediation activity.

- Transport for NSW (TfNSW) has not yet delivered two parklands originally committed as part of the WestConnex M8 approval, nor provided Council with requested documentation including EPA-ordered reports and site auditor assessments. A finalised Voluntary Management Proposal (VMP) was received from Transport for NSW and published by the EPA in December 2025.

- This report summarises the actions required under related Council resolutions commencing from 2021 and provides an update on recent correspondence from the EPA and current regulatory status, risks, and next steps.

- In lieu of the provision of the parklands, it is recommended that Council progress with plans for a compensation package to fund the acquisition of alternative land or to enhance the quality of existing Council open space facilities.

Purpose

This report provides Council with a status summary of progress made by TfNSW to develop two parklands at the WestConnex M8 St Peters Interchange.

Strategic Direction

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

Background

Since 2021, Council has passed multiple resolutions regarding the St Peters Interchange, consistently expressing concern for:

- contamination and landfill-gas hazards
- lack of transparency from TfNSW
- delays in delivering promised open space
- the need for Government responsibility for long-term remediation
- ensuring public safety and environmental protection

The relevant resolutions are shown below.

At the Council meeting held on 7 September 2021, Council resolved the following, C0921(1) Item 9:

> *That Council writes to the Premier and relevant Ministers to request that the NSW Government:*
>
> 1. *Conducts an immediate investigation into potential contamination at the site of the WestConnex St Peters Interchange;*
> 2. *Retains responsibility for the remediation, ownership and management of the parkland within the Inner West Council local government area, due to the*

ongoing challenges and financial costs Council would face if it were to take this on; and

3. *Works with Council to identify an alternative site to provide genuine open space and parkland as compensation for the impact WestConnex has had and continues to have on the surrounding area.*

At the Council meeting held on 14 June 2022, Council resolved the following, C0622(1) Item 21:

That Council:

1. *Requests an urgent briefing from Transport for NSW about the reports ordered by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) about the WestConnex St Peters Interchange, and the remediation works being carried out at the site;*
2. *Writes to the Premier and relevant Ministers to:*
    a) *Request that Transport for NSW shares the reports ordered by the EPA with Council, along with any other relevant reports and information about investigations into ongoing contamination the WestConnex St Peters Interchange site;*
    b) *Request that the EPA takes enforcement action on any non-compliance issues and licence breaches at the site in order to protect our local community;*
    c) *Seek confirmation that the NSW Government will take responsibility for the care, control and management of the St Peters Interchange parkland, and work with Council to identify an alternative site to provide genuine open space and parkland as compensation for the impact of WestConnex.*

At the Council meeting held on 21 November 2023, Council resolved the following, C1123(1) Item 24:

1. *That Council notes the parkland that was supposed to be delivered at the WestConnex St Peters Interchange site remains largely inaccessible to the public more than three years after the opening of the WestConnex M8.*
2. *That Council notes Transport for NSW has yet to confirm an opening date for the parkland, despite its delivery being a condition of approval for the WestConnex M8.*
3. *That Council notes serious public health, safety and environmental concerns about the former landfill site on which the proposed parkland is based have been raised consistently since construction began on the WestConnex St Peters Interchange.*

4. *That Council has previously resolved that the NSW Government should retain responsibility for the remediation, ownership and management of the parkland, and for the NSW Government to work with Council to identify an alternative site to provide parkland as compensation for WestConnex.*
5. *That Council writes to the Premier and relevant Ministers to request that Transport for NSW shares any reports ordered by the EPA, including those prepared by the accredited site auditor and any other relevant reports and information about ongoing contamination at the WestConnex St Peters Interchange site, with Council as soon as possible.*
6. *That Council writes to the Premier and relevant Ministers to request that the EPA takes enforcement action on any non-compliance issues and licence breaches at the site to protect our local community, and for Council to be kept updated on such actions.*
7. *That Council writes to the Premier and relevant Ministers to ask that they work with Council to identify an alternative site to provide genuine compensatory parkland for the community.*

At the Council meeting held on 3 September 2024, Council resolved the following, C0924(1) Item 30:

1. *That Council notes that on 25 June 2024, the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) declared the St Peters Interchange site significantly contaminated based on high methane and carbon dioxide concentrations stemming from historic use of the site as a landfill.*
2. *That Council notes that concerns about pollution at the site have been raised by the community and Council for many years, and there has been a long history of unsafe and illegal contamination issues here.*
3. *That Council notes that Transport for NSW has consistently failed to publish all of the pollution data it is required to monitor and report as a condition of its Environment Protection Licence for the site, and that the reports it has published have had serious errors and omissions.*
4. *That Council notes that the EPA has consistently failed to take compliance action against Transport for NSW for these monitoring and reporting breaches, despite repeated requests from Council and the community.*
5. *That Council notes that the parklands that were supposed to be provided at the St Peters Interchange under the conditions of approval for WestConnex, including the park at the corner of Princes Highway and Canal Road that was due to open in 2019, have still not been delivered, and that no timeframe has been given for the delivery of these parklands.*

6. *That Council writes to the Minister for the Environment and the EPA to request that they:*

    a) *provide an urgent briefing as to why the EPA has chosen to declare the site as significantly contaminated now, when pollution issues have existed here for many years, and what this will mean for the ongoing management of the site;*

    b) *keep our local community fully informed of the actions the EPA will be taking to resolve contamination issues at the site, including regular updates to Council;*

    c) *share any reports that the EPA has ordered Transport for NSW to provide in relation to the site with Council as soon as possible, as previously requested by Council on multiple occasions; and*

    d) *take enforcement action on any breaches on any non-compliance issues and licence breaches at the site to protect our local community, and keep Council updated on those actions.*

7. *That Council continues to call on the NSW Government to work with Council to identify an alternative site to provide genuine parkland for the community as compensation for the impacts of WestConnex.*

At the Council meeting held on 23 September 2025, Council resolved the following, C0925(1) Item 45:

1. *That Council reaffirm its position that any remediation approach at the St Peters Interchange must address the source of contamination and risks to community safety.*

2. *That Council write to Transport for NSW and the NSW Environmental Protection Agency calling for full transparency on contamination risks, the interim gas venting plan, and the timeline for safe delivery of the promised parkland.*

3. *That Council request staff seek from Transport for NSW, the Environment Protection Authority and the site auditor a detailed update on the site, remediation plans, and associated risks and that further information be provided to councillors via a report to council as soon as practicable.*

4. *That Council staff also provide a report to Council as soon as practical on the outcomes of the following resolutions:*
    a) *7 September 2021 C0921(1) Item 9;*
    b) *14 June 2022 C0622(1) Item 21; and*
    c) *21 November 2023 C1123(1) Item 24.*

WestConnex Proposal For Parklands at St Peters Interchange

Prior to 2016 there were multiple land holdings between Campbell Road and Canal Road St Peters which were being used for industrial and commercial purposes. This land was compulsorily acquired by the NSW Government for the development of motorway purposes. None of the acquisition sites were owned by Council.

In 2016, the NSW Government announced plans to redevelop land between Campbell Road and Canal Road as part of the WestConnex M8 Project. Within these plans was an announcement to deliver two public parklands would be created to provide future recreational spaces for the community (refer to *Figure 1*). These were:

- St Peters Parkland – This parkland is located alongside Canal Road and is 2.6 hectares in size. The proposal was that this parkland was to be for recreational, including walking, mountain bike trails and the opportunity for observing planes.
- Campbell Road Parkland – This parkland is located to the south of Campbell Road and is planned to be approximately 6 hectares. Approximately 8.9% of the land is within the Inner West Local Government Area, with the remainder being part of the City of Sydney (refer to *Figure 2)*. The proposal was that this land was to be for active sporting recreation, including a sports field, lighting, sports club building, carpark, and public amenities. An image of the original concept plan is provided in *Figure 3*.

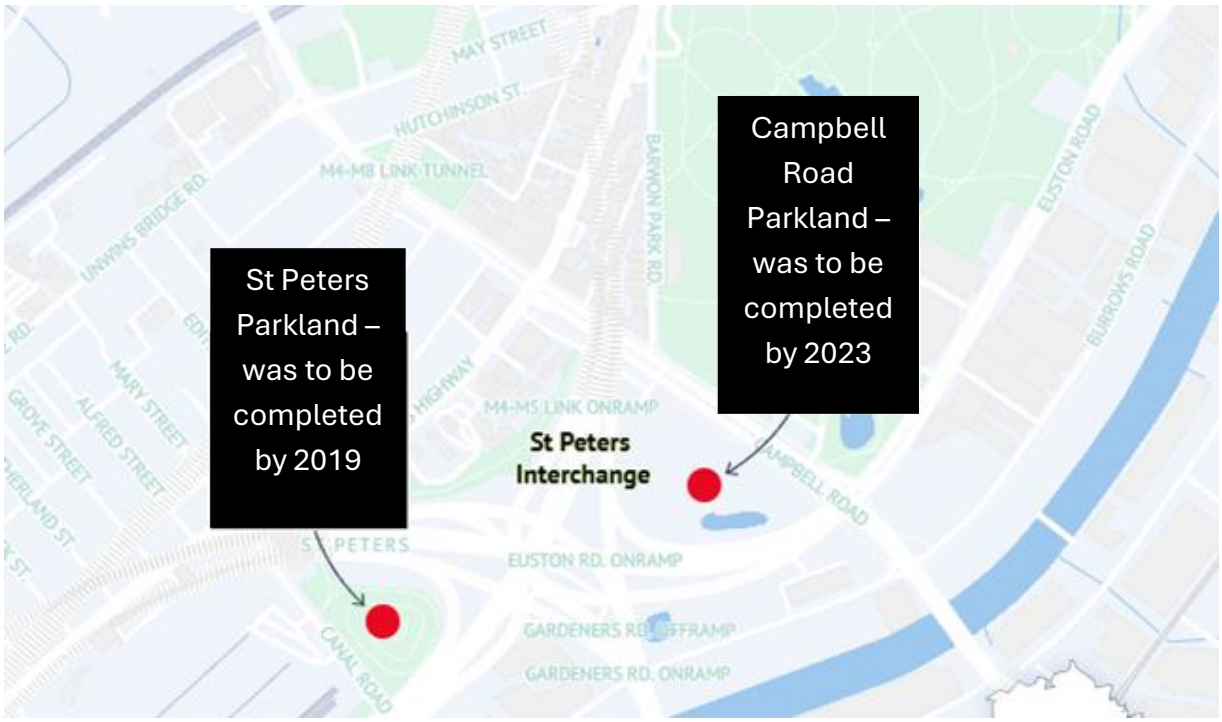


Figure 1. WestConnex M8 St Peters Interchange Proposed Parklands

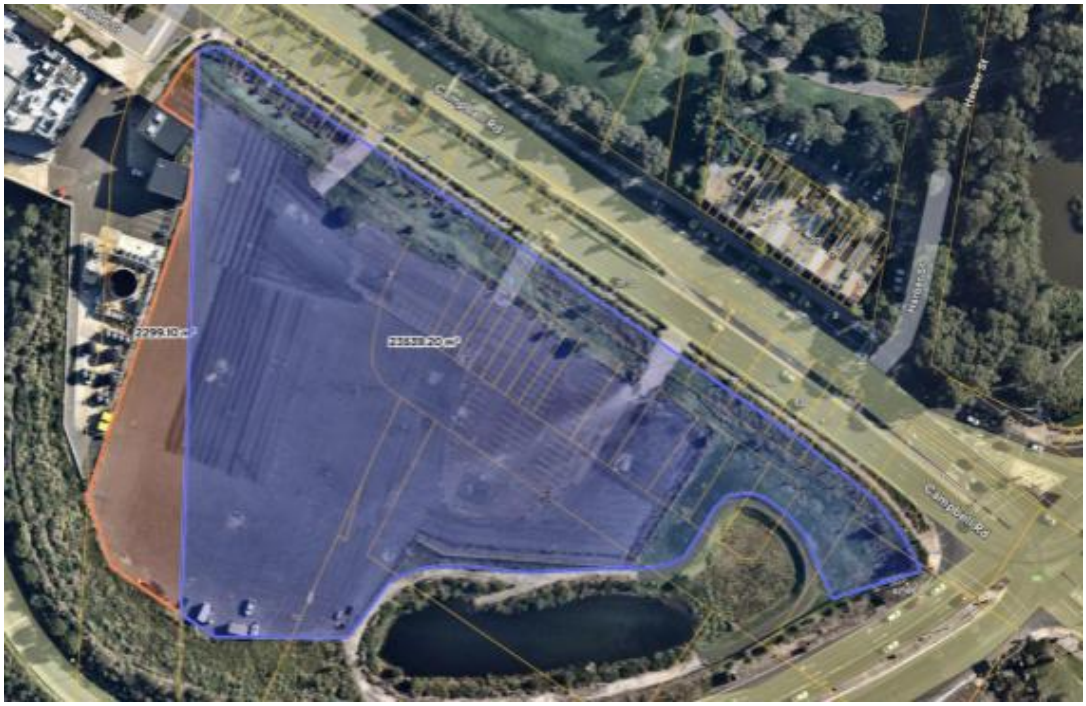


Figure 2. Campbell Road Parkland. Inner West Council LGA (red – 2300m2) and City of Sydney LGA (blue – 23,500m2)

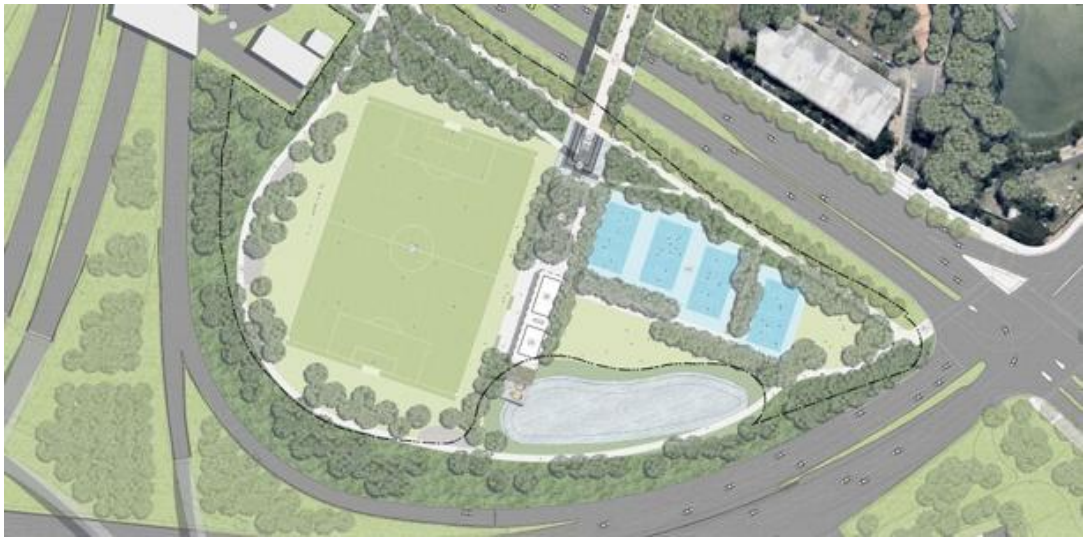


Figure 3. Original Concept Plan for the M8 Parkland with provision of a sporting field

This report provides a status update on activities arranged to address previous resolutions associated with the St Peters Interchange.

Discussion

Correspondence from Council Resolutions

Following the resolution of 7 September 2021, Council immediately wrote to the Premier and relevant Government Ministers in relation to an urgent investigation on the contamination issues.

Following the resolution of 14 June 2022, a briefing was requested of Government, no such briefing was provided.

Following the resolution of 3 September 2024, Council wrote to the Premier of NSW, The Minister of Transport and the Minister for Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Heritage seeking and update on the status of the parkland. Council was advised on 18 April 2024 by the Minister of Roads that Transport for NSW manages the interchange and that Transport for NSW will retain responsibility for managing issues at the former landfill, including ground gas emissions and leachate collection, regardless of future parkland management arrangements.

Following the resolution of 25 September 2025 Council wrote to TfNSW and the EPA calling for full transparency on contamination risks, the interim gas venting plan, and the timeline for safe delivery of the promised parkland. Refer to *Attachment 1*.

On 9 December 2025, Council received correspondence from the NSW Environmental Protection Authority confirming that a Voluntary Management proposal (VMP) for the long-term management of the St Peters Interchange had been received and that the site would be continued to be managed by Transport for NSW as significantly contaminated land.

On the 13 January 2026, Council received correspondence from the Secretary of Transport which also confirmed that a Voluntary Management Proposal (VMP) is now in place and that Council would be kept up to date with ongoing management of the site and its future remediation for community use. Refer to *Attachment 2*.

EPA Regulatory Status

On 25 June 2024, the EPA issued a Declaration of Significantly Contaminated Land, identifying methane and CO_2 concentrations at levels requiring regulation, and highlighting multiple exposure pathways and associated risks.

Environment Protection Licence (EPL) 4627 remains in force and includes extensive conditions relating to groundwater, leachate, surface water and landfill-gas monitoring. These responsibilities continue to be managed by Transport for NSW.

Land Ownership, Care, Control and Management

The land proposed for the two parklands is currently owned by the NSW Government. There is no strategic benefit in Council having care, control and management of heavily contaminated open space situated along the WestConnex M8 Project. The two open spaces areas have different issues for consideration. Refer to *Figure 4* which is a recent aerial image depicting the parklands.

Figure 4. Recent Aerial Image Depicting The Two Parklands

Council should continue to advocate for the remediation and development of the Campbell Road Parkland site, for future use as a sports field (in line with the approved conditions of consent) subject to future approval by the EPA. If EPA approval is achieved, then the planned community assets including a sports field, paths, lighting, amenities, sports club house and carpark must be delivered by the project. Given there is no indications that this land will be decontaminated, the ongoing management of the contaminated land should remain the responsibility of the NSW Government. Providing the contamination may be contained with a capping layer, either Inner West Council or the City of Sydney could be given care, control and management responsibilities for the use of the parkland.

The St Peters Parkland site has little recreational value for the community other than plane spotting, walking and mountain biking, however Council understand ongoing access and use by the community will be heavily restricted, and access to the land is poor due to the surrounding intersection of motorway connections. It is anticipated that this land will have ongoing costs for managing contamination issues. Council should reject any premise of transfer to Council of either land ownership or care, control and management responsibilities.

Compensation Package

TfNSW has not delivered the WestConnex M8 parkland, despite more than three years passing since the motorway M4-M8 link opened in January 2023. A compensation package has not been offered to Council in lieu of the provision of the parkland.

Any future compensation package of funding could be utilised to acquire alternative land or to enhance the quality of existing Council recreational spaces nearby, such as Tempe Reserve. There are significant unfunded works within Tempe Reserve including the future embellishment of the Robyn Webster Centre, tennis court provision, the development of an onsite nursery and other parkland improvements which could be funded by the NSW Government as a means of compensation for the loss and non-delivery of the promised WestConnex M8 parkland.

Council is obtaining specialist advice to determine the cost to acquire and develop land of the size of the two undelivered parklands. Once this has been prepared a further report will be prepared proposing this be the compensation payable to Inner West Council to develop alternative public recreation assets for the benefit of the community.

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications

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

Attachments

1.⇩ Letters to EPA and Transport for NSW

2.⇩ EPA Correspondence - Approved VMP St Peters Interchange

3.⇩ Reply from Transport for NSW Jan 2026

INNER WEST

Office of the
General Manager

21 November 2025

Tony Chappel
Chief Executive Officer
NSW Environment Protection Authority

By email: mel.correspondence@epa.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Chappel,

St Peters Interchange Parklands

Inner West Council has longstanding concerns regarding the environmental, public safety, and compliance issues associated with the WestConnex St Peters Interchange and former Alexandria Landfill. At the September Ordinary Meeting Council resolved as follows:

1. *That Council reaffirm its position that any remediation approach at the St Peters Interchange must address the source of contamination and risks to community safety.*

2. *That Council write to Transport for NSW and the NSW Environmental Protection Agency calling for full transparency on contamination risks, the interim gas venting plan, and the timeline for safe delivery of the promised parkland.*

3. *That Council request staff seek from Transport for NSW, the Environment Protection Authority and the site auditor a detailed update on the site, remediation plans, and associated risks and that further information be provided to councillors via a report to council as soon as practicable.*

The EPA has issued Environment Protection Licence 4627 regulating landfill gas, leachate and related environmental risks at the site and declared the land Significantly Contaminated due to elevated methane and carbon-dioxide levels, and identified multiple exposure pathways requiring ongoing management (Declaration No. 20241102)

Additionally, despite the WestConnex M8 opening more than three years ago, the associated parkland remains largely inaccessible. A confirmed opening date has not been provided - contrary to the delivery expectations stated in the project's approval conditions.

Council would appreciate your earliest attention to this matter and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your representatives to discuss these concerns.

For any enquiries regarding this matter, please contact Ryann Midei, Director of Property and Major Projects on (02) 9392 5988 or via email at ryann.midei@innerwest.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gainsford PSM
General Manager

Inner West Council
innerwest.nsw.gov.au

02 9392 5688
GMOffice@innerwest.nsw.gov.au
PO Box 14, Petersham NSW 2049

INNER WEST

Office of the
General Manager

21 November 2025

Josh Murray
Secretary
Transport for NSW

By email: josh.murray@transport.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Murray,

St Peters Interchange Parklands

Inner West Council has longstanding concerns regarding the environmental, public safety, and compliance issues associated with the WestConnex St Peters Interchange and former Alexandria Landfill. At the September Ordinary Meeting Council resolved as follows:

1. *That Council reaffirm its position that any remediation approach at the St Peters Interchange must address the source of contamination and risks to community safety.*

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3. *That Council request staff seek from Transport for NSW, the Environment Protection Authority and the site auditor a detailed update on the site, remediation plans, and associated risks and that further information be provided to councillors via a report to council as soon as practicable.*

The EPA has issued Environment Protection Licence 4627 regulating landfill gas, leachate and related environmental risks at the site and declared the land Significantly Contaminated due to elevated methane and carbon-dioxide levels, and identified multiple exposure pathways requiring ongoing management (Declaration No. 20241102)

Additionally, despite the WestConnex M8 opening more than three years ago, the associated parkland remains largely inaccessible. A confirmed opening date has not been provided - contrary to the delivery expectations stated in the project's approval conditions.

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For any enquiries regarding this matter, please contact Ryann Midei, Director of Property and Major Projects on (02) 9392 5988 or via email at ryann.midei@innerwest.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gainsford PSM
General Manager

Inner West Council
innerwest.nsw.gov.au

02 9392 5688
GMOffice@innerwest.nsw.gov.au
PO Box 14, Petersham NSW 2049

Our ref: DOC25/227014-5

Mr Peter Gainsford
General Manager
Inner West Council
PO Box 14
Petersham NSW 2049

By email: council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Gainsford

Approved Voluntary Management Proposal
St Peters Interchange, St Peters, NSW

Please be advised that the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has approved a Voluntary Management Proposal (VMP) for the long-term management of land at St Peters Interchange, under section 17 of the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* (CLM Act).

As outlined in our correspondence of 25 June 2024, St Peters Interchange was declared significantly contaminated based on high methane and carbon dioxide concentrations, stemming from the historic use of the site as a landfill.

The Interchange is owned by Transport for NSW, who have developed the VMP and are responsible for its implementation. The VMP involves ongoing monitoring, investigation, management, and remediation of the known contamination at the Interchange. A copy of the VMP and the associated approval notice are attached for your information and may also be found on the EPA Public Register by searching for area no. 3579. The EPA will notify Council of any significant updates relating to the VMP, for example, if the EPA approves any amendments to the VMP.

Please note that the CLM Act requires Council to note the approved VMP on planning certificates issued under section 10.7 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* for the land.

If you have any further questions about this issue, please contact Sarah Thomson on 02 9995 6212 or at sarah.thomson@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

K Edge

KATELYN EDGE
A/ Director Operations
NSW Environment Protection Authority

9 December 2025

Enclosures: Notice of Approved Voluntary Management Proposal (Ref. 20251710).

NSW Environment Protection Authority
As the environmental steward and regulator of our State we are committed to a sustainable future. Join us on our mission to protect tomorrow together.

Phone: 131 555
Website: epa.nsw.gov.au

Email: info@epa.nsw.gov.au
Mail: Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

NSW GOVERNMENT

Document Set ID: 41386343
Version: 1, Version Date: 17/12/2025

Transport for NSW

NSW GOVERNMENT

Mr Peter Gainsford PSM
General Manager, Inner West Council
PO BOX 14,
Petersham NSW 2049

Re: St Peters Interchange Parklands – OTS25/04729

Dear Mr Gainsford,

Thank you for your letter dated 21 November 2025 regarding the St Peters Interchange site.

As you are aware, the site has been declared significantly contaminated by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in response to ongoing detections of elevated methane and carbon dioxide levels at the site.

The declaration allows for improved long-term oversight of the Interchange by the EPA and will ensure the site is appropriately remediated for future use, including community use.

As part of the declaration and management of the site, the EPA approved a Voluntary Management Proposal (VMP) on 9 December 2025. The VMP provides an overarching guidance to the management of the site in relation to ongoing monitoring, reporting, management and remediation actions resulting from the former landfill. A copy of the VMP has been included for your information. The details of the VMP will also be publicly available on the NSW EPA website and can be found by searching the contaminated land record OEH | Contaminated land - record of EPA notices.

As part of the VMP, a community and stakeholder engagement strategy has been endorsed by the EPA. This strategy provides the stakeholder engagement approach for the VMP, including notifications and updates to local government and other relevant stakeholders. It is proposed that the implementation of the strategy will commence early in 2026.

Sincerely,

Josh Murray
Secretary
Transport
13/01/2026

VOLUNTARY MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL UNDER THE CONTAMINATED LAND MANAGEMENT ACT 1997

Part 1

Preliminary Details

1. Proponent's Details

(a) Name and contact details

If a registered company, company name:
Trading as:
ACN:

If not a registered company, your full name(s): **Transport for NSW**
Trading as:
ABN: **18 804 239 602**

Phone: **0422 670 606**
Fax:
Email: **Christine.hodgkiss@transport.nsw.gov.au**
Postal address: **231 Elizabeth Street SYDNEY NSW**
Postcode: **2000**
EPA licence number (if applicable): **EPL 4627, EPL 21149, EPL 21616, and EPL 21372**

(b) Who the EPA should contact with technical enquiries about the proposal

Name: **Christine Hodgkiss**
Employer/Company: **Transport for NSW**
Position title: **Project Director**
Type of business: **Government Organisation**
Phone (business): **0422 670 606**
Phone (after hours):
Fax:
Email: **Christine.hodgkiss@transport.nsw.gov.au**

2. Site to which proposal applies

The site to which the proposal applies ("the site") is:

The St Peters Interchange is defined by the lots and DPs/SPs comprising the land as shown in Attachment 1, along with the associated site map. The site is within an irregular polygon, generally defined by Campbell Road, Burrows Road, Canal Road, and the Princes Highway, St Peters, New South Wales 2044. The geographic coordinates of the approximate centre of the site are -33.9160°, 151.1722°.

3. The contamination

The Site is contaminated with the following substances (Significant Contaminants) in such a way to warrant regulation as significantly contaminated land under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* (CLM Act):

i. Methane; and

ii. Carbon dioxide.

The Site is a former landfill and, as such, in addition to the Significant Contaminants, it is contaminated with other materials including but not restricted to asbestos and landfill leachate containing high concentrations of ammonia.

4. The management proposal

The management proposal ("the proposal") comprises:

a) the information set out above;

b) the actions, works and other components set out in the following documents:

- WSP Pty Ltd (January 2024a) *St Peters Interchange (SPI) M8 Tunnel Westbound Maintenance Walkway Methane Gas Assessment*, (Ref. 20360187 WSP TECH_017_RevB).
- WSP-Golder Pty Ltd (May 2024b) *Landfill Annual Environmental Monitoring*, (Ref. PS200974- WSP-TECH-015-Rev B).
- WSP Pty Ltd (22 July 2024c) *M8 St Peters Interchange Gas Remediation Project*, (Ref. PS134186-WSP-SYD-CIV-MEM-002 RevB).
- WSP-Golder Pty Ltd (March 2023) *M8 St Peters Interchange, Landfill Annual Environmental Monitoring*, (Ref. 20360187-GOL-TECH-011-RevC).
- EMM (2023), *Long Term Environmental Management Plan, Stage 3 Interface Worksite, St Peters Interchange*, (Ref. J210496 RP1).

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- Golder Associates (March 2022) *M8 St Peters Interchange, Hazardous Ground Gas Risk Assessment*, (Ref. 20360187-GOL-TECH-007-1).
- Senversa (2022), *Long Term Environmental Management Plan, St Peters Interchange Area, WestConnex Stage 3A Area,* (Ref. S19328_008_RPT Rev2 LTEMP).
- Golder Associates (June 2020) *Alexandria Landfill Closure – Landfill Environmental Management Plan (LEMP), Final Design Documentation (100%). New M5 – Design and Construct*, (Ref. 24J).
- Golder Associates (June 2018) *St Peters Interchange - Landfill Closure Management Plan (LCMP), FD 100%. Addendum. New M5 – Design and Construct*, (Ref. M5N-GOL-MNP-900-300-WT-9400-F).
- Golder Associates (2016) *Remediation Action Plan (RAP) St Peters Interchange, FDD 100%*, (Ref. M5N-GOL-MNP-900-300-WT- 9401-E).

c) the undertakings set out in Part 2 of this document; and

d) the performance schedule set out in Part 3 of this document.

Part 2

Undertakings Included in Voluntary Management Proposal

Explanatory Note:
Before the EPA can approve a voluntary management proposal under section 17 of the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997, it has a statutory obligation to satisfy itself that the terms of the proposal (as modified by any conditions to be imposed by the EPA) submitted to it under section 17 are appropriate. In addition to including an appropriate investigation plan, remedial action plan or other plan of management, to be acceptable to the EPA a proposal would usually include the undertakings set out below. These undertakings are important and will form part of the terms of the proposal. If the proposal is approved, they must be complied with in order for the EPA to be satisfied that the terms of the proposal have been carried out.

THE PROPOSAL INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING UNDERTAKINGS:

General

1. All works or activities carried out in connection with the proposal, including sampling and preparation of associated reports ("the activities"), will be carried out in accordance with applicable provisions of Chapter 4 of *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards)2021* and any requirements imposed under it in relation to the activities.
2. All relevant matters listed in Sections 1.4 to 1.8 of the EPA's *Consultants reporting on contaminated land: Contaminated Land Guidelines* (2020) will be taken into account in the carrying out of the activities.
3. All the activities will be carried out consistently with guidelines made or approved under section 105 of the CLM Act.
   (See http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/clm/guidelines.htm www.epa.nsw.gov.au/clm/guidelines.htm)
4. All the activities will be carried out in compliance with applicable NSW environmental legislation, and in particular:
   i) All the activities, including:
      (1) the processing, handling, movement and storage of materials and substances used to carry out the activities; and
      (2) the treatment, storage, processing, reprocessing, transport and disposal of waste generated by the activities

      will be carried out in a competent manner;
   ii) All plant and equipment installed at the site or used in connection with the activities:
      (1) will be maintained in a proper and efficient condition; and
      (2) will be operated in a proper and efficient manner.
5. All the activities at the site will be carried out in a manner that prevents or minimises the emission of dust, odour and noise from the site.
6. Waste generated or stored at the Site will be assessed and classified in accordance with the EPA's *Waste Classification Guidelines Part 1: Classifying Waste*.

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(See www.epa.nsw.gov.au/wasteregulation/classify-guidelines.htm)

7. All waste transported from the Site that is required by the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014 to be tracked must be tracked using the EPA's on-line tracking system or an alternative tracking system approved in writing by the EPA.

   (See www.epa.nsw.gov.au/owt/aboutowt.htm)

8. The proponent will make this voluntary management proposal available to the public free of charge and consents to the EPA placing this proposal on its public website.
9. The proponent will make all documents referred to in, and required to be prepared under, this voluntary management proposal available to the public free of charge, unless the proponent identifies commercial-in-confidence or private/personal information (including information relating to a third party) within those documents. In these cases, the proponent will remove such information from the documents to make the documents suitable for public release.
10. The proponent will:
    i) prior to the implementation of the proposal provide for the EPA's approval a strategy for communicating about that implementation, particularly the actual management works, with members of the public who are likely to have a real interest in or be affected by that implementation; and
    ii) implement the strategy as approved in writing by the EPA.

Monitoring, Record Keeping & Reporting

11. At least until the EPA has notified the proponent that the EPA no longer considers that the contamination is significant enough to warrant regulation under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997*, record and retain all monitoring data and information and provide this record to the EPA at any reasonable time if so requested by the EPA and as specifically provided under the proposal.
12. The EPA will be informed in writing within 7 days of the proponent becoming aware of information or data indicating a material change:
    a) in conditions at the site, or
    b) in its surrounding environment,

    which could adversely affect the prospects of successful management of the site or result in harm to the environment.
13. The EPA will be informed in writing within 7 days of the proponent becoming aware of any failure, either by the proponent or any other person, to comply with any term of the proposal.
14. If the proponent becomes aware that they will not meet a key milestone or reporting requirement, they must notify the EPA in writing at least 21 days before the specified deadline. The notification must include:
    a) detailed reasons for not meeting the milestone or requirement,
    b) a revised time period within which the milestone or requirement will be met, and
    c) a statement explaining why compliance action should not be taken.
15. The EPA will be informed in writing as soon as practicable of any notification by the proponent, its employees or its agents to an appropriate regulatory authority other than the EPA of any pollution incident at the site within the meaning of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.

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(See http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/licensing/dutytonotify.htm)

Performance Schedule

16. The performance schedule which is in Part 3 of this document will be adhered to.

Part 3

Performance Schedule

1. Objectives of the proposal

The proposal is to undertake the investigation and remediation of the site in stages, where the initial stages of investigation/remediation/management will by necessity determine the additional stages of work required. As such, the latter stages of work may be subject to change based on additional monitoring and capital works outcomes, with any changes being documented in amendments to the VMP; subject to EPA and the relevant site auditor's agreement.

The site is currently subject to the following environment protection licences (EPLs) EPL 4627, EPL 21149, EPL 21616, and EPL 21372. As EPL 4627 and EPL 21149 relate to road construction, which is now substantially complete, it is envisaged that at some point these EPLs will be surrendered.

EPL 21616 and EPL 21372 relate to ongoing operational groundwater management and tunnel stack emission control, and are expected to remain as separate, ongoing EPLs. These operational EPLs are also subject to separate operational environmental management plans, and as such, these EPLs are not subject to this VMP. Any areas within the EPL 21149 premises boundary that are outside of the site as defined in Part 1 are also not subject to this VMP.

The main objectives are to achieve the following outcomes within the timeframes specified in this proposal:

O1	Assess and manage the risks posed to human health and the environment under the current and approved use of the land, as well as the use/s of the surrounding land.
O2	Continue the monitoring and reporting in accordance with EPL 4627 (version date 27 June 2025), until the monitoring and reporting is incorporated into a site wide environmental monitoring program.
O3	Develop and implement a site wide comprehensive environmental monitoring program related to the contaminants based on the existing and ongoing monitoring data, and any additional recommendations from the Level 3 Hazardous Ground Gas Risk Assessment (HGGRA). This program will be included in the Data Compilation and Strategy Report (DCSR)
O4	From Objectives O1, O2 and O3, refine the understanding of ground gas exposure pathways and flow rates for the contaminants to better define and manage risks.

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O5	Implement management and/or remediation actions, including capital works to minimise ground gas migration and prevent unacceptable risks, as determined by Objectives O3 and O4.
O6	Develop and document a site-wide system and associated procedures for the ongoing monitoring, management, remediation, and validation of the environmental controls related to the contaminants, including publishing monitoring data.

2. Principal features of the proposal

The proposal relates to the hazardous contaminants of methane and carbon dioxide as identified within the declared site area. The principal features include, but are not limited to:

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

P1. Prepare a community and stakeholder engagement strategy, which will provide a strategy for communicating the implementation of the VMP, particularly any management works, with key stakeholders including members of the public who are likely to have a real interest in, or be affected by its implementation. The plan will be finalised based on any outcomes of initial stakeholder and community feedback.

Data Compilation

P2. Develop a data compilation and strategy report (DCSR). This will include a detailed review of all relevant data and EPLs, to ensure that only relevant land parcels, EPLs, and contamination relating to, and within the declared site area (Declaration No. 20241102; Area No. 3579), are included in future assessments/remediation/reporting under this VMP. The outcome will be a clear understanding of the site, and various investigation areas subject to the VMP, including ongoing monitoring/management in each area.

The DCSR will provide a site-wide monitoring plan/s, and will include details around monitoring locations, contaminants monitored, frequency, and methodology, for each area of the site (e.g. within M8 tunnel, Northern Shared Path, subsurface wells across the entire declared site). The DCSR will be focussed on integrating and collating the existing extensive data set into a single document, and providing a strategy for effectively managing the site data into the future.

Monitoring, inspection and reporting

P3. Carry out ongoing monitoring and inspections, including:
- Carry out monitoring at regular intervals and as required within the M8 tunnel, investigating elevated methane.
- Carry out monitoring at regular intervals and as required along the Northern Shared Pathway, investigating elevated methane.
- Carry out site wide quarterly and annual inspections and monitoring for relevant contaminants, in March, June, September and December.

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Details regarding the ongoing monitoring locations, contaminants monitored, frequency, methodology, and data quality checks, for each area of the site (e.g. within M8 tunnel, Northern Shared Path, subsurface wells across the entire declared site) are to be included in the site wide monitoring program and the DCSR (P2).

The data is to be used as input to the remediation action plan (RAP), validation reports, and the site wide LTEMP.

P4. Publish and report monitoring results, including:
- Publish site wide quarterly monitoring data on the TfNSW website at quarterly intervals.
- Submit quarterly monitoring data to the EPA at quarterly intervals.
- Prepare and submit annual landfill environmental monitoring reports to the EPA, as outlined in the DCSR.

Historic data from mid-2020 will remain published on the TfNSW website for 3 years. Relevant data relating to the site will be retained for the life of the declaration.

Remediation strategy in M8 area

P5. Undertake a Level 3 Hazardous Ground Gas Risk Assessment (HGGRA) to inform the design and remediation strategy for remediation and capital works in the M8 area.

P6. Prepare a RAP documenting the remediation and capital works required in the M8 area based on the Level 3 HGGRA, the monitoring data for the site (as per P4), and the final design approach and detailed design.

An updated/revised RAP may need to be developed to refine the Stage 2 remediation works, following the outcomes of the Stage 1 works. Any updates to the RAP will be submitted to, and reviewed by the M8 area site auditor, as per P10.

P7. Implement works as per the RAP, including:
- Stage 1 works in the three identified Areas of Concern (AOC1, AOC2 and AOC3), including pit and utility isolation and venting, adding gas vents, connecting the passive system to the active system, and the like.
- Stage 2 works, as required, based in part, on the outcomes of the Stage 1 remediation and ongoing monitoring results.

Assurance, validation and residual risk management

P8. Document the final works undertaken as per P6 and P7 in the validation report(s). A number of validation reports may be prepared based on the staged nature of the remediation works. The validation report(s) will be reviewed by the M8 area site auditor, as per P10.

P9. Develop, and/or review existing, and update, as required, ongoing non-operational environmental management plans for the site including:

- Update the existing Landfill Environmental Management Plan (LEMP) for the M8 area (5 year review of Golder 2020);

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- Update the existing Stage 3A area LTEMP to include a map clearly delineating the relevant site occupiers within this area;
- Prepare a site wide LTEMP (M8 and Stage 3A areas).

P10. Ongoing advice and site audit certification from the NSW EPA accredited site auditor/s engaged for the site. The auditor/s have the following responsibilities:

- Stage 3A area – Following the finalisation of the Stage 3A LTEMP, the Stage 3A area auditor will prepare a Section A2 SAS and associated SAR for the Stage 3A area.

- M8 area – The M8 area auditor will be involved in relevant key milestones (as outlined in Section 3), and will review relevant reports prepared as part of this VMP (as outlined in Section 4). At the completion of the works, the M8 area auditor will prepare a Section A2 site audit statement (SAS) and associated site audit report (SAR) for the whole site, including the M8 area and the Stage 3A area.

Ongoing regulatory management

P11. Preparation of a subsequent VMP or proposal of a regulatory instrument for ongoing management of the site. The regulatory requirements will be negotiated with relevant stakeholders.

It is important to recognise that there are several dependencies and uncertainties associated with principal features of this proposal, which have the potential to impact the timing of deadlines included in this VMP. For example, the Level 3 Risk Assessment (P5), and the site auditor's review (P10) may identify data gaps (for example, the need for a longer period of monitoring, covering a wider range of conditions). Such findings may delay the preparation of the RAP, or additional investigation to be included in any revision to the RAP (P6). Either would delay the preparation of the Validation Reports (P8) and subsequent stages of the program. Any changes or delays to these outcomes, would have an impact on the issue of a site audit statement by the site auditor (P10) and any ongoing regulatory instrument for the site (P11).

3. Key milestones for investigation, remediation and other actions

All works set out in the proposal must be completed by the deadlines specified below[1]:

Item	*Works*	*Deadline*
T1	Quarterly monitoring and inspection events in 2025, 2026 and 2027, as per **P3**.	March June September December
T2	Publish data from site-wide quarterly inspections and monitoring events on TfNSW website in 2025, 2026 and 2027, as per **P4.**	February May August November
T3	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, as per **P1**.	Completed 28 February 2025
T4	Updated LTEMP (EMM 2023) for the 3A Interface Area, as per **P9**.	Completed 30 April 2025
T5	Data Compilation and Strategy Report, as per **P2**.	Completed 30 April 2025
T6	Level 3 HGGRA, as per **P5**.	Completed 2 October 2025
T7	Updated 5-year LEMP (Golder 2020), as per **P9**.	Completed 6 November 2025
T8	Site Auditor Certification (3A Area) – Section A2 SAS/SAR, as per **P10**.	28 November 2025
T9	Landfill Annual Environmental Monitoring Report, as per **P4**.	14 February 2026
T10	Implement Stage 1 works, as per **P7**.	28 February 2026
T11	RAP as per **P6**.	30 April 2026
T12	Stage 1 Validation Report, as per **P8**.	28 August 2026
T13	Update / revise RAP based on Stage 1 works (if required) as per **P6**.	30 October 2026
T14	Landfill Annual Environmental Monitoring Report, as per **P4**.	14 February 2027
T15	Implement Stage 2 works, as per **P7**.	28 May 2027
T16	Stage 2 Validation Report, as per **P8**.	30 November 2027

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Item	Works	Deadline
T17	Site-wide LTEMP, as per **P9**.	28 January 2028
T18	Site Auditor Certification – Section A2 SAS/SAR, as per **P10**.	28 April 2028
T19	Ongoing Maintenance Order, as per **P11**.	26 May 2028

Table notes:

For reports that are to be submitted to the relevant site auditor, the deadline specified here is for completion of draft reports for submission to the auditor; noting an approximate allowance of two months for auditor review. This is reflected in the report submission dates outlined in Section 4.

4. Reporting requirements and timeframe for submission of reports

The EPA must be provided with the following reports by the deadlines specified below:

Item	Report	Deadline [1, 2]
R1	Submit quarterly monitoring data at quarterly intervals to the EPA in 2025, 2026 and 2027, as per **P4**.	February May August November
R2	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, as per **P1**.	Completed 17 September 2025
R3	Data Compilation and Strategy Report, as per **P2**.	Completed 30 September 2025
R4	Updated LTEMP (EMM 2023) for the 3A Interface Area, as per **P9**.	19 December 2025
R5	Site Auditor Certification (Area 3A) – Section A2 SAS/SAR, as per **P10**.	19 December 2025
R6	Updated 5-year LEMP (Golder 2020), as per **P9**.	19 December 2025
R7	Landfill Annual Environmental Monitoring Report, as per **P4**.	28 February 2026
R8	Level 3 HGGRA, as per **P5**.	31 March 2026
R9	RAP as per **P6**.	30 June 2026
R10	Stage 1 Validation Report, as per **P8**.	30 October 2026
R11	Revised RAP (if required), as per **P6**.	23 December 2026

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R12	Landfill Annual Environmental Monitoring Report, as per **P4**.	28 February 2027
R13	Stage 2 Validation Report, as per **P8**.	28 January 2028
R14	Site-wide LTEMP, as per **P9**.	28 April 2028
R15	Site Auditor Certification – Section A2 SAS/SAR, as per **P10**.	28 April 2028
R16	Ongoing Maintenance Order, as per **P11**.	26 May 2028

Table notes:
1. Preliminary dates which may change as the project evolves and new data becomes available and works are conducted. Any changes proposed will be communicated to the EPA at least 21 days before any specified deadline, in accordance with Item 14 of Part 2 of the VMP.
2. Assumes the relevant site auditor will review all relevant reports, and timing may be dependent on receipt of auditor comments.

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Signature of proponent

This application for approval of this voluntary management proposal may only be signed by a person(s) with the legal authority to sign it. The various ways in which the application may be signed, and the people who may sign the application, are set out in the categories below.

Please tick (✓) the box next to the category that describes how this application is being signed.

If the proponent is:		The application must be signed and certified by one of the following:
an individual	☐	the individual.
a company	☐	the common seal being affixed in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001, or*
	☐	two directors, or
	☐	a director and a company secretary, or
	☐	if a proprietary company that has a sole director who is also the sole company secretary – by that director.
a public authority other than a council	☐	the chief executive officer of the public authority, or
	☑	by a person delegated to sign on the public authority's behalf in accordance with its legislation (Please note: a copy of the relevant instrument of delegation must be attached to this application).
a local council	☐	the general manager in accordance with s.377 of the *Local Government Act 1993* ('LG Act'), or
	☐	the seal of the council being affixed in a manner authorised under the LG Act.

I/We (the proponent):

- ***apply for approval of the voluntary management proposal set out in this proposal and in any documents referred to in Part 1.4 of this proposal***
- ***declare that the information in this proposal form (including any attachment or document referred to in Part 1.4 of this proposal) is not false or misleading.***

Signature		Signature	
Name (printed)	Christine Hodgkiss	Name (printed)	
Position	Project Director Infrastructure Projects & Engineering	Position	
Date	18 November 2025	Date	

Seal (if signing under seal):

Proponent: Transport for NSW

Site: St Peters Interchange

Proposal Date: November 2025

Item: **C0626(1) Item 17**

Title: **Post Exhibition – Jack Shanahan Reserve – Plan of Management**

Author: Peter Shields - Acting Director Property and Major Projects

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Park Plan of Management and Park Master Plan for Jack Shanahan Reserve.

Executive Summary

- A draft Plan of Management and Master Plan for Jack Shanahan Reserve have been publicly exhibited. These documents assist with guiding future development of the park.
- Based on feedback expressed by the community, the draft Plan of Management and Master Plan for the parkland have been updated.
- The draft Master Plan recommends a series of prioritised actions and is supported by a detailed costing which foreshadows a commitment of approximately $6.5 million in improvements over its lifespan.
- The report recommends that the updated Plan of Management and Master Plan for Jack Shanahan Reserve be considered by Council for adoption and implementation.

Purpose

This report seeks for Council to adopt a Plan of Management and associated Master Plan for Jack Shanahan Reserve. These documents provide a guiding framework which directs the future vision, planning, management and use of the park.

Strategic Direction

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

Background

At the Council meeting held on 28 October 2025, Council resolved the following (C1025(1) Item 8):

1. *That Council publicly exhibit the Draft Plan of Management for Jack Shanahan Reserve for a period of 42 days and seek public feedback on the proposed plan of management and masterplan for the park.*
2. *That following the conclusion of the exhibition period, the Park Plan of Management be brought back to Council for consideration for adoption.*

Jack Shanahan Reserve is located in Dulwich Hill (*refer to Figure 1*) with the parkland located within the Djarrawunang (Ashfield Ward). The parkland is bounded by Sydney Trains heavy rail on the south, the Dulwich Hill light rail terminus on the east and Hercules Street on the north and west. The heavy rail line is set to become part of the Sydney Metro expansion to Bankstown, making it a significant boundary of the site. Jack Shanahan Reserve is classified as community land and is categorised as Park and Sportsground.

Key features of the parkland include a skate park, a tennis court, a basketball half court, an amenities building and a pedestrian footpath connecting Dulwich Hill light rail station to Terrace Road. Jack Shanahan Reserve is an important destination for residents and also attracts a number of park users from adjoining suburbs due to its popular skate park facility. The parkland is used by pedestrians and cyclists as an off-street route to Dulwich Hill train station and light rail stop. The recently opened GreenWay passes through this parkland.

The park supports a range of multiple park assets which are nearing the end of their useful life and need to be renewed or upgraded. This includes refurbishment of the public toilet and amenities building and upgrades to the tennis court and half-court basketball court. Significant surface refurbishment works were undertaken to the skate Park which were completed in September 2025. Lighting Improvements to the Skate Park are planned and these may be implemented subject to the adoption of the Plan of Management.

Figure 1. Aerial image of Jack Shanahan Reserve

Discussion

Community Engagement

From 30 January to 13 March 2026, the community was asked to provide feedback on proposed improvements to Jack Shanahan Reserve, Dulwich Hill, including a draft masterplan and an associated Plan of Management. Feedback was received through an online survey, an on-site engagement session and emails.

In total, 28 online survey responses were received, 26 people attended an on-site engagement session and 10 email responses were received. Overall feedback received supported the draft plans including majority (75%) of the online survey.

Key themes raised included support for improved lighting and safety, amenity upgrades and community opposition to proposed parking improvements to Hercules Street and the GreenWay.

The identified engagement outcomes have been responded to through the planning and development of a revised Plan of Management and accompanying draft Masterplan

which are attached to this report. A copy of the engagement report is attached to this report.

Updated Plan of Management and Master Plan

A revised Master Plan for Jack Shanahan Reserve is attached to this report. Based on the outcomes of Community engagement key design priorities that focus on improving the main recreational spaces within the parkland have been supported. This includes:

- refurbishment of the public toilets.
- the development of a new children's play area to further activate the parkland.
- lighting improvements to the skate park and tennis courts for safer evening use.
- Inclusion of an additional half court for basketball use on the Tennis Courts.

Due to the lack of community support, the proposed parking improvements to Hercules Street have been removed from the revised master plan for the parkland. Subject to discussion with the NSW Police CCTV surveillance will also be operationally considered into the future to address ongoing concerns with antisocial behaviour within the parkland.

Engagement outcomes support the concept of the Children's Playground however, based on engagement feedback, the playground has been relocated from its original location in the central area of the park to support natural play elements through use of the parklands changing topography.

A key focus of the updated Master Plan is to retain the open area of the parkland for unstructured play value. The proposed Plan of Management and Master Plan for Jack Shanahan Reserve address identified and demonstrated long term community recreation needs.

The Master Plan improvements and future additions to the parkland (including the new children's play area) will assist in ensuring that the parkland responds to the need for diversity by encouraging use for a wider range of ages and the needs of all genders.

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications associated with this Report.

Financial Implications

The long-term improvements outlined in the draft Plan of Management are valued at $6.5M over the lifespan of the Plan of Management. Upon adoption the priorities listed in the Master Plan will be considered for inclusion within the Long-Term Financial Plan and forthcoming Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

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. ⇨ Jack Shanahan Reserve Community Engagement Outcomes Report - **Published Separately on Council's Website**
2. ⇨ Jack Shanahan Reserve Plan of Management - **Published Separately on Council's Website**
3. ⇨ Jack Shanahan Reserve Master Plan - **Published Separately on Council's Website**

Item: **C0626(1) Item 18**

Title: **Post Exhibition - Wicks Park - Plan of Management and Master Plan**

Author: Peter Shields - Acting Director Property and Major Projects

Recommendation

That Council adopt the attached Plan of Management and Master Plan for Wicks Park.

Executive Summary

- A draft Plan of Management and Master Plan for Wicks Park in Marrickville have been publicly exhibited. These documents will assist with guiding future development of the park.
- Based on feedback expressed by the community, the draft Plan of Management and Master Plan for the parkland have been updated.
- The draft Master Plan recommends a series of prioritised actions and is supported by a detailed costing which foreshadows a commitment of approximately $4.4 million in improvements over its lifespan. This includes the reorientation of the tennis courts, lighting improvements, new tennis coaching facilities, an upgraded children's playground, new pathway connections to Wicks Place, furniture improvements and enhanced permitter fencing.
- The report recommends that the updated Plan of Management and Master Plan for Wicks Park be considered by Council for adoption and implementation.

Purpose

This report seeks for Council to adopt a Plan of Management and associated Master Plan for Wicks Park, Marrickville. These documents provide a guiding framework which directs the future vision, planning, management and use of the park.

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

Background

At the Council meeting held on 9 December 2025, Council resolved the following, (C1225(1) Item 11):

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.*

Wicks Park is a local park located between the suburbs of Marrickville and Sydenham (Refer to *Figure 1)*. The park is bounded by Sydenham Road to the south and Victoria Road to the west. The area of the park is approximately 8,902 m2.

Wicks Park provides a range of public amenities and multiple uses including tennis courts, a playground, an amenities block, a BBQ and picnic areas. There is a straight pathway the cuts diagonally through the park from the north-west corner through to the southeast corner.

The parkland is an important destination for local residents and also attracts a number of residents from adjoining suburbs in the Inner West due to its much-loved tennis courts.

As the population of Marrickville and the surrounding areas densifies, Wicks Park will become a key focus to the community as the local village green and recreational backyard for local residents. Recent and planned mix use developments within the Victoria Road precinct are introducing additional pressures on Wicks Park with respect to user needs and new resident perceptions.

Figure 1. Aerial image of Wick Park

Discussion

Community Engagement

From 30 January to 13 March 2026, the community was invited to provide feedback on proposed improvements to Wicks Park, Marrickville, including two draft masterplan options, and an associated Plan of Management. Engagement was undertaken through an online survey, an on-site engagement session and email correspondence.

In total, 47 online survey responses were received, 30 people attended the on-site engagement session and 6 email submissions were received. Online survey results showed stronger support for Option two (reorientation of the tennis courts), while on-site engagement participants expressed a clear preference for Option one. Email responses were mixed in their preference.

The identified engagement outcomes have been responded to through the planning and development of a revised Plan of Management and accompanying draft Masterplan

which are attached to this report. A copy of the engagement report is also attached to this report.

Updated Plan of Management and Master Plan

A revised Master Plan for Wicks Park is attached to this report. Based on the outcomes of Community engagement and taking into account key demographic changes to the local area as well as future residential development pressures, it is recommended that an updated version of Option 2 of the Master plan is taken forward. This includes:

- Reorientation and resurfacing of the tennis courts.
- New tennis court lighting.
- New tennis court forecourt and spectator area.
- Extended hardstand and seating areas within the park.
- New Pathways connections to the recently developed Wicks Place.
- Creation of a park "Heart" which is a community meeting space with picnic shelters, BBQ and seating areas.
- New shaded playground designed for all abilities and ages.
- New tree plantings.

The proposed Master Plan also responds to forecast population pressures resulting from recent nearby development approvals, including:

- the Toga-Wicks Park residential and retail development, situated on the northwest boundary of the park. This development incorporates 272 residential apartments and a retail precinct, which includes Harris Farms.
- the redevelopment of the Timberyards on Victoria Road, which includes 1,181 residential units and 2,394m2 of commercial space.
- the development at 37-41 Farr Street, Marrickville which includes 51 new residential apartments.

The recommended Master Plan reorientates the tennis courts to establish an improved interface with the nearby Wicks Place development. This option creates a buffer to the eastern edge of the parkland. A centralised open space area is established allowing for improved connectively for community use as well as increased passive surveillance. Buildings within the park are aligned and oriented together. A new tennis forecourt and coaching administration building have been added. The proposed playground facilities are reorientated and located adjacent to the residential and commercial precinct of the parkland.

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications associated with this Report.

Financial Implications

A comprehensive cost analysis of the proposed improvements foreshadowed in the Plan of Management and Master Plan has been completed. The recommended implementation plan associated with the Wicks Park Master Plan has a total cost of $4.4M.

Council has recently applied for Grant funding through the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's Faster Assessments Grant Program. The first round of recipients of the grant are expected to be announced before the end of 2026, and if funding is provisioned the works will need to be delivered before 30 June 2029. The maximum amount of grant funds that can be awarded under the program is $2 million dollars. Those grant funds, complemented by asset renewal funding sourced from the depreciation reserve, would be sufficient to fund the following priority works featured in the Master Plan:

- Reorientation and resurfacing of the tennis courts.
- New tennis court lighting.
- New tennis court forecourt and spectator area.
- Extended hardstand and seating areas within the park.
- New Pathways connections to the recently developed Wicks Place.

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. ⇨ Wicks Park Plan of Management **– Published Separately on Council's Website**
2. ⇨ Wicks Park Master Plan **– Published Separately on Council's Website**
3. ⇨ Wicks Park Community Engagement Report **– Published Separately on Council's Website**

Item: **C0626(1) Item 19**

Title: **Post Exhibition - Tempe Lands - Master Plan**

Author: Peter Shields - Acting Director Property and Major Projects

Recommendation

That Council adopts the attached Master Plan for Tempe Lands (former Sydney Gateway site).

Executive Summary

- A draft Master Plan for Tempe Lands (Former Sydney Gateway site) has been publicly exhibited. This Master Plan will assist with guiding future development of the park.
- Based on feedback expressed by the community, the Master Plan for the parkland has been updated.
- The draft Master Plan recommends a series of prioritised actions and is supported by a detailed costing which foreshadows a commitment of approximately $15 million in improvements over its lifespan. This includes small and large dog off leash areas, four sports courts, an amenities building, a nursery, an environmental education centre, a wildlife rehabilitation facility, an expanded carpark, additional link paths and natural conservation spaces.
- The report recommends that the updated Master Plan for Tempe Lands be considered by Council for adoption and implementation.

Purpose

This report seeks for Council to adopt a Master Plan for Tempe Lands, Tempe. This Master Plan provides a guiding framework which directs the future vision, planning, management and use of the park.

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

Background

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) transferred the parkland at Tempe Reserve to Council upon completion of the Sydney Gateway project. At the time of the transfer TfNSW undertook to provision $4.25 million in funding for future parkland embellishments. Council subsequently proceeded to develop a draft master plan for the parkland.

At the Council meeting held on 17 February 2026, Council resolved the following, (C0226(1) Item 1):

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.*

Tempe Lands, formally known to be part of the Sydney Gateway Site, is the northern portion of open space land within the Tempe Recreation Reserve (Refer to Figure 1). This Reserve includes playing fields, hard surface courts, Robin Webster Sports Centre (indoor facility), playground, picnic and BBQ facilities, remote controlled car track, and the former Tempe Jets Club.

Accessed from the main part of the reserve via pedestrian pathways or an access road, Tempe Lands includes a large ecological area with wetland ponds, leachate treatment plant, car parking, and a large open, grassed area. It has steep, vegetated embankments along the interface to Tempe Recreation Lands and the Alexandra Canal.

The draft Master Plan builds on the existing Tempe Recreation Reserve and Tempe Lands Plan of Management and Master Plan (2020). The draft plan identifies potential future

facilities, ecological restoration opportunities, access improvements and community uses, noting that any future projects would be subject to detailed investigations, feasibility, design development, approvals and further engagement as appropriate.

Figure 1. Plan depicting the extents of the Tempe Lands

Discussion

Community Engagement

From 10 March to 7 April 2026, the community was invited to provide feedback on proposed improvements featured within the draft Master Plan for Tempe Lands, Tempe. Engagement was undertaken through an online survey, an on-site engagement session and email correspondence.

In total, 28 online survey responses were received, 8 people attended the on-site engagement session, and 5 email submissions were received. Online survey results highlighted support for the Master Plan at 68% of all respondents.

Key themes raised through the engagement included support for the proposed native nursery, wildlife rehabilitation facility and amenities, alongside concerns regarding loss of open space, the extent of fencing, dog off-leash arrangements, ecological impacts (including synthetic turf and microplastics), access and movement and potential traffic related impacts. A copy of the Engagement outcomes report is attached to this report.

Updated Master Plan

A revised Master Plan for Tempe Lands is attached to this report. Based on the outcomes of the community engagement the revised Tempe Lands Masterplan incorporates the following key provisions:

- Retention of existing conservation areas and Lori Short Reserve.
- Access road improvements and expansion of car parking.
- New amenities building, serving both the nursery and adjacent sports courts, which includes associated storage and office space.
- 4 new sport courts (intended for 5-a-side soccer) with lighting and dugout shelter provisioned for all courts.
- Fenced large dog off-leash area and separate small dog off-leash area.
- Arrival plaza and accessible shared path network.
- Container kiosk area.
- A nursery and environmental education centre.
- A wildlife rehabilitation facility.
- Rain garden to capture and treat surface water.
- Retention of the leachate plant.
- Areas allocated for soft landscaping and micro-forests.

The revised Master Plan offers the community a substantial, centrally connected open space that is designed to meet identified community recreation requirements, while also enhancing and supporting long term ecological outcomes. In terms of key priorities, it is envisaged that the sports courts and dog off leash areas would form part of the initial high priority items for construction.

The Master Plan features a 3,000 m^2 fully fenced dog 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. Separate fenced spaces are proposed for the small and large dog off-leash use. The small dog off-leash area has been increased to 1,650 m^2 based on feedback received after the publication of the earlier version of the draft Master Plan.

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.

Legal and Risk Implications

The Masterplan generally accords with the funding agreement with TfNSW. There are no perceived legal implications which may arise with the payment of funds for the delivery of works in respect of the Tempe Lands.

Financial Implications

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

At the time of the transfer of the Tempe Lands to Council, TfNSW committed to provide $4.25 million in funding for future parkland embellishments. None of these funds have been expended to date. Half of this funding has been received by Council, with the remaining $2.125 million to be paid once Council has provided evidence that construction works have physically commenced before January 2030.

It is proposed that these funds are expended on the following high priority works:

- Arrival plaza and accessible shared path network
- Four sport courts (intended for 5-a-side soccer) with lighting and dugout shelters
- Fenced large dog off-leash area and separate small dog off-leash area
- Amenities building, incorporating storage and office space.

Subject to endorsement of the Master Plan design and approvals will be completed in the 2026/27 financial year and construction works would then follow in the subsequent year. Should there be any residual funding remaining beyond the above works, then next priorities to deliver are the nursery, environmental education centre and wildlife rehabilitation facility. Additional grant funding opportunities will also be explored, once concept designs are developed and further detailed costings are completed.

Attachments 1 - 2 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. ⇨ Tempe Lands Community Engagement Outcomes Report- **Published Separately on Council's website**
2. ⇨ Tempe Lands Master Plan- **Published Separately on Council's website**

Item: **C0626(1) Item 20**

Title: **Local Transport Forum Meeting - 18 May 2026**

Author: Manod Wickramasinghe - Acting Director Engineering

Recommendation

That Council receive and adopt the recommendations of the Local Transport Forum meeting held on 18 May 2026.

Strategic Direction

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

2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport

Discussion

The May 2026 meeting of the Local Transport Forum was held at the Ashfield Service Centre. The minutes of the meeting are shown in *Attachment 1* for Council's consideration and adoption.

ITEMS BY WARD – MAY 2026

Ward	Item
Baludarri (Balmain)	Darling Street and Curtis Road, Balmain – Proposed Raised Pedestrian Crossing and Roundabout Improvements
	Nelson Lane, Annandale - Proposed 'No Parking' Zone Extension
	InnerWest@40 - Area 2 Rozelle and Lilyfield; Area 11 Ashfield North; Area 1 Haberfield - Proposed Speed Limit Reduction from 50km/h to 40km/h
Gulgadya (Leichhardt)	Allen Street, Leichhardt- Proposed Raised Pedestrian Crossing
	Lords Road and Davies Street Resident Parking Scheme
	InnerWest@40 - Area 2 Rozelle and Lilyfield; Area 11 Ashfield North; Area 1 Haberfield - Proposed Speed Limit Reduction from 50km/h to 40km/h
Midjuburi (Marrickville)	Warburton Street, Marrickville - Proposed Kerb Blister
	Bunnings Tempe South LATM works - Proposed temporary full road closures at multiple locations over a five-week period
	Centennial Street, Woodland Street and Holmesdale Street, Marrickville – Temporary Road Closures for Special Event at Henson Park – 2026 Beer, Footy and Food Festival on Saturday 18 July 2026
	Illawarra Road at Wharf Street, Marrickville – Proposed raised pedestrian crossing
	Illawarra Road at Grove Street, Marrickville – Proposed raised pedestrian crossing
	Smidmore Street, Marrickville at the signalised intersection with Edinburgh Road - Proposed Extension of 'No Stopping' restrictions at the signalised intersection
	Mackey Park Resident Parking Scheme
	Schwebel Street, Marrickville - Proposed 45-degree angled parking in Schwebel Street between Station Street and Leofrene Avenue.

Djarrawunang (Ashfield)	Nowranie Street at Smith Street, Summer Hill - Proposed kerb extensions
	InnerWest@40 - Area 2 Rozelle and Lilyfield; Area 11 Ashfield North; Area 1 Haberfield - Proposed Speed Limit Reduction from 50km/h to 40km/h
	Hardy Street at Mount Street, Ashbury - New proposed raised pedestrian (zebra) crossing and kerb extensions
Damun (Stanmore)	Little Brighton Street, Petersham - Proposed 'No Parking' Restriction
All Wards	Proposed EV Kerbside Charging Locations

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no legal and risk implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications

Projects proposed for implementation are funded within existing budget allocations.

Attachments

1.⇩ Local Transport Forum minutes - 18 May 2026

INNER WEST
Local Transport Forum Meeting
18 May 2026

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting commenced at 11:00 AM

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY BY CHAIRPERSON

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

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Clr Victor Macri	Councillor – Midjuburi – Marrickville Ward (Chair)
Rebecca Fernandez O'Shea	Representative for Koby Shetti MP, Member for Balmain
Graeme McKay	Representative for Jo Haylen MP, Member for Summer Hill
Miriama Tamata	Representative for Jenny Leong MP, Member for Newtown
Vinoth Srinivasan	Transport for NSW (TfNSW)
Olivia Lin	Transport for NSW (TfNSW)
Julius Villaneuva	Representative for Transit Systems
Colin Jones	Representative for Inner West Bicycle Coalition (IWBC)
Sunny Jo	IWC's Manager Traffic & Transport Planning (Acting)
George Tsaprounis	IWC's Coordinator Traffic Engineering Services (South)
Felicia Lau	IWC's Coordinator Traffic Engineering Services (North) (Acting)
Tiffanie Ong	IWC's Business Administration Support
Shirley Rodriquez	IWC's Traffic & Transport Liaison Officer

VISITORS

David Walker	Public Speaker (Item 2)
Murray Cleaver	Public Speaker (Item 9)
Guy White	Public Speaker (Item 13)
Andrea Leong	Public Speaker (Item 15)
Michael Bogner	Public Speaker (Item 16)
Eleanor Bogner	Public Speaker (Item 16)
Warren Julian	Public Speaker (Item 16)

APOLOGIES:

Clr Liz Atkins	Councillor – Damun - Stanmore Ward
Sunita Sheril	Representative for Transit Systems
Shannon Burns	NSW Police – Sydney City PAC

DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS:

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the Minutes of the Local Transport Forum held on Monday, 20 April 2026 be confirmed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Local Transport Forum meeting held on 16 March 2026 were adopted at Council's meeting held on Tuesday, 21 April 2026.

LTF0526(1) Item 1 Darling Street and Curtis Road, Balmain - Proposed Raised Pedestrian Crossing and Roundabout Improvements (Baludarri - Balmain Ward/Balmain Electorate/Leichhardt PAC)

SUMMARY

Council is planning to improve pedestrian safety in Darling Street at Curtis Road, Balmain by constructing a new raised pedestrian crossing and reconstructing the existing roundabout central island. The proposal aims to enhance both pedestrian and motorist safety, and to address concerns regarding pedestrian safety and driver behaviour in the area, particularly during peak periods. As part of the proposal. it is proposed to adjust existing 'No Stopping' signs and zones in both Darling Street and Eaton Street to provide the required minimum standards for sight distances. This will result in the loss of four (4) on-street parking spaces in total.

Officers Recommendation:

That the attached detailed design plan (Design Plan 10313) for the proposed raised pedestrian crossing in Darling Street, east of Curtis Road and roundabout reconstruction works at the intersection of Darling Street and Curtis Road in Balmain be approved.

LTF Advice:

The Representative for Transit Systems requested that construction timelines for the crossing be provided to them, noting that the work would affect bus services and scheduling. It was also advised that service impacts may be reduced if construction is scheduled outside school term.

Council Officers advised that they would liaise with Transit Systems regarding construction timelines.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached detailed design plan (Design Plan 10313) for the proposed raised pedestrian crossing in Darling Street, east of Curtis Road and roundabout reconstruction works at the intersection of Darling Street and Curtis Road in Balmain be approved.

LTF0526(1) Item 2 Nelson Lane, Annandale - Proposed 'No Parking' Zone Extension (Baludarri-Balmain Ward/Balmain Electorate/Leichhardt PAC)

SUMMARY

To support resident's vehicular access to their property and maintaining consistency with the existing 'No Parking' zone arrangements in Nelson Lane, it is recommended that the 'No Parking' zone in Nelson Lane be extended to include the opposite to the rear boundary of No.265 Nelson Street, Annandale.

Officers Recommendation:

That 'No Parking' zone in Nelson Lane opposite the rear boundary of No.265 Nelson Street, Annandale, be approved.

LTF Advice:

Public Speaker David Walker entered the meeting at 11:43am

Mr. Walker advised that he supported the proposal, noting that it would improve access to his property's driveway.

Public Speaker David Walker left the meeting at 11:46am

Council Officers tabled comments from a resident requesting one parking spot be allowed halfway between the rear of no's 267 and 265 in Nelson Lane noting this will allow room to gain access to garages on 265 and 269 Nelson Lane.

No further advice was provided by the LTF members.

RECOMMENDATION:

That 'No Parking' zone in Nelson Lane opposite the rear boundary of No.265 Nelson Street, Annandale, be approved.

LTF0526(1) Item 3 Warburton Street, Marrickville - Proposed Kerb Blister (Midjuburi - Marrickville Ward / Summer Hill Electorate / Inner West PAC)

SUMMARY

A request has been received from Vesbar Espresso café to investigate opportunities to improve pedestrian safety at Warburton Street near Illawarra Road, Marrickville.

The café expressed concerns regarding cars and trucks mounting or swiping the kerb when turning left into Illawarra Road from Warburton Street.

An assessment has been undertaken, and it is proposed that a kerb blister be installed to improve pedestrian safety at the location. The kerb blister will reduce the overall crossing distance of the road, provide future outdoor dining opportunities and reduce conflict between vehicles and pedestrians.

Officers Recommendation:

1. That the proposed kerb blister on Warburton Street near Illawarra Road, Marrickville be approved in principle and a detailed design for the proposed kerb blister be brought back to the Local Transport Forum for consideration, including the results of community engagement.

2. That the proposed kerb blister on Warburton Street be included for consideration in Council's Traffic Facilities Capital Works Program for funding.

LTF Advice:

The Chairperson suggested that protection barriers be considered as part of the proposal, noting that the area may be used for outdoor dining following the installation of the proposed kerb blisters.

Council Officers noted that the recommendation should be amended to state that consideration of protection barriers be considered at the detailed design stage.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **That the proposed kerb blister on Warburton Street near Illawarra Road, Marrickville be approved in principle and a detailed design for the proposed kerb blister be brought back to the Local Transport Forum for consideration, including the results of community engagement.**
2. **That the proposed kerb blister on Warburton Street be included for consideration in Council's Traffic Facilities Capital Works Program for funding.**
3. **Barrier protection on the kerb blister island be considered to further improve the safety of patrons to the adjacent business, possibly using the proposed widened area.**

LTF0526(1) Item 4 Bunnings Tempe South LATM works - Proposed temporary full road closures at multiple locations over a five-week period (Midjuburi-Marrickville Ward / Heffron Electorate / Inner West PAC)

SUMMARY

A request has been received from Bunnings Group Limited for the temporary full road closure of multiple streets in Tempe over a five-week period in order to carry out approved Bunnings Tempe South LATM works (ENRC20260013).

This report details the temporary full-road closures required for the adopted traffic calming treatments to be constructed in Holbeach Avenue, Wentworth Street, Edwin Street, Tramway Street, Barden Street, Fanning Street, Hart Street and Station Street, Tempe.

Officers Recommendation:

1. That the proposed temporary full and partial road closures of:
   a) Edwin Street between Stanley Street and Tramway Street, Tempe on Monday 6 July to Wednesday 8 July 2026 (full closure)
   b) Tramway Street between Unwins Bridge Road and Edwin Street, Tempe on Monday 13 July to Wednesday 15 July 2026 (full closure)
   c) Wentworth Street South between South Street and Princes Highway, Tempe on Monday 20 July to Wednesday 22 July 2026 (full closure)
   d) Wentworth Street North between Princes Highway and South Street, Tempe on Monday 27 July to Wednesday 29 July 2026 (full closure)
   e) Holbeach Avene southeast of Princes Highway, Tempe on Monday 3 August to Tuesday 4 August 2026 (partial road closure)
   f) Line marking 1–2-hour short duration road closures - Tramway Street, Barden Street, Fanning Street, Hart Street and Station Street, Tempe on Wednesday 5 August 2026

   (with a contingency period of two weeks for each road closure) be approved, as per the submitted Traffic Management Plans (TMP) and Traffic Guidance Schemes(TGS), in order to carry out Bunnings Tempe South Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) works subject to, but not limited to, the following conditions:
   a) The application and TMP/TGSs be submitted to TfNSW for approval;
   b) A Road Occupancy License be obtained by the applicant from the Transport Management Centre;
   c) All affected residents and businesses, including NSW Police Local Area Commander, Transit Systems, Fire and Rescue NSW and NSW Ambulance Services, shall be notified in writing by the applicant of the proposed temporary road closures at least 7 days prior to the event, with the applicant making reasonable provision for all stakeholders, residents and businesses;
   d) That the occupation of the road carriageway must not occur until the road has been physically closed.
   e) The applicant be advised in terms of this report and that all costs for the road closures and implementation of the road closures are to be borne by the applicant.

2. That installation of the temporary 'No Stopping' restrictions on Wentworth Street, Tempe at Princes Highway (26.1m length on northern side outside No.49 to 45 and 21.7m length on the southern side outside Tempe Tyres and No.46) and north of South Street (19.2m length on northern side outside No.13 to 15-17 and 19.1m length on the southern side outside No.14 and 16) be approved subject to the applicant installing and removing the signage at their cost.

LTF Advice:

The Chairperson raised concerns about the loss of resident parking during the road closure period and noted that some diagrams appeared to show construction and trade vehicles using resident driveways to undertake turning movements, which could result in property damage.

Council Officers advised that traffic control would provide 'residents only' access during the road closure periods, allowing access to off-street parking within private properties. They also noted that on-street parking would need to be removed during the closures because vehicles would otherwise be unable to turn around and continue in a forward direction and may need to reverse the full length of the street.

Council Officers further advised that for most work, site closures would be of short duration, ranging from one day for line-marking activities to three days for the construction of raised platforms. They also noted that dilapidation reports can be undertaken to address the concerns raised by the residents regarding the condition of resident driveways before and after work.

The Representative for the Member of Summer Hill asked about the impact of the road closures on access to schools in the area.

Council Officers advised that the project had been designed to minimise parking loss and enable the works to be completed promptly. They noted that, although Edwin Street would be closed during construction, Union Street would remain open and continue to provide access to both Tempe Public School and Tempe High School.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **That the proposed temporary full and partial road closures of:**
   a) **Edwin Street between Stanley Street and Tramway Street, Tempe on Monday 6 July to Wednesday 8 July 2026 (full closure)**
   b) **Tramway Street between Unwins Bridge Road and Edwin Street, Tempe on Monday 13 July to Wednesday 15 July 2026 (full closure)**
   c) **Wentworth Street South between South Street and Princes Highway, Tempe on Monday 20 July to Wednesday 22 July 2026 (full closure)**
   d) **Wentworth Street North between Princes Highway and South Street, Tempe on Monday 27 July to Wednesday 29 July 2026 (full closure)**
   e) **Holbeach Avene southeast of Princes Highway, Tempe on Monday 3 August to Tuesday 4 August 2026 (partial road closure)**

f) **Line marking 1–2-hour short duration road closures - Tramway Street, Barden Street, Fanning Street, Hart Street and Station Street, Tempe on Wednesday 5 August 2026**

(with a contingency period of two weeks for each road closure) be approved, as per the submitted Traffic Management Plans (TMP) and Traffic Guidance Schemes (TGS), in order to carry out Bunnings Tempe South Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) works subject to, but not limited to, the following conditions:

a) **The application and TMP/TGSs be submitted to TfNSW for approval;**
b) **A Road Occupancy License obtained by the applicant from the Transport Management Centre;**
c) **All affected residents and businesses, including NSW Police Local Area Commander, Transit Systems, Fire and Rescue NSW and NSW Ambulance Services, shall be notified in writing by the applicant of the proposed temporary road closures at least 7 days prior to the event, with the applicant making reasonable provision for all stakeholders, residents and businesses;**
d) **That the occupation of the road carriageway must not occur until the road has been physically closed.**
e) **The applicant be advised in terms of this report and that all costs for the road closures and implementation of the road closures are to be borne by the applicant.**

2. **That installation of the temporary 'No Stopping' restrictions on Wentworth Street, Tempe at Princes Highway (26.1m length on northern side outside No.49 to 45 and 21.7m length on the southern side outside Tempe Tyres and No.46) and north of South Street (19.2m length on northern side outside No.13 to 15-17 and 19.1m length on the southern side outside No.14 and 16) be approved subject to the applicant installing and removing the signage at their cost.**

LTF0526(1) Item 5 Centennial Street, Woodland Street and Holmesdale Street, Marrickville – Temporary Road Closures for Special Event at Henson Park – 2026 Beer, Footy and Food Festival on Saturday 18 July 2026 (Midjuburi-Marrickville Ward /Summer Hill Electorate /Inner West LAC)

SUMMARY

An application (ENRC/2026/0016) has been received from Good Time Beer Co. to hold the 2026 Beer, Footy and Food Festival between 10.00am and 9.00pm on Saturday 16 July 2026 at Henson Park Oval. The event requires the temporary full road closure of Centennial Street, Marrickville between Sydenham Road and the entrance gate to Henson Park Oval as well as Woodland Street, between Illawarra Road and dead-end and Holmesdale Street, between Sydenham Road and Woodland Street, Marrickville. It is recommended that Council approve the temporary full road closures subject to the

applicant complying with the above conditions and obtaining concurrence from Transport for NSW as the closure entails lane closures on Sydenham Road (a State Road).

Officers Recommendation:

That the proposed temporary full road closure of Centennial Street, Marrickville between Sydenham Road and the entrance to Henson Park and Marrickville & District Hardcourt Tennis Club car park; Woodland Street, between Illawarra Road and dead-end and Holmesdale Street, between Sydenham Road and Woodland Street, Marrickville between 10.00am and 9.00pm on Saturday 18 July 2026 (contingency period of two months) for the purpose of holding the 'Beer, Footy and Food Festival 2026' event be approved, subject to the approval of the S68 Application and the applicant complying with, but not limited to, the following conditions:

1. A Road Occupancy License application be obtained by the applicant from the Transport Management Centre;

2. All affected residents and businesses, including NSW Police Local Area Commander, Transit Systems, Fire and Rescue NSW and NSW Ambulance Services, shall be notified in writing by the applicant of the proposed temporary road closure at least 7 days prior to the event, with the applicant making reasonable provision for residents and businesses;

3. A VMS be placed displaying that there is 'No Public Parking' in Centennial Street;

4. Barriers at Woodland Street at Illawarra Road and Holmesdale Street at Sydenham Road will be set back to accommodate any right turning vehicles should they try to enter the closed roads (TGS 5);

5. The occupation of the road carriageway must not occur until the road has been physically closed; and

6. Subject to written concurrence from Transport for New South Wales.

LTF Advice:

No further advice was provided by the LTF members.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the proposed temporary full road closure of Centennial Street, Marrickville between Sydenham Road and the entrance to Henson Park and Marrickville & District Hardcourt Tennis Club car park; Woodland Street, between Illawarra Road and dead-end and Holmesdale Street, between Sydenham Road and Woodland Street, Marrickville between 10.00am and 9.00pm on Saturday 18 July 2026 (contingency period of two months) for the purpose of holding the 'Beer, Footy and Food Festival 2026' event be approved, subject to the approval of the S68

Application and the applicant complying with, but not limited to, the following conditions:

1. **A Road Occupancy License application be obtained by the applicant from the Transport Management Centre;**

2. **All affected residents and businesses, including NSW Police Local Area Commander, Transit Systems, Fire and Rescue NSW and NSW Ambulance Services, shall be notified in writing by the applicant of the proposed temporary road closure at least 7 days prior to the event, with the applicant making reasonable provision for residents and businesses;**

3. **A VMS be placed displaying that there is 'No Public Parking' in Centennial Street;**

4. **Barriers at Woodland Street at Illawarra Road and Holmesdale Street at Sydenham Road will be set back to accommodate any right turning vehicles should they try to enter the closed roads (TGS 5);**

5. **The occupation of the road carriageway must not occur until the road has been physically closed; and**

6. **Subject to written concurrence from Transport for New South Wales.**

LTF0526(1) Item 6 Illawarra Road at Wharf Street, Marrickville – Proposed raised pedestrian crossing - Design Plan 10379 (Midjuburi-Marrickville Ward / Summer Hill Electorate / Inner West PAC)

SUMMARY

Design plans have been finalised for the construction of a raised pedestrian crossing on Illawarra Road at Wharf Street, Marrickville which aligns with the upgrade of Steel Park as an inclusive playground. The existing pedestrian refuge is proposed to be upgraded to a new raised pedestrian crossing. It is recommended that the detailed design plan and associated signs and line markings be supported to improve pedestrian safety in the locality.

Officers Recommendation:

That the detailed design plan (No.10379) for the proposed new raised pedestrian crossing on Illawarra Road at Wharf Street, Marrickville and associated signs and line markings be approved.

LTF Advice:

The Representative for Inner West Bicycle Coalition asked whether the plan could be amended to include a shared bicycle and pedestrian crossing to improve connectivity to the Cooks River/Livingstone Road cycleway.

Council Officers advised that there is an existing connection to the Cooks River cycleway on the opposite side of the bridge, and that a shared pedestrian and bicycle crossing at this location could be considered should bicycle paths be provided that connect to the crossing.

The Chairperson recommended that a shared pedestrian and bicycle crossing be separately investigated.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the detailed design plan (No.10379) for the proposed new raised pedestrian crossing on Illawarra Road at Wharf Street, Marrickville and associated signs and line markings be approved.

LTF0526(1) Item 7 Illawarra Road at Grove Street, Marrickville – Proposed raised pedestrian crossing - Design Plan 10385 (Midjuburi-Marrickville Ward / Summer Hill Electorate / Inner West PAC)

SUMMARY

Council is planning to improve safety for pedestrians on Illawarra Road at Grove Street, Marrickville by converting the existing 'at-grade' pedestrian crossing to a raised pedestrian crossing together with landscaped kerb blister islands. The proposal aims to improve pedestrian and motorist safety by better defining safe pedestrian crossing points; improve sight distances, reduce traffic speeds and conflicts with traffic movements at this location. The proposal has been consulted with no submissions received.

Officers Recommendation:

That the detailed design plan (No.10385) for the proposed raised pedestrian crossing on Illawarra Road at Grove Street, Marrickville and associated signs and line markings be approved.

LTF Advice:

The Representative for Transit Systems advised that a construction schedule would be required, as the work would affect bus services. Council Officer informed the Forum members that the raised crossing would be constructed to a height to suit buses.

No further advice was provided by LTF.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the detailed design plan (No.10385) for the proposed raised pedestrian crossing on Illawarra Road at Grove Street, Marrickville and associated signs and line markings be approved.

LTF0526(1) Item 8 Smidmore Street, Marrickville at the signalised intersection with Edinburgh Road - Proposed Extension of 'No Stopping' restrictions at the signalised intersection (Midjuburi-Marrickville Ward / Summer Hill Electorate / Inner West PAC)

SUMMARY

Concerns have been raised by Marrickville Metro Shopping Centre regarding significant congestion occurring near the Edinburgh Road and Smidmore Street signalised intersection, due to limited kerbside lane storage. This has resulted in a reduced intersection performance and queuing extending east along Smidmore Street toward the Centre's entry roundabout and carpark ramp.

It is proposed to extend the existing 'No Stopping' restrictions at the Smidmore Street approach to improve intersection performance and safety. It is also recommended to introduce two P10 minute parking spaces for use by rideshare vehicles.

Officers Recommendation:

1. That the existing 14m 'No Stopping' zone on the eastern approach leg on Smidmore Street at its signalised intersection with Edinburgh Road, Marrickville be extended northward by 17m (replacing current '2P 8.30am-6pm Mon-Fri 8.30am-12.30pm Sat' restrictions).

2. That 12m (2 car parking spaces) of short-term 'P10minute 8am-6pm' restrictions be installed between the adjusted 'No Stopping' restrictions and the Taxi Zone (also replacing the current '2P 8.30am-6pm Mon-Fri 8.30am-12.30pm Sat' restrictions).

LTF Advice:

No further advice was provided by the LTF members.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **That the existing 14m 'No Stopping' zone on the eastern approach leg on Smidmore Street at its signalised intersection with Edinburgh Road, Marrickville be extended northward by 17m (replacing current '2P 8.30am-6pm Mon-Fri 8.30am-12.30pm Sat' restrictions).**

2. **That 12m (2 car parking spaces) of short-term 'P10minute 8am-6pm' restrictions be installed between the adjusted 'No Stopping' restrictions and the Taxi Zone (also replacing the current '2P 8.30am-6pm Mon-Fri 8.30am-12.30pm Sat' restrictions).**

LTF0526(1) Item 9 Nowranie Street at Smith Street, Summer Hill - Proposed kerb extensions - (Djarrawunang-Ashfield Ward/Summer Hill Electorate/Burwood PAC)

SUMMARY

Council is proposing to introduce kerb extensions and blister islands in Nowranie Street and Smith Street, Summer Hill. The proposal aims to improve pedestrian and motorists' safety by better defining safe pedestrian crossing points, improving sight distances, reducing traffic speeds and conflicts with traffic movements at this location.

Officers Recommendation:

1. That the proposed kerb extensions and blister islands at the intersection of Nowranie Street and Smith Street, Summer Hill as shown in the attached concept plan, be supported in-principle and a detailed design for the proposed works be brought back to the Local Transport Forum for consideration, including the results of community engagement.

2. That the proposed kerb extensions and blister islands on Nowranie Street be included for consideration in Council's Traffic Facilities Capital Works Program for funding.

LTF Advice:

Public speaker Murray Cleaver entered the meeting at 11:03 am

Mr Cleaver advised that, as a local resident, he regularly uses the intersection to access shops on Smith Street. He noted increased pedestrian activity associated with surrounding development, including the Flour Mills. He also raised concerns about vehicles parking illegally in the timed parking zones and the Australia Post 'No Stopping' zone, as well as vehicles performing U-turns in this section of Smith Street. He further noted confusion regarding the existing raised threshold on Smith Street, which is often mistaken for a pedestrian crossing, and advised that drivers frequently fail to observe the 40 km/h speed limit as they approach the intersection with Nowranie Street.

Mr Cleaver expressed concern that the proposed kerb blister on the south-east corner of the Smith Street and Nowranie Street intersection may direct pedestrians into the laneway adjacent to the Australia Post building. He suggested reducing the kerb blister from 3.5m to 2m and relocating the Australia Post 'No Stopping' zone would improve sightlines and create a safer pedestrian desire line. He also raised concerns about driver awareness of the existing 40km/h speed limit in this HPAA section of Smith Street and requested that additional measures be considered to improve awareness of the speed limit.

Public Speaker Murray Cleaver left the meeting at 11:10am

Council Officers advised that the proposed kerb blister on the south-east corner could be reviewed, with the key objective being to maintain access to shops on the southern side of Smith Street while minimising impacts on other road users and adjacent properties. In relation to speed, Council Officers noted that the existing traffic-calming measures already limit vehicle speeds through this section, and that the wider area is in the process of being reduced to a 40 km/h speed limit. They also advised that available gaps in traffic, together with the existing speed-control measures, allow for a lower speed environment for pedestrians.

The Representative for the Inner West Bicycle Coalition questioned whether Police would enforce the new speed limits following implementation and suggested that variable message sign (VMS) speed notifications be considered.

The Representative for the Member of Summer Hill asked whether a barrier or fencing would be installed at the raised threshold to discourage pedestrians from using it as a crossing point. Council Officers advised that there have not been any reported issues at this location and note that a barrier may obstruct passengers when parked at this location.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **That the proposed kerb extensions and blister islands at the intersection of Nowranie Street and Smith Street, Summer Hill as shown in the attached concept plan, be supported in-principle and a detailed design for the proposed works be brought back to the Local Transport Forum for consideration, including the results of community engagement.**

2. **That the proposed kerb extensions and blister islands on Nowranie Street be included for consideration in Council's Traffic Facilities Capital Works Program for funding.**

LTF0526(1) Item 10 Hardy Street at Mount Street, Ashbury - New proposed raised pedestrian (zebra) crossing and kerb extensions - (Djarrawunang-Ashfield Ward/Canterbury Electorate/Burwood PAC)

SUMMARY

Council is proposing to improve safety for pedestrians by introducing a new raised pedestrian (zebra) crossing with kerb extensions in Hardy Street at Mount Street adjacent to Canterbury Boy's High School, Ashbury. Kerb extension treatment is also proposed in Mount Street leading around into Hardy Street for road narrowing of the intersection. The proposal aims to improve pedestrian and motorist safety by better defining safe pedestrian crossing points, improving sight distances, reducing traffic speeds and conflicts with traffic movements at this location.

Officers Recommendation:

1. That the proposed raised pedestrian (zebra) crossing with kerb extensions in Hardy Street at the intersection with Mount Street, Ashbury as shown in the attached concept plan, be supported in-principle and a detailed design for the proposed crossing be brought back to the Local Transport Forum for consideration, including the results of community engagement.

2. That the proposed raised pedestrian crossing in Hardy Street be included for consideration in Council's Traffic Facilities Capital Works Program for funding.

LTF Advice:

The Representative for Transit Systems advised that a construction schedule would be required, as the works would affect bus services and require the relocation of the existing bus stop. The bus stop is currently used by eight services: five school services and three regular services.

Council Officers advised that the proposal is currently at the concept stage and that consultation will be undertaken with stakeholders and the community, including bus service providers, before the detailed design is finalised.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **That the proposed raised pedestrian (zebra) crossing with kerb extensions in Hardy Street at the intersection with Mount Street, Ashbury as shown in the attached concept plan, be supported in-principle and a detailed design for the proposed crossing be brought back to the Local Transport Forum for consideration, including the results of community engagement.**

2. **That the proposed raised pedestrian crossing in Hardy Street be included for consideration in Council's Traffic Facilities Capital Works Program for funding.**

LTF0526(1) Item 11 Allen Street, Leichhardt- Proposed Raised Pedestrian Crossing (Gulgadya-Leichhardt Ward Balmain Electorate/ Leichhardt PAC)

SUMMARY

The Local Traffic Committee (LTC) at its meeting on 14 April 2025 supported in-principle a concept design for a new raised pedestrian crossing on Allen Street at Norton Street, Leichhardt.

A detailed design is now complete, the proposal includes a raised pedestrian crossing, upgraded lighting, drainage modifications, and new signage and line marking. Minor adjustments to parking and the Bus Zone were also required as part of this project.

Community engagement was undertaken and one response was received with a request to modify the location of signage.

Officers Recommendation:

That the detailed design plan (No. 10389) for the proposed raised pedestrian crossing, including the relocation of existing 'No Stopping' and 'Bus Zone' signs be approved.

LTF Advice:

The Representative for Transit Systems advised that construction timelines would be required, as bus services would be affected during the works. TfNSW would also require updated service information.

The Representative for the Inner West Bicycle Coalition supported the proposed Allen Street crossing but raised concerns on the existing kerb blister on the eastern side of Norton Street, north of at the pedestrian crossing, noting that it is a sharp turn and a hazard for bicycle riders and a redesign would be suitable.

Council Officers advised that, although the Norton Street crossing is outside the scope of this project, a reduction in the size of the kerb blister will be investigated as a separate matter.

No further advice was provided by LTF members.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the detailed design plan (No. 10389) for the proposed raised pedestrian crossing, including the relocation of existing 'No Stopping' and 'Bus Zone' signs be approved.

LTF0526(1) Item 12 InnerWest@40 - Area 2 Rozelle and Lilyfield; Area 11 Ashfield North; Area 1 Haberfield - Proposed Speed Limit Reduction from 50km/h to 40km/h (Djarrawunang - Ashfield, Baludarri - Balmain and Gulgadya - Leichhardt Wards / Balmain, Summer Hill and Strathfield Electorates / Burwood and Leichhard PAC)

SUMMARY

At Council's meeting on Tuesday 5 March 2024, Council adopted the *InnerWest@40 "Investigation in Potential Local Road Speed Limit Reductions"* Study and requested that

Council officers seek approval and funding from Transport for NSW to expedite the implementation of 40km/h speed limits on local streets within the Local Government Area (LGA).

As part of the Australian Government Blackspot Program (AGBS), Council received funding to implement the reduced speed limits in Area 6 (Enmore & Marrickville East) and Area 7 (Marrickville & Tempe). Both areas were completed in mid-2025 with the subsequent areas being scheduled for implementation in early 2026.

Funding has been approved to continue the implementation of reduced speed limits during the 2025/26 year with Haberfield (area 1), Rozelle and Lilyfield (area 2) and Ashfield North (area 11) currently proposed for a speed limit reduction.

Officers Recommendation:

That the proposed signage and line marking plans to support the reduction in posted speed limit from 50km/h to 40km/h in local roads in Haberfield (area 1), Rozelle and Lilyfield (area 2) and Ashfield North (area 11) of the InnerWest@40 study, be approved.

LTF Advice:

The Representative for the Inner West Bicycle Coalition suggested that the speed limits be further reduced to 30 km/h.

The Representative for the Member for Summer Hill raised questions about the proposed speed limits and signposting for Dobroyd Parade and Cove Street, and asked whether Ramsay Street would be reduced to 40 km/h or 50 km/h.

The Representative for the Member of Balmain supported 40 km/h signposting on local roads but suggested that a 30 km/h limit be considered in areas with high pedestrian activity around schools.

Council officer clarified that Cove Street will be reduced to 40km/h and signs will be installed at the Parramatta Road end.

The TfNSW Representative advised that vehicle speeds on all State and Regional roads are currently under review, and that notification will be issued prior to implementation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the proposed signage and line marking plans to support the reduction in posted speed limit from 50km/h to 40km/h in local roads in Haberfield (area 1), Rozelle and Lilyfield (area 2) and Ashfield North (area 11) of the InnerWest@40 study, be approved.

LTF0526(1) Item 13 Proposed EV Kerbside Charging Locations (All Wards / All Electorates / All PACs)

SUMMARY

Council is committed to supporting and encouraging the use of electric vehicles (EVs) in the Inner West. Following the adoption of "*Powering Ahead*", Council's Electric Vehicle Encouragement Strategy in 2023, Council has partnered with several Kerbside charging providers and has been successful in gaining State Government Funding for the provision of Kerbside EV charging.

The current rollout of chargers will be installed by PLUS ES. This work is being delivered under the Transport and Infrastructure State Environmental Planning Policy, which allows them to install chargers without a development application.

To ensure EV owners can easily use the chargers, Council is proposing to establish 'No Parking 8am–10pm EV excepted while charging' zones at a number of charging sites. Targeted engagement has been undertaken, and a summary of the engagement outcomes has been provided with associated recommendations and signage and line marking plans.

Officers Recommendation:

That the EV charging sites identified in *Table 2* be supported and signposted as 'No Parking 8am-10pm EV excepted while charging' space.

LTF Advice:

Public Speaker Guy White entered the meeting at 11:12am

Mr. White supported the expansion of charging locations but noted that dedicated chargers should be distributed more evenly so owners can leave their vehicles to charge and return once charging is complete. He raised concerns that non-dedicated charging spaces are often occupied by internal combustion vehicles, preventing EV owners from accessing them when required.

Mr. White advised that the current allocation was approximately two-thirds dedicated spaces and one-third non-dedicated spaces. In his view, if all charging locations were dedicated, fewer spaces would be required because they would be reserved for active EV charging. He suggested that enforcement could be supported by a software application linked to the charging infrastructure and Council Rangers, potentially funded by the technology provider.

Mr White noted that there were no reserved EV charging spaces within walking distance of his area and suggested that Council's EV charging policy should place greater emphasis on installing dedicated EV spaces proactively, rather than waiting for the community to raise the issue. He noted that this approach would be consistent with the provision of dedicated mobility and car-share spaces.

Mr White identified the relevant areas as Denison Road, Lewisham near New Canterbury Road, and the upper end of Toothill Street, Dulwich Hill.

Public Speaker Guy White left the meeting at 11:18am

The Representative for the Member of Balmain queried whether the proposed EV charger locations in Darley Road and Catherine Street, Leichhardt, near the intersection with Moore Street and adjacent to War Memorial Park, could be reviewed as their current proposed locations may obstruct a possible future cycling infrastructure.

Council Officers advised that currently there is no scheduled cycling infrastructure in these two locations, and if there is any future work, the EV charger can be relocated. They also noted that all charging stations require locations with access to a power pole for electrical supply.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the EV charging sites identified in *Table 2* be supported and signposted as 'No Parking 8am-10pm EV excepted while charging' space as shown in the signage and line marking plans provided in *Attachment 1*.

LTF0526(1) Item 14 Mackey Park Resident Parking Scheme (Midjuburi - Marrickville Ward / Summer Hill Electorate / Inner West PAC)

SUMMARY

Council resolved to undertake community consultation to extend the Resident Parking Scheme (RPS) Area M2 to the industrial precinct around Carrington Road, Cary Street and Renwick Street, Marrickville. This report presents the results of the second phase of consultation completed in the following streets:

- Junction Street between Ruby Street and Schwebel Street;
- Ruby Street between Junction Street and Ivanhoe Street;
- Renwick Street between Johnston Lane and Carrington Road;
- Warren Road between Johnston Lane and Carrington Road;
- Richardson Crescent, east of Carrington Road; and
- Carrington Road between Premier Street and Richardson Crescent.

The results from the community consultation between July and August 2024 indicated a low response rate from the area of consultation with a high support rate for resident parking schemes within the area. Due to the low response rate, the proposed parking restrictions were not recommended for installation. To address concerns regarding the low response rate but high support rate received from the respondents, Council has undertaken a separate community consultation that focused on the streets with high support rate from earlier consultation and to ensure that the response rate was not affected by neighbouring streets.

Based on the breakdown of support rate, it is recommended that parking restrictions be approved in Renwick Street, Warren Road, Ruby Street, Carrington Road and Richardsons Crescent and that parking restrictions not be installed in Junction Street at this time.

Officers Recommendation:

1. That the proposed '2P 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, Permit Holders Excepted Area M2' restrictions on the northern side of Junction Street, Marrickville not be supported.

2. That the proposed '2P 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, Permit Holders Excepted Area M2' restrictions on the southern side of Renwick Street, Marrickville between no.66 and no.104 be approved.

3. That the proposed 2P 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, Permit Holders Excepted Area M2' restrictions on the southern side Ruby Street, Marrickville between no.16 and no.52 be approved and a review of parking utilisation in Ruby Street would be undertaken after 12 months.

4. That the proposed '2P 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, Permit Holders Excepted Area M2' restrictions on the northern side Warren Road, Marrickville between no.105 and no.149 be approved.

5. That the proposed '2P 3pm-9pm Mon-Fri; 6P 8am-6pm Saturday-Sunday' restrictions on the southern side (Macke Park frontage) of Carrington Road, Marrickville be approved.

6. That the proposed '2P 3pm-9pm Mon-Fri; 6P 8am-6pm Saturday-Sunday' restrictions on the western side (Mackey Park frontage) of Richardson's Crescent, Marrickville be approved.

LTF Advice:

Council Officers tabled four comments requesting that the proposed parking restrictions be extended to both sides of Ruby Street and further to Ivanhoe Street.

The Chairperson noted that the Metro Station had affected resident parking in streets surrounding Mackey Park and asked whether consideration could be given to implementing the Resident Parking Scheme on both sides of the street, given the site's close proximity to the station.

Council Officers advised that resident parking demand in the area was not primarily driven by the nearby Metro Station, but by the surrounding industrial area and local businesses. They noted, however, that a review could be undertaken 12 months after implementation of the proposal.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **That the proposed '2P 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, Permit Holders Excepted Area M2' restrictions on the northern side of Junction Street, Marrickville not be supported.**

2. **That the proposed '2P 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, Permit Holders Excepted Area M2' restrictions on the southern side of Renwick Street, Marrickville between no.66 and no.104 be approved.**

3. **That the proposed 2P 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, Permit Holders Excepted Area M2' restrictions on the southern side Ruby Street, Marrickville between no.16 and no.52 be approved.**

4. **That the proposed '2P 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, Permit Holders Excepted Area M2' restrictions on the northern side Warren Road, Marrickville between no.105 and no.149 be approved.**

5. **That the proposed '2P 3pm-9pm Mon-Fri; 6P 8am-6pm Saturday-Sunday' restrictions on the southern side of Carrington Road, Marrickville be approved.**

6. **That the proposed '3pm-9pm Mon-Fri; 6P 8am-6pm Saturday-Sunday' restrictions on the western side of Richardson's Crescent, Marrickville be approved.**

LTF0526(1) Item 15 Schwebel Street, Marrickvlle - Proposed 45-degree angled parking in Schwebel Street between Station Street and Leofrene Avenue. (Midjuburi - Marrickville Ward / Summer Hill Electorate / Inner West PAC)

SUMMARY

Council on 9 December 2025 made an amendment to the recommendations contained in Item 4 of the November 2025 Local Transport Forum. The amendment included the following *"That Council investigate and consult with residents and businesses about installing angled parking on the north side of Schwebel Street between Station Street and Leofrene Avenue and report back to a future Local Transport Forum"*.

Based on the feedback of surrounding businesses and residents, it is recommended that 45-degree angled parking be installed on the northern side of Schwebel Street between Station Street and Leofrene Aveune, Marrickville.

Officers Recommendation:

That '45° Angle Parking, rear to kerb' on the northern side of Schwebel Street, Marrickville between Station Street and Leofrene Avenue, Marrickville be approved.

LTF Advice:

Public Speaker Andrea Leong entered the meeting at 11:19am

Ms Leong, as a local resident, supported the existing drop-off/pick-up bay near the station, but raised concerns about vehicles exiting Schwebel Street via Blamire Lane. She noted that the existing parking arrangement appeared acceptable but raised concerns about poor visibility at what is now an entry and exit point for a childcare centre in this location. She raised concerns on how the decision to propose 45-degree, rather than 90-degree angled parking had been determined and whether limited details had been provided given that the recommendation was based on only three submissions.

The Chairperson advised that the proposal had arisen from discussions at the Illawarra Road Roundtable and had been referred to through a Notice of Motion. It was noted that the broader objective was to improve intersection flow and safety by making Schwebel Street one-way.

In addition, Council Officers advised that the 45-degree arrangement offered benefits for businesses and would create additional parking to offset spaces lost as part of the one-way changes and that the 90-degree parking option would require the removal of parking on the opposite side of the street. On balance, the 45-degree option was considered to provide a better outcome after weighing each approach. Council Officers further advised that the proposal sought to maximise parking for the community, particularly given the site's proximity to the station and nearby businesses.

Ms Leong noted that she hoped the net gain of three parking spaces would be considered in the context of the Marrickville Town Square proposal.

Public Speaker Andrea Leong left the meeting at 11:26am

No further advice provided by LTF members.

RECOMMENDATION:

That '45° Angle Parking, rear to kerb' on the northern side of Schwebel Street, Marrickville between Station Street and Leofrene Avenue, Marrickville be approved.

LTF0526(1) Item 16 Little Brighton Street, Petersham - Proposed 'No Parking' Restriction (Damun - Stanmore Ward / Newtown Electorate / Inner West PAC)

SUMMARY

A request has been received to improve access to off-street parking at the rear of Searl Street in Little Brighton Street, Petersham.

Concerns have been raised by residents regarding vehicles parking on the northern footpath of Little Brighton Street obstructing access to a rear garage.

An assessment has been undertaken, and it is proposed that an 8.5m length 'No Parking' zone be introduced adjacent to the driveway of No.40 Station Street, Petersham to improve access to the rear of No.4 Searl Street, Petersham. The proposal will provide improved access to the garage in the eastbound direction.

Officers Recommendation:

That 8.5m length 'No Parking' zone in Little Brighton Street immediately west of the driveway of No.40 Station Street, Petersham, be approved.

LTF Advice:

Public Speakers Michael Bogner, Eleanor Bogner and Warren Julian entered the meeting at 11:30am

Mr Bogner, a resident of Petersham near Searl Street, advised that residents of Little Brighton Street had experienced ongoing difficulty accessing rear-lane garages due to the narrow width of the street and illegal parking on the roadway and footpath. He noted that vehicles require a wide turning arc to enter and exit driveways and that the street is too narrow to accommodate parking without affecting access. Mr Bogner further advised that bowling club patrons, swimming pool users and visitors frequently park in the area during peak times and often disregard the garage access point. Mr Bogner noted that parking arrangements had previously been upgraded in Searl Street and that surrounding restrictions had assisted local residents. He also observed that long-term commuter parking remains common in the area.

Mrs Bogner advised that accessing the driveway requires a three-point turn and that vehicles generally enter nose-first rather than in reverse. She advised that this had, at times, affected her ability to attend work commitments with patients. She noted a long history of enforcement concerns, including occasions when Rangers arrived after the obstructing vehicle had left. She requested formal signage set back sufficiently from the driveway at No. 40 to preserve access. She also raised the issue of footpath damage due to vehicles parking on the footpath had caused footpath damage and noted that neighbouring properties were not similarly obstructed.

Mr Julian added that residents of Station Street also park in the lane.

The Representative for the Member for Summer Hill noted that there had been numerous episodes of access obstruction and suggested that the 'No Parking' restriction may need to be extended, potentially from the front of the second parked vehicle to the corner, to improve driveway access.

The Chairperson noted that the matter could be reconsidered by the Forum, and that there appeared to be a strong case to improve turning access in and out of the garage.

Public Speakers Michael Bogner, Eleanor Bogner and Warren Julian left the meeting at 11:42am

Council Officers advised that due to the lack of compliant footpaths in the laneway, a shared zone could be considered in future, subject to further discussion with TfNSW. They also noted that pedestrian data would be required and that traffic and pedestrian counts would need to be undertaken.

It was agreed by Forum members that the proposed 'No Parking' restrictions be increased by 2m, and that Council Officers review the laneway in relation to a potential shared zone following implementation of parking restrictions.

RECOMMENDATION:

That 10.5m length 'No Parking' zone in Little Brighton Street immediately west of the driveway of No. 40 Station Street, Petersham, be approved.

LTF0526(1) Item 17 Lords Road and Davies Street Resident Parking Scheme Gulgadya-Leichhardt Ward/Balmain Electorate/Leichhardt PAC

SUMMARY

Council has undertaken a further review of the consultation results of the Leichhardt West Stage 2 Marketplace and Stage 3 Taverners Hill Precinct Resident Parking Scheme which was adopted by Council on 21 April 2026. The review identified that the combined level of support from residents in Lords Road and Davies Street would have met the criteria for implementation of the scheme.

Therefore, it is recommended that '2P 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, Permit Holders Excepted, Area L1' be introduced on both sides of Davies Street and northern side of Lords Road, Leichhardt

Officers Recommendation:

That '2P 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, Permit Holders Excepted, Area L1' be installed in the following streets:

1. Both sides of Davies Street, north of Lords Road, Leichhardt

2. Northern side of Lords Road, between Foster Street and Davies Street, Leichhardt

3. Southern side of Lords Road, between Upward Street and George Street, Leichhardt

LTF Advice:

The Representative for the Member of Balmain raised concerns that the proposed restrictions would not adequately address resident parking issues on weekends, given the high demand generated by visitors to Lambert Park. It was asked whether the proposal could be extended to include weekends.

Council Officers advised that the proposed resident parking scheme would need to be introduced and then post implementation be reviewed, with possible consideration of extending the restrictions to 10pm and including weekends.

RECOMMENDATION:

That '2P 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, Permit Holders Excepted, Area L1' be installed in the following streets:

1. **Both sides of Davies Street, north of Lords Road, Leichhardt**
2. **Northern side of Lords Road, between Foster Street and Davies Street, Leichhardt**
3. **Southern side of Lords Road, between Upward Street and George Street, Leichhardt**

General Business:

Item 18 – Road traffic study Mary & James Streets, Lilyfield

The Representative for the Member of Balmain asked about the timeframe for the Mary Street and James Street intersection assessment, which forms part of the Lilyfield Cycleway project.

Council Officers advised that part of the project involves the removal of the slip lane and reviewing the intersection performance which will be discussed with TfNSW.

Item 19 – Birchgrove and Balmain East Local Area Traffic Management Study

The Representative for the Member of Balmain requested an update on the progress of the Birchgrove and Balmain East Local Area Traffic Management Study, noting concerns from residents that feedback provided during the initial engagement process has not yet resulted in a draft plan being developed.

It was noted that members sought clarification on the study timeframe, including the progression of stages 1 and 2 and the turnaround time taken between the close of submissions and a draft report being developed.

Council Officers advised that a draft report is expected to be released for public exhibition in 2026.

Item 20 – Respectful behaviour at Local Transport Forum meetings

Council Officers reminded Forum members of respectful behavior to others at the meeting. It was requested that representatives treat all attendees, including members of the public, with respect always.

Meeting closed at 1:00 pm.

CHAIRPERSON

Clr Victor Macri

Item: **C0626(1) Item 21**

Title: **Sustainable Procurement In Major Projects - Interim Report**

Author: Sharon Bowman - Director Corporate

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Notes the current actions and achievements in progressing sustainable procurement and circular economy initiatives.**

2. **Endorse the progression of a cross-Council review of maintenance, construction and major project procurement strategies to identify opportunities to increase the use of recycled and upcycled materials from local suppliers.**

3. **Receives a further report in June 2027 outlining outcomes, findings and recommendations arising from the pilot initiatives and market engagement activities.**

Executive Summary

- Council is progressing circular economy initiatives through procurement, supplier engagement, research and pilot activities across major projects, maintenance and construction.
- Sustainability criteria are being embedded in procurement documentation and evaluation processes.
- Council is working with SSROC, LGP, local suppliers and not-for-profit organisations to support circular procurement opportunities.
- External funding has been sought to develop a Circular Economy Research and Implementation Framework.
- Pilot initiatives are proposed in 2026–2027 to test recycled paint, reclaimed timber, alternative materials, and circular textiles and furnishings.
- These initiatives are being tracked via a structured program of work, with ongoing engagement with the Environment Local Democracy Group and a further report to Council in June 2027.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to outline Council's current actions, achievements and proposed next steps in implementing circular economy principles through sustainable procurement, in response to the November Notice of Motion.

Strategic Direction

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

1: An ecologically sustainable Inner West

Background

Council has established a strong commitment to sustainable procurement and circular economy principles.

Recent Council resolutions and initiatives have strengthened this approach through:

- Embedding sustainability criteria within procurement and tender evaluation processes
- Participation in regional programs promoting recycled materials in civil works projects
- Investigation of priority opportunities for recycled content use across infrastructure and capital works

A Sustainable Procurement Working Group provides a coordinated, cross-functional approach across Council, bringing together procurement, environmental sustainability, resource recovery, civil works and major projects functions.

At the Council meeting held on 18 November 2025, Council resolved the following (C1125(1) Item 24):

1. *That Council commends the ongoing work of the Council to ensure its procurement processes are aligned with its commitment to sustainability.*
2. *That Council notes Council's ongoing commitment to circular economy principles - i.e., designing out waste, keeping materials in use, and drawing on local reuse, repaired, and recycled materials supply chains; and the success of our Circular Economy Roundtable early in 2026.*
3. *That Council resolves to undertake a review of Council's maintenance, construction and other related procurement strategies with a view to increasing the use of recycled and up-cycled construction materials from local providers (including but not limited to paint, timber and textiles) in major council projects*

and to report back to Council on or before June 2027, with an interim report in June 2026.

4. *That Council request staff, to help inform the June 2027 report, conducts a trial with reputable local organisations working in the not-for-profit circular economy sector to incorporate each of the following in a sizeable council project in the 2026-2027 financial year: (a) paint; (b) timber and other construction materials; (c) textiles, fabrics or furnishings; and that any costs associated with this trial be sourced from existing major projects budgets or as part of the 2026-2027 budget process.*
5. *That Council ask staff to include as part of the Interim June 2026 report:*
    - *Detail on actions council is currently undertaking to incorporate circular economy products and principles in major projects, maintenance or construction projects;*
    - *Information on community and industry engagement;*
    - *Data or research associated with incorporating circular economy principles in local government projects; and*
    - *Further information on a proposed trial as described in (4).*
6. *That this project be reported to the Environment Local Democracy Group for feedback.*

Discussion

Council is currently undertaking a range of initiatives to support the integration of circular economy principles into procurement practices across major projects, maintenance and construction activities.

Actions and achievements include:

- Integration of sustainability considerations into procurement documentation and evaluation criteria
- Participation in regional procurement initiatives supporting the use of recycled materials in infrastructure (e.g. recycled aggregates and soft plastics applications)
- Engagement with suppliers to identify and trial alternative materials, including low carbon concrete and reused construction inputs
- Promotion of circular procurement practices through internal working groups and cross-Council collaboration

Community and Industry Engagement

Council continues to actively engage with industry and sector partners to develop practical approaches to circular procurement, including:

- Collaboration with Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) and Local Government Procurement (LGP)
- Engagement with local suppliers and not-for-profit circular economy organisations
- Participation in sector forums and knowledge-sharing initiatives

This engagement supports the development of viable supply chains and encourages innovation within the local market.

Research and Data

Council has applied for external funding to support the development of a Circular Economy Research and Implementation Framework. If funding is not secured, alternative delivery options will be considered within available resourcing.
This project aims to:

- Provide evidence-based guidance to inform procurement strategies
- Identify practical opportunities to integrate circular materials into major projects
- Establish reporting frameworks to capture environmental outcomes, including waste diversion and reuse
- Support measurable improvements in sustainability performance across Council projects

Proposed Trial (2026–2027)

To support the June 2027 report, Council proposes pilot initiatives within selected major projects to test circular economy materials, including:

- Reuse and recycled paint products
- Reclaimed timber and alternative construction materials
- Textiles and furnishings from circular supply chains

Pilot projects will be identified in collaboration with relevant service units and aligned with existing or future budget processes.

Governance and Next Steps

A structured program of work is being progressed, including:

- Ongoing cross-Council collaboration through the Sustainable Procurement Working Group
- Development of procurement guidance, tools and reporting frameworks
- Identification of pilot projects and evaluation methodologies
- Ongoing engagement with the Environment Local Democracy Group

A report will be provided to Council in June 2027 outlining activities, findings and pilot outcomes.

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. All activities will be undertaken in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and Council's procurement framework. Implementation risks will be managed through established procurement and contract management processes.

Financial Implications

Funding for proposed pilot initiatives will be considered within existing project budgets or future budget planning processes. External grant funding is being sought to support research and framework development.

Conclusion

Council is actively progressing the integration of circular economy principles into procurement practices through a coordinated program of initiatives, partnerships and pilot projects. These actions position Council as a sector leader in sustainable procurement and will inform future decision-making, with outcomes to be reported to Council in June 2027.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 22**

Title: **Internal Ombudsman Shared Service**

Author: Peter Gainsford - General Manager

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Endorse the renewal of the Internal Ombudsman Shared Service for a three-year term.**

2. **Authorise Council's General Manager to enter into an agreement to renew the Internal Ombudsman Shared Service for a three-year term, subject to the negotiation of the following matters as part of the contract renewal process:**
   a) **Development of Key Performance Indicators and a customer service charter for investigations;**
   b) **Requirement to provide a bi-annual confidential report to Council:**
      i. **detailing recommendations for customer service improvements;**
      ii. **reporting on Council's progress in implementing previous customer service improvement recommendations;**
      iii. **specifying the policies reviewed by IOSS, and the outcomes of the review processes; and**
      iv. **reporting against investigation KPIs.**
   c) **Development of operational guidelines to formalise processes for the management of Code of Conduct complaints and investigations, and specify that IOSS' role as Complaints Coordinator is limited solely to administrative support and coordination.**

Executive Summary

- The current term of the Internal Ombudsman Shared Service (IOSS) agreement is due for renewal on 1 July 2026.
- The Internal Ombudsman Shared Service provides a critical independent complaint review and investigation function for residents, community members, ratepayers, local businesses, staff, Councillors, and other Council stakeholders.
- The Internal Ombudsman Shared Service provides a cost-effective value for money service, particularly in the discharge of its investigations and complaint review functions.

- The IOSS also mitigates risk, by reducing the risk that complainants perceive investigations to be partial or biased, and the risk that systemic issues are not identified and resolved by Council in a timely fashion.
- This report therefore recommends that Council agrees to renew the IOSS for a further three-year term.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the renewal of the Internal Ombudsman Shared Service for a three-year term.

Strategic Direction

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

5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

Background

At the Council meeting held on 27 June 2017, the Administrator resolved the following, (C0617 Item 19):

That:

1. *Council approves in principle the establishment of an Internal Ombudsman service for the Inner West Council;*
2. *the General Manager be authorised to establish the Internal Ombudsman service which is either a shared service with other partner Councils or as a role dedicated only to the Inner West Council;*
3. *the General Manager be authorised to sign agreements necessary to both appoint an Internal Ombudsman and commit to the commercial terms of a shared arrangement with partner Councils; and*
4. *the estimated costs of the Internal Ombudsman service be provided for in the 2017/2018 Budget.*

Council subsequently entered into a shared service arrangement between Inner West, Cumberland, and City of Parramatta Councils for Internal Ombudsman services. This is known as the Internal Ombudsman Shared Service (IOSS). It conducts independent investigations and reviews into administrative processes and services provided by member councils. As outlined in the agreement between the three member councils, it reflects the commitment of each member council to provide "residents, members of the public, ratepayers, local businesses,

staff, Councillors and other Council stakeholders with an 'independent ear' regarding administrative complaints about unethical behaviour by Council; corrupt conduct; misconduct; or maladministration".

At the Council meeting held on 14 March 2023, Council resolved the following, (C0323(1) Item 9):

> *The Council endorse the renewal of the Internal Ombudsman Shared Service (IOSS) arrangement.*

The current term of the IOSS arrangement ends on 1 July 2026.

Functions of the IOSS

- Formal Investigation – IOSS investigates a range of matters, primarily staff misconduct complaints made by staff, Councillors, and members of the public.
- Tier One Internal review – IOSS filters complaints and refers them back to Council if they have not previously been raised with Council.
- Tier Two Internal Review – IOSS is responsible under Council's Complaints Handling Policy for conducting internal reviews of complaints that have already been considered by Council.
- Code of Conduct Complaints Coordinator – The Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct (Procedures) require Council to nominate a Complaints Coordinator. IOSS perform this largely administrative role for Council.
- Public Interest Disclosures (PID) Coordinator – IOSS is Council's PID Coordinator for the purposes of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994* (PID Act) and the Public Interest Disclosure Policy. This is an administrative and advisory role focused on determining whether the disclosure meets the definition of a PID within the Act to receive protections, undertaking an initial assessment, and referring the complaint to the relevant party.
- Child protection – IOSS provides procedural advice in relation to child protection matters.
- Education and Training – IOSS provides proactive education on topical matters, facilitates knowledge sharing between the member councils and provides training to staff on the PID Act, the Code of Conduct, and other topics.
- Policy/Process review – IOSS reviews member councils' policies and procedures, on request.
- Formal knowledge sharing – IOSS facilitates knowledge sharing between the three member councils on a formal basis. This enables Council to proactively deal with

emerging issues and risks and initiate better practice processes, ultimately providing Council with stronger integrity and risk controls.

Discussion

The IOSS arrangement is now due for renewal. It is recommended that Council endorses the renewal of the IOSS arrangement for another three-year term.

IOSS provides important and impartial assistance to Council in line with the Triple Track Model, which structures complaint management around prevention, education and investigation. This enables Council to continually improve its operational landscape, and improve services for the community. IOSS also assists Council in identifying areas for improvement in Council's administrative conduct and decision making, and in achieving high standards of probity and governance. This includes the delivery of services to our community and ensuring Council operates fairly, with integrity and in the community's best interests, including working to improve Council's complaint handling systems and processes.

Throughout the previous contract term, IOSS has undertaken the following activities for Council:

Activity	First IOSS contract term (1/9/2017 – 30/6/2020)	Second IOSS contract term (1/7/2020 – 28/02/2023)	Third IOSS contract term to date (1 /7/2023 – 31/5/2026)	Total – IWC
Total activities: Prevention, education and investigation	361	386	601	1348
Average utilisation of the service	43%	30%	28%	34%
Number of investigations	276	246	221	743
Number of recommendations made	39	105	103	247
Percentage of recommendations accepted	100%	100%	100%	100%
Prevention: Advice	51	90	132	273
Prevention: Policy review	17	20	12	49

Education: Training – development and delivery	17	30	45	92

The cost of delivering IOSS' functions in-house would be equivalent to, or exceed, the cost of the IOSS arrangement. In addition, the involvement of the two other member councils in the IOSS arrangement allows Council to benefit from economies of scale, and also enables IOSS to facilitate knowledge sharing between all member councils as a value-add service.

Improvement Opportunities

While IOSS provides a valuable service to Council, Officers consider that targeted improvements can be made to the service to improve outcomes for Council.

Specifically, Officers recommend the following matters be negotiated as part of the contract renewal process:

- Development of Key Performance Indicators and a customer service charter for investigations.
- Requirement to provide a biannual confidential report to Council:
    - detailing recommendations for customer service improvements;
    - reporting on Council's progress in implementing previous customer service improvement recommendations;
    - specifying the policies reviewed by IOSS, and the outcomes of the review processes;
    - reporting against investigation KPIs.
- Development of operational guidelines to formalise processes for the management of Code of Conduct complaints and investigations, and specify that IOSS' role as Complaints Coordinator is limited solely to administrative support and coordination.

Legal and Risk Implications

The key risks of discontinuing Council's involvement in IOSS are reputational and governance-related. IOSS provides an independent complaint escalation function where people dissatisfied with Council's decisions and the conduct of Council officials can raise their complaints with an external third party. Having an independent IOSS service mitigates Council's reputational risk, by reducing the risk that complainants perceive investigations to be partial or biased. Discontinuing our involvement could be interpreted as a reduced commitment to this function, and damage Council's reputation. It would

also create the risk that systemic issues are not identified and resolved by Council in a timely fashion.

There are no legal implications associated with this report. It is recommended that the renewal of the IOSS arrangement is on the same terms as the current agreement, which has been reviewed by Council's General Counsel, subject to inclusions to address the improvement opportunities noted above.

Financial Implications

The costs of extending IOSS for a three-year term are already included in Council's Annual Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan.

Conclusion

As outlined in this report, discontinuing Council's involvement in IOSS is not recommended as it would risk an erosion of community confidence in Council.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 23**

Title: **Local Government Remuneration Tribunal - Determination of Mayor and Councillor Fees 2026/27**

Author: Sharon Bowman - Director Corporate

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Sets Mayor and Councillor Fees, effective 1 July 2026, at the maximum level for a Metropolitan Large Council being:**
   a) **Councillor Annual Fee - $36,110; and**
   b) **Mayoral Additional fee - $105,220.**

2. **Re-confirms the current Additional Fee for the Deputy Mayor, being $10,000 of the Mayoral Additional Fee.**

Executive Summary

- The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (Tribunal) has determined an increase of 3.7 per cent for councillor and mayoral fees for the 2026-2027 financial year, with effect from 1 July 2026.
- Sections 248 and 249 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act) enable councils to fix and pay an annual fee to councillors and mayors, within the relevant range set in the Tribunal's determination.
- This report recommends annual fees for Inner West Councillors and the Mayor continue to be set at the maximum level for a Metropolitan Large council determined by the Tribunal for the 2026-2027 financial year.
- The report further recommends continuing to pay the discretionary Deputy Mayor fee of $10,000 per annum, taken from the annual fee payable to the Mayor.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to determine the fees to be paid to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors for the 2026-27 financial year.

Strategic Direction

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

5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

Background

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (Tribunal) is required by the Act to make an annual determination on the fees payable to councillors and mayors. On 23 April 2026, the Tribunal made its Annual Determination - Fees for Councillors and Mayors (Determination), which will take effect from 1 July 2026 (see *Attachment 1*).

Discussion

In 2023, the Tribunal completed a review of categories and classified Inner West Council as a 'Metropolitan Large' Council.

For the 2026-27 financial year the Tribunal has determined the fees for mayors and councillors in Metropolitan Large Councils as follows:

Category	Councillor/Member Annual Fee		Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Metropolitan Large	$21,900	$36,110	$46,500	$105,220

The Mayor/Chairperson additional fee must be paid in addition to the fee paid to the Mayor/Chairperson as a Councillor, in accordance with section 249(2) of the Act.

It is at Council's discretion to determine the fee payable to the Deputy Mayor, if any. The legislation requires that any fee set for the Deputy Mayor is taken from the annual fee payable to the Mayor. Council has previously resolved to pay the Deputy Mayor a fee of $10,000 per annum.

This report recommends that Council continue to adopt the maximum fees set out by the Tribunal on the following basis:

- substantial size in geographic and population size of the Local Government Area;
- substantial responsibilities associated with the annual budget;
- the wide scope, level and range of services delivered by Council; and
- level of time and investment required for the Mayor and Councillors to fulfil their civic duties effectively.

Adopting the recommendations in this report will ensure the remuneration of the Inner West Council elected officials reflects their scope of responsibilities and civic duties.

Superannuation Contribution Payments

The payment of superannuation to the Mayor and Councillors is not automatic or mandatory. 254B(4)(a) of the Act requires a council to pass a resolution prior to making superannuation contribution payments to councillors.

At the Council meeting held on 10 May 2022, Council resolved the following C0522(1) Item 15:

> *That Council resolves for the Mayor and Councillors to receive superannuation contribution payments from 1 July 2022, in accordance with Section 254B of the Local Government Act 1993.*

Superannuation is payable in addition to councillor fees. The superannuation contribution payment is paid at the same intervals as the annual fee is paid to Councillors.

Council Category review

Section 239 of the Act requires the Tribunal, at least once every three years, to determine the remuneration categories of councils. The next review will take place in 2027.

Council will be provided with further reporting in 2027 detailing the review process and points at which submissions can be made to the Tribunal.

Legal and Risk Implications

The recommendations of this report are in accordance with the Local Government Act.

Financial Implications

The 3.7 per cent increase has been accounted for in the 2026/27 Budget.

Attachments

1.⇩ Local Government Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2026/27

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Annual Determination

Report and determination
under sections 239 and 241 of the
Local Government Act 1993

23 April 2026

NSW GOVERNMENT

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Executive Summary

Functions of the Tribunal

1. Section 241 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (**the Act**) requires the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (**the Tribunal**), by 1 May each year, to determine for each of the categories of Councils determined under s 239, the maximum and minimum fees to be paid to Mayors and Councillors in the following year. As well as those of Chairpersons and members of County Councils: s 400. The Tribunal may also amend a determination it has made for fees to be paid to the appointed Chairperson and appointed Councillors of a council designated as a Rural and Remote Council: c 12(c), sch 11.

2. Section 239(1) of the Act requires the Tribunal to determine the categories of Councils and mayoral offices at least once every three years. It must then also place each Council and mayoral office into one of those categories. There are presently 135 Councils in the State, including County Councils, which are allocated into 15 different categories, with Central Darling Council being the subject of a 2025 Special Determination.

3. The Tribunal must also report its determination to the Minister within seven days: s 244. The Tribunal's Annual Determination takes effect from 1 July each year.

4. All of the Tribunal's functions must be undertaken in accordance with the purposes of the Act, specified in s 7 to be:

   (a) to provide the legal framework for the system of local government for New South Wales,

   (b) to set out the responsibilities and powers of Councils, Councillors and other persons and bodies that constitute the system of local government,

   (c) to provide for governing bodies of Councils that are democratically elected, or for certain rural and remote Councils, part elected and part appointed,

Executive Summary

(d) to facilitate engagement with the local community by Councils, Councillors and other persons and bodies that constitute the system of local government,

(e) to provide for a system of local government that is accountable to the community and that is sustainable, flexible and effective.

Fees

5. For reasons explained below, the Tribunal has determined that from 1 July 2026 there must be a **3.7%** increase in the current minimum and maximum fees applicable to each category of Council, as well in the fees of the appointed Chairperson and appointed Councillors of Central Darling Shire Council. That reflecting increases in the cost of living. Relevant indicators since the 2025 adjustment, including:

- Consumer Price Index for the 12 months to February 2026 of 3.7%;
- Wage Price Index for the 12 months to December 2025 of 3.4%;
- Full-time average weekly ordinary time earnings for the 12 months to November 2025;
- NSW Public Sector Salaries increases for FY 2025/26 of 3%;
- Local Government State Award increases for FY 2025/26 of 3%;
- IPART Rate Peg Base Cost Change for FY 2025/26 of 3.6%;
- The 2025 Public Service Senior Executive remuneration determinations of the Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal; and
- The 2025 State Members of Parliament Basic Salary remuneration determination of the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal.

6. The Tribunal has also taken note of the current war in the Middle East, which is likely having an adverse impact on the cost of living. But takes the view that its effects and their potential impact on fee adjustment, cannot reliably be determined at this point.

Executive Summary

7. What was advanced in submissions included that not only should there be a cost of living increase in 2026. But that there should be a much more significant increase in fees, to reflect that current fees no longer adequately reflect the challenging work which Mayors and Councillors must undertake in their important elected offices. With the result that fees should be increased to reflect those determined by the Tribunal for the Chairperson and appointed Councillors of the Central Darling Council in its 2025 Special Determination. As well as the remuneration and allowances paid to Mayors and Councillors in Queensland and Victoria.

8. The Tribunal accepts that it has the discretion to determine that fees should justly be increased, by more than a cost of living adjustment, as was urged. That permitting its consideration of the adequacy of current fees, given the work which Mayors and Councillors are elected to perform and how that has changed over time.

9. That is because while s 242A of the Act requires the Tribunal to give effect to the same policies on increases in remuneration as those that the Industrial Relations Commission is required to give effect to under s 146C of the *Industrial Relations Act 1996* (NSW) when making or varying awards or orders relating to the conditions of employment of public sector employees. That section has now been repealed, that removing the prior fetter on the Tribunal's discretion to adjust fees in the way urged on this review.

10. The Tribunal also accepts that a greater increase than that which it has determined, may be warranted. But has concluded that the amount of any such increase requires further consideration in light of changes which have taken place over time. Not merely in the amount of the fees fixed by past Determinations, but also in the work Mayors and Councillors have to perform in their elected offices.

11. Understandably, some submissions sought to draw comparisons with the fees fixed by the 2025 Special Determination for the appointed Councillors and Chairperson for the Central Darling Shire Council and those fixed for other Mayors, as well as with payments made to Councillors and Mayors in other States.

Executive Summary

12. When such comparisons are drawn, consideration can not only be given to the amount of such fees and remuneration. It must also be given to matters such as the nature of the appointments, the work required and the hours and nature of the work performed as a result. As well as to how that compares to what is required of Mayors and Councillors of Local and County Councils in this State and the fees which they receive, as a result. That also requiring an understanding of the applicable statutory schemes and the reasons for the past fixation of the fees and remuneration relied on.

13. The Tribunal was provided with little information or submissions about such matters and so is unable to come to conclusions about whether increases based on the comparisons sought to be drawn, can be entertained.

14. Other submissions about desirable fee adjustment depend on the NSW Parliament amending the Act, to provide for Mayors and Councillors to receive remuneration or salary, rather than a fee for office.

15. Even if such comparisons are presently available to be made, the differences in the statutory regimes, which were not addressed, as well as similarities and differences in the work being compared, would have to be considered. Conclusions about such matters cannot rest merely on opinions advanced in submissions.

Categories

16. In its 2026 Annual Review, as it has done in past three yearly reviews, the Tribunal undertook a s 239 determination, having invited and received submissions about proposed changes. As a result, it has concluded that it is necessary to rectify a criteria anomaly identified in the Regional Strategic category established by the 2023 Annual Determination, as well as adjusting the population criteria for the Major Strategic Area category, from 300,000 to 200,000.

Executive Summary

17. The Tribunal also identified that Dungog Shire Council has met the population threshold and Councillor to population ratio criteria for Rural Large and will, as a result, be placed in the Rural Large category.

18. The Tribunal also concluded that in 2026 there should be no other change to the present categories, which will thus continue to be:

Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan	County Councils
Principal CBD	Major Regional City	Water
Major CBD	Major Strategic Area	Other
Metropolitan Major	Regional Strategic Area	
Metropolitan Large	Regional Centre	
Metropolitan Medium	Regional Rural	
Metropolitan Small	Rural Large	
	Rural	

2027 Annual Review

19. For reasons explained further below, in the 2027 Annual Review the Tribunal will invite further submissions from every Council, Local Government NSW and the Minister, about the current categories, criteria and fee structure and whether they remain fit for their statutory purpose. That will provide an opportunity for reliable information and submissions to be provided about claimed changes and available comparisons.

20. The Tribunal will then give further consideration to the current structure of the categories by reference to which it must fix minimum and maximum fees. That consideration may also have an impact on further fee adjustment in 2027, given that the submissions advanced on this review have raised the question of whether the current system of categories and the criteria by which Councils are allocated to them, remain fit for their purpose.

Executive Summary

21. The new structure and criteria will reflect the requirements of the Act, as will the new criteria adopted and Councils' allocation to the revised categories. The Tribunal will also determine which criteria individual Councils satisfy, which they will have an opportunity to address, having been invited to provide the Tribunal with the relevant, reliable information.

Section 1 – Introduction

Methodology

22. The Tribunal's inquiries are regulated by s 243 of the Act, which permit it to make such inquiry as it thinks necessary, before making a determination.

23. Section 248 requires Councils to pay Councillors fees which are fixed by reference to the minimum and maximum fees determined by the Tribunal. Section 239 also requires the Tribunal, at least once every 3 years, to determine categories for Councils and mayoral office and to place Councils into those categories.

24. The Tribunal's 2026 Annual Review commenced in October 2025 with the assistance of its Secretariat, when all Councils and the Association were invited to provide submissions about fees and categorisation. Its invitation asked that submissions be endorsed by Councils. All submissions received from Councils were endorsed. The Tribunal also received a submission from some individual Councillors and the Association.

25. Some twenty-five submissions were received from Councils, only some of which addressed fee increases. In its submissions the Association addressed proposed fee increases, as well as problems with the Determination flowing from the operation of the Act, proposed alterations to Council categories and the criteria by which they are allocated.

26. The Tribunal later met with representatives of 19 Councils, seven Councillors and the Association, who addressed written submissions and, in some cases, provided further data to support the submissions advanced. Not all of that provided was sourced from publicly available sources such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics and its reliability was thus not able to be assessed.

27. The Tribunal also had regard to the other information referred to in this report.

Section 1 – Introduction

Summary of submissions

28. Most of the submissions received focused on the inadequacies of the fees and the statutory system which requires them to be fixed as they are. Issues raised including that:

- The remuneration which the fees generate being grossly inadequate, not adequately compensating for the skills, knowledge and responsibilities the Act requires Councillors and Mayors in urban, regional and rural contexts to have and exercise;
- There has been significant, increasing complexity in the work which has to be undertaken, as well as an increase in the time it requires, without a change in remuneration to compensate for these changes;
- That including as the result of changes to the Code of Meeting Practice which Councils have to observe, which has resulted in increased expenses having to be born, for which there is no compensation;
- There is a need for a Deputy Mayor fee to be implemented, to reflect what this role now requires;
- That the current fee structure and meeting requirements act as a barrier to desirable skilled representation in local government, as well as to desirable diversity in that representation;
- It has also driven the loss of able and experienced representatives;
- The existing differences in fees received by Councillors and Mayors in Metropolitan Councils, by comparison to those received by those in Regional and Rural Councils, did not reflect the similarities in their roles and responsibilities. Nor the additional responsibilities which have to be undertaken in Regional and Rural Councils;
- The Determination drives politicisation of Councils, by requiring them to set their own fees within the minimum and maximum set by the Tribunal, which also put them into an undesirable position of conflict: ss 239 and 248; and

Section 1 – Introduction

- Fees were out of step with those which are paid to Board members and those who accept appointments to advisory committees, with which comparisons were also sought to be drawn, but no concrete information was provided about.

29. On this review the Tribunal was urged to undertake a similar assessment of fees to that undertaken in 1995 and not to limit its consideration of what fee increase a cost of living adjustment would warrant. It was also urged to also consider the range of factors it has taken into account in the past, in determining what a cost of living adjustment should be.

30. Various submissions also urged the desirability of various other proposed legislative changes. For example:

- Introducing a new model of remuneration for Mayors and Councillors to replace the current fee based structure;
- Removing the Tribunal's obligations to fix maximum and minimum fees for Mayors and Councillors;
- Introducing a separate fixed fee for the Deputy Mayor position;
- Deputy Mayors receiving mayoral fees while acting as Mayor, but Mayors still continuing to be paid their Mayoral fees;
- Indexed pro rata remuneration; and
- Recognition that the work of Mayors and Councillors involves a full time job. As to which, it must be noted, no information provided to the Tribunal established this to be the case.

31. These matters are not within the Tribunal's control, but they will be drawn to the attention of the Minister.

32. The Tribunal accepting the importance of the various views raised by Councils, Councillors and the Association and as a result, will draw them to the attention of the Minister. But that

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it has power to act on some of them on this review, has not been established, given the current statutory scheme.

33. The Tribunal also notes that consideration of future expected developments when Councils are categorised was also urged by some submissions. While others expressed satisfaction with the Council's current categorisation, as the basis for fixing its fees, while not addressing whether it still satisfied the applicable criteria. This will have to be revisited in the 2027 Annual Review.

34. If further submissions are then advanced, which provide a basis for different conclusions being arrived at about any of the above matters, they will of course be considered by the Tribunal. And if the Act is amended in response to what has been urged, the Tribunal will then undertake whatever statutory tasks it is given.

Section 2 – 2025 Determinations

2025 Annual Determination

35. In 2025, the Tribunal received sixteen written submissions, which included two requests for re-categorisation. As a result, it reviewed population and other data relating to those Councils, to ensure categorisation was consistent with the applicable criteria.

36. The Tribunal found that the then current allocation of the Councils remained appropriate, with the exception of Mid Coast Council. As a result of it meeting the population benchmark, it was re-categorised from Regional Centre to Regional Strategic Area: 2025 Annual Determination report at [58]-[59].

37. The Tribunal also determined that the minimum and maximum fees applicable to each category would increase by 3% from 1 July 2025.

2025 Special Determination

38. The Tribunal also made a Special Determination in 2025, following the introduction of the *Local Government Amendment (Rural and Remote Councils) Act 2024* and the *Local Government (General) Amendment (Rural and Remote Councils) Regulation 2025*. Having on 6 June 2025 received a direction from the Minister for Local Government under s 242 of the Act, to determine the maximum and minimum fees for Appointed Councillors and the Chairperson for Central Darling Shire Council.

39. The effect of the legislation was to insert Schedule 11 into the Act, cl 3 permitting a Council to be designated as a Rural and Remote Council by regulation, as the Central Darling Shire Council was, when the Minister recommended that it met criteria specified by the regulation: cl 3(2). The Regulations now provide that a Council may be designated as a Rural and Remote Council if, at the time of designation, its area has a population of 5,000 persons or fewer as recorded in data series 1410.0–Data by Region published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics: r 413F.

Section 2 – 2025 Determinations

40. Central Darling Shire Council is designated as a Rural and Remote Council for 10 years: r 413G. With the result that it must have six Councillors, one elected from each ward, as well as three appointed by the Minister r 413G(3).

41. The Minister must also appoint an appointed Councillor as chairperson of the Council: cl 10(1) sch 11. The Tribunal's determinations under s 241 do not apply to appointed Councillors: cl 12(2)(a) sch 11. But it must determine their maximum and minimum fees and may at any time amend such a determination: cl 12(2)(b) and (c) sch 11.

42. In its Special Determination the Tribunal determined a minimum fee of $13,830 and a maximum of $13,930 for appointed Councillors and a minimum of $72,080 and a maximum of $72,180 for the appointed Chairperson.

43. This Determination was relied on in this review to advance the Association's submissions that the functions of the appointed chairperson of Central Darling Shire Council are substantially the same as those of Mayors of other Rural Councils. With the result that their fees should be increased to similar amounts. That was supported by submissions advanced by some Councils.

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The relevant history

44. The submissions advanced require not only a consideration of the current fees and what the statutory scheme provides for, but also of the history by which they have been arrived at. As well as the impact of changes which have occurred.

45. The history was not addressed by the submissions advanced.

46. Relevantly, it includes that in 1994 the Tribunal undertook wide ranging consultations to establish what was then involved in the roles and functions of elected representatives of local government, conducting public hearings to obtain a representative cross section across the State.

47. It then examined matters such as Councillors' backgrounds and experience; community activities engaged in before and after election; time spent on meetings as well as preparation time; Council's functions and the issues and problems they had to deal with. As well as remuneration levels and ratios between Councillors and Mayors. The Tribunal having received submissions from 66 Councils, 7 County Councils, associations and the public: at page 3 – 5 of the 1994 Determination.

48. The functions of Councils and the roles of their elected officials under the Act were explained, with contrasts drawn with the predecessor 1919 legislation. Under which members of Councils "*were regarded in effect, as performing honorary community roles, with some provision for recompense for prescribed incurred expenses*": at 11 of the 1995 Determination.

49. Existing fees were then found not to adequately recompense those elected for the performance of their duties at regular Council meetings, special community and committee meetings, communication with the community and representing Council at functions: at 11

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of the 1995 Determination. That requiring lengthy periods to be spent on Council business and associated interviewing, reading and preparation: at 12 of the 1995 Determination.

50. The Tribunal had regard to all such activities in setting fees under the 1993 Act, at a time when they were performed in addition to Mayors and Councillor's normal occupations: at 12 of the 1995 Determination. It then being the common experience that the substantial majority of Councillors and Mayors were involved in some other employment or engagement, either full-time or part-time.

51. The fees then fixed were based on an assumption that Councillors would also be recompensed for expenditure reasonably incurred in relation to their Council duties. That being a matter of discretion for each Council, according to the particular circumstances of that Council. That allowing them to determine the extent of any absorption of expenses in fees: at 16 of the 1995 Determination.

52. The minimum fees were determined on the basis that Councillors and Mayors were *"performing a community service in addition to their normal occupations"*: at 16 of the 1995 Determination. The usual practice being "*to programme the attendance of councillors and mayors outside normal business hours for meetings and other activities to accommodate their other time commitments. Their duties not requiring continuous attendance during the course of each working day."*: at 16 – 17 of the 1995 Determination.

53. And that *"The duties performed as mayor attract an additional fee for extra delegated duties and functions actually performed":* at 17 of the 1995 Determination. It was further explained at 19 of the 1995 Determination:

"The minimum fees determined provide the statutory minimum payment for councillors and mayors. They are based on an assessment of the average council in each category. As - with any averaging, the fees may be generous for some councils but modest for others. The maximum fees provide the necessary ambit of discretion to enable each council to assess its performance compared with other councils in its category. Such discretion

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enables each council to determine whether its performance as a whole compared with the other councils justifies a payment in excess of the minimum to its councillors and/or mayor. It is conceivable that because of significant delegations by a council to the mayor, this situation may warrant a fee greater than the minimum for the mayor, but not for councillors. The reverse situation could also apply."

54. What was then being evaluated by the Tribunal being *"the knowledge, skills and community interests of councillors and mayors"*: at 19 of the 1995 Annual Determination.

55. This Determination also explained, in detail, how the categories were then arrived at. With various distinctions drawn between Metropolitan and Non-metropolitan Councils, with consideration of matters such as their size, population, assets and expenditure, amongst other factors. Consideration also then being given to the unique position of the Council of the City of Sydney.

56. It also explained how this related to the fees determined, given the relevant history. Which included a change from the original position under the 1919 Act, that Local Government elected officials had traditionally been seen as civic minded citizens providing a voluntary service to the community, being born in mind. As well as what had been recognised when the *Local Government (Payment of Fees) Amendment Act 1993* (NSW) was introduced. It recognising payment of a fee for attending to Council business, i.e., meetings, inspections, etc, which did not involve the payment of salaries: at 64-66 of the 1995 Annual Determination.

57. Consideration was also given to the statutory roles and responsibilities of Councils in other States and overseas, as well as of comparisons then sought to be drawn with members of Parliament.

58. It was not then accepted that local government representation had progressed to the status of an independent career. Even though some elected officers chose to spend their time, full time, on Council duties: at 69-70 of the 1995 Determination.

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59. It was also explained that the minimum and maximum fee range fixed required Councils to each evaluate the functions and responsibilities which were actually performed by their Councillors: at 76 of the 1995 Determination.

60. After 1995, over time the fees fixed by the Determination have been increased by the Tribunal, to reflect changes it made to the categories of Councils which the Act required it to review regularly, in order to fix appropriate maximum and minimum fees.

61. In 2017 the Tribunal noted that what the Act required was "a categorisation model in which Councils with the largest number of features in common can be grouped together for remuneration purposes. This is not straightforward, as each Council has challenges and issues which are unique": at [16].

62. It then found that while the then existing criteria continued to provide an equitable and transparent model by which to differentiate Councils for the purposes of determining remuneration, there was some scope to refine the criteria to address a number of anomalies and to better reflect the composition of Councils after amalgamations: at [18] – [19] 2017 Annual Report.

63. It also sought to improve consistency and transparency in the allocation of Councils into categories, with the result that a number were either recategorised into an existing category, or a new category: at [19].

64. Fees were determined for the new categories, having regard to relativities between the existing groups: [54].

65. Fees were later increased to reflect not only cost of living increases, but also changes which the Tribunal made to Council categories and the applicable criteria. But for a time, the Tribunal's powers to increase fees were frozen and at other times available fee increases were capped, as the result of steps taken by Governments.

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66. These changes to its discretions were explained in the Tribunal's various Annual Determinations. They help explain the complaints received on this review about the current fees, which it must be accepted, as a result, do not reflect all increases in the cost of living over time.

67. On the Association's approach, this has resulted in fees which no longer accurately reflect what the Tribunal first assessed, independently, in 1995.

68. In 2020 the Tribunal considered recategorisation proposals it received in 2019, about which it sought and received submissions: at [13]-[19] 2020 Annual Report. Then creating the new category of Regional Centre; renaming Regional City to Major Regional City and also adopting some changed criteria. As well as reordering the Regional Strategic Area criteria, considering that it warranted further differentiation.

69. It also altered the criteria for Metropolitan Medium and Metropolitan Large categories, with resulting changes for other categories: at [23]-[30]. In some cases, additional criteria being significant enough to warrant some Councils' categorisation into a group with a higher population: at [30]. Fees were set to reflect resulting activities: at [69].

70. In 2023 the Tribunal sought to improve consistency of the criteria and also adopted non-resident population criteria for some categories, with resulting reclassification of some Councils: at [23]-[25] 2023 Annual Report. As well as creating two new categories, Rural Large and Metropolitan Major, to bridge identified gaps: [26]-[36].

2026 Annual Review process - Fees

71. As explained, this year's submissions pursued various concerns about the current fees. They not being considered to adequately compensate for the skills and knowledge Councillors and Mayors are required to exercise, or the time they have to spend in performing the duties of their offices, given considerable changes over time. In

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considerable part this having been driven by population increases and changes introduced by Governments.

72. The view repeatedly urged being that current fees result in a considerable barrier to desirable diversity in representation in local government, as well as problems in attracting and retaining suitably qualified people to stand for and remain in office, when elected.

73. The Tribunal accepts that there are such problems, given the information and submissions it has received.

74. There were various submissions that an increase was necessary, given the increased cost of living. But few submissions addressed the quantum of the increase. Narrabri Council urging a 10% increase and Lake Macquarie a 3-4% increase. Another that fees should be doubled. Other submissions urging that Mayoral fees be increased substantially to reflect the 2025 Special Determination. The Association and some Councils also seeking increases which resulted in fees similar to the remuneration paid in Queensland and Victoria.

75. The City of Sydney Council did not seek such increase in the fees payable to the Lord Mayor, but urged very substantial increases for Councillors. Some Councillors also providing, late, further information which the Tribunal did not have the opportunity to give adequate consideration to, given all they have raised and the time frame in which this review must be completed.

76. Some submissions also urged an increase in fees of rural and regional Councillors and Mayors, to assist in addressing low candidature numbers.

77. The Association also urged that a significant increase in fees was needed to:

"1. Ensure that Councillors and Mayors in New South Wales do not continue to experience fee erosion flowing from the former NSW Public Sector Wages Policy;

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2.Reflect the current economic climate in New South Wales and adjust fees according to recent and relevant economic data; and

3. Recognise the increasing demands and time commitment required of elected local government representatives."

78. The Association noting that the repeal of s 146C of the *Industrial Relations Act 1996* (NSW) had the result that the Tribunal is no longer constrained by a cap when awarding fee increases. And urging that the Tribunal accept that current fees were manifestly inadequate, not properly reflecting as they needed to, the current responsibilities and role of elected Council officials. That preventing Councils' financial stability and also deterring quality candidates, of all backgrounds, pursuing civic office, which was not in the public interest.

79. It also submitting that fees should now be assessed on the basis that the work of elected officials was valued at more than 8 hours per week, at the rate of the national minimum wage. It also advanced economic and wage data to support these arguments

80. The submissions thus drew comparisons with:

- The salary paid to members of parliament under the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1989* (NSW);
- Remuneration which Mayors and Councillors of Queensland Councils are paid under the *Local Government Act 2009* (QLD) and the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (QLD); and
- Allowances which Victorian Mayors and Councillors receive, fixed by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal under s 39 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (VIC).

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81. Specific examples were also relied on. Including, for example, that Councillors in Townsville are paid a maximum remuneration of $135,123, while those in Liverpool are paid a maximum fee of only $34,820. While in the case of Mayors the comparison was $225,206 to $136,290.

82. The difficulty with such comparisons is that the other legislative schemes relied on, do not provide for a fee based structure of the kind for with the Act provides for NSW Mayors and Councillors.

83. Parliamentarians in this State, for example, receive a basic salary and an electoral allowance payable as compensation in respect of all incidents of the performance of their parliamentary duties (other than those compensated or reimbursed by other additional entitlements): s 4 and 10(2B) of the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1989* (NSW).

84. Still, some submissions relied on an observation in the 2024 Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal Annual Report, where I, in my capacity as Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal, said at [28] that:

"Not only should Members of Parliament be fairly remunerated for their important and challenging work, within the State's means, but it must also be remembered that such remuneration and the other conditions and entitlements provided by the Determination play a real role in attracting people of high intellect, integrity and vigour to stand for election to the Parliament. People who have the necessary skills to perform such work well and who are prepared to devote their time to serving the public interest, rather than only their own interests. Appropriate salary and conditions also help to ensure that such people are also prepared to continue seeking re-election in order to continue performing the important work of their offices."

85. The view urged being that those observations also apply to NSW Councillors and Mayors, given the valuable, time consuming and challenging work which their roles now require them to perform.

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86. While the Tribunal was not provided with information which would provide a basis for the acceptance of these opinions, support for them can be found in s 232 of the Act, which explains the important roles which Councillors play. As well as in s 233A, which specifies the oath of office which they must take after election. By which they promise to undertake the duties of their office in the best interests of the people of their Council area and that they will faithfully and impartially carry out their functions, powers, authorities and discretions.

87. Despite this and no matter how earnestly held, it is not presently apparent how these views can be acted on by the Tribunal, given the current legislative scheme. All of them seeming to depend on the Parliament amending this State's Act, to provide for Mayors and Councillors to receive remuneration or salary, rather than a fee for office.

88. As has been explained in past Annual Determinations, that is not a matter within the Tribunal's control.

89. The 20 May 1993 Second Reading speech to the Act explains how its terms were arrived at. As the result of a lengthy bipartisan reform process, following enquiry into changes required to be made to the then frequently amended predecessor 1919 legislation: Hansard p 2414. The Tribunal's 1994 Determination explains the process by which it initially fixed fees and the subsequent Annual Determinations, how they have been increased over time.

90. Tribunal Determinations have thus explained that Mayors and Councillors are paid a fee for the services which they volunteer to provide when they are elected, not a salary. Section 241 still obliges the Tribunal to fix such a fee. It follows that it does not have the power to determine that they should be paid a salary, or remuneration.

91. Little Information was provided on this review to support the submissions which urged the view that the current statutory fee model is no longer appropriate. The significantly increased and more responsible work which it is widely considered now falls to Councils

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to perform and what that requires of its Mayor and Councillors, helps explain why it is also widely considered that legislative change is now desirable.

92. Such information is relevant to the determination of an increase in fees. But the Tribunal has no power to act on the view that the current statutory fee based model no longer remains appropriate. Nor to determine that a remuneration based model such as that contained in the Queensland and Victorian legislation should be adopted in this State. Nor what such remuneration should be.

Conclusions about general fee increase in 2026

93. The Tribunal has considered all it has received, together with the other matters referred to in this report, having been assisted by its two assessors: s 236. Meeting with them to consider their views about the submissions the Tribunal received and the exercise of its functions on this review.

94. The result is the Tribunal's conclusions that:

- All fees should be adjusted from 1 July 2026 by **3.7%** to reflect changes in the cost of living, in the expectation that there will be further increases in those costs, driven by the consequences of the war in the Middle East, which is already having adverse impacts on the entire Australian community;
- To make no other adjustments to fees on this review, but to invite the submissions further explained below, in the 2027 Annual Review. The Tribunal accepting that changes have occurred which ought to be reflected in the fees fixed by the Determination. But also considering that further information and consideration is required, before conclusions can be arrived at about how those changes can be fairly reflected by a further fee adjustment.

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95. The Tribunal thus accepts that it is time to undertake a review of the kind the Association proposed, but has concluded that it cannot be undertaken in this review. That explaining the process which the Tribunal proposes to undertake in 2027, explained in section 4.

The same fee structure for all Mayors and Councillors

96. Remuneration for a Mayor or Councillor not being based on geographical location was also urged by submissions advanced. A number contending that the role of a Mayor and Councillor was fundamentally the same, requiring the same skills, knowledge, experience and responsibilities regardless of location. With the result that the fees of Regional and Rural Mayors should be increased to that of their Metropolitan colleagues.

97. These submissions cannot be accepted. The Act requiring the Tribunal to fix appropriate categories of Council, having regard to specified criteria. The Determination's history and criteria helping to explain differences recognised by the categories. Which the Tribunal must reflect in the minimum and maximum fees fixed for each category.

98. These submissions did not pay necessary regard to these statutory requirements, which are not for the Tribunal to ignore or abandon.

99. The Act does not permit the Tribunal to fix the same fees for all Mayors and Councillors, irrespective of their category. If it were to be found that the fees for Mayors and Councillors of different categories ought to be completely the same, that would necessarily reflect that those Councils ought to fall within the same category.

Fees for Deputy Mayors

100. The Act also does not permit the Tribunal to fix a separate fee for Deputy Mayors. Despite which the issue of a distinct fee within the Determination for the role of Deputy Mayor was once again pressed, as it has been on past reviews. That being supported on this review

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by reports of Mayors being unable to perform the functions of their offices, which had to be taken on by Deputy Mayors, without receiving any resulting additional fees.

101. One submission was that Deputy Mayors undertake significant responsibilities, which the Act fails to adequately recognise or remunerate. Another that a Deputy Mayor must also step in to represent the Mayor when unavailable, chairs committees and plays a pivotal role in decision making and advocacy.

102. The submissions thus urged that the fee structure recognise the additional workload and responsibility that comes with the role of Deputy Mayor.

103. The issue of fees for the role of Deputy Mayor was explained in the 2024 Annual Determination at [53]-[55] and in the 2025 Annual Determination at [62]- [65]. What was there explained was not addressed in the submissions.

104. Section 249 (5) still permits a Council to "pay the Deputy Mayor (if there is one) a fee determined by the Council for such time as the Deputy Mayor acts in the office of the Mayor. The amount of the fee so paid must be deducted from the Mayor's annual fee." That requires a decision of Council and cannot be dictated by either the Mayor or a Deputy.

105. The submissions advanced reveal that some Councils have chosen not to exercise this power. With the result that the Deputy Mayor who took on functions the Mayor was unable to perform for a period, received no additional fees to reflect the increased duties taken on. That is an available outcome under the Act and remains a matter for each Council to determine. It is not within the control of Mayors.

106. Still, there having been no change to the Act which would permit the Tribunal to determine a distinct fee for the position of Deputy Mayor, must result in the submissions advanced being rejected. It will, however, draw the issues raised to the Minister's attention.

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Setting of Fees by Councils

107. Concerns regarding the setting of minimum and maximum fees by Councils, still required by s 241, was also again raised by some submissions. A number calling on the Tribunal to set only one mandatory fee for each category. Another suggesting that the Tribunal could increase the minimum fees to the same amount as the maximum fee level. Another, advocating repeal of s 241 of the Act.

108. Such change was urged because it was considered that this would result in desirable equality of fees and remove the potential for politicisation of fee setting, and potential conflicts of interest. That also enhancing relationships with the community.

109. In the same way as the Court of Appeal recently explained in *Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW) v President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales* [2026] NSWCA 20 [57], the Tribunal is satisfied that it cannot do indirectly, what the Act does not permit it to do directly.

110. It follows that these submissions must also be rejected. But this issue will also be drawn to the Minister's attention.

111. In the 2027 Annual Review, submissions will be invited about the appropriate range between the minimum and maximum fees for the categories then determined.

2026 Annual Review process – category review

112. In determining Council categories, the Tribunal is required to have regard to the matters specified in s 240 of the Act, namely:

- The size of areas;
- The physical terrain of areas;

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- The population of areas and the distribution of the population;
- The nature and volume of business dealt with by each Council;
- The nature and extent of the development of areas;
- The diversity of communities served;
- The regional, national and international significance of the Council;
- Such matters as the Remuneration Tribunal considers relevant to the provision of efficient and effective local government; and
- Such other matters as may be prescribed by the regulations.

113. The categories of County Councils also require regard be paid to the functions of County Councils: s 240(2). They are specified in s 394 of the Act to be any one or more of the functions of a Council under the Act or any other Act, in accordance with a proclamation made for the purpose of Part 5 of the Act.

114. The Tribunal last reviewed the categories of Councils and mayoral offices in 2023. The current categories in 2026 attracting the increased minimum and maximum fees earlier explained. With the result that some of them continue to overlap considerably, others being but little different and some not readily able to be reconciled.

115. This helps explain why the Tribunal has concluded that limited change is warranted on this review, without the more extensive review of categories, criteria and resulting appropriate fees which will be undertaken in 2027. In order to ensure that the statutory intent is achieved by the Determination. On that review all Councils will be asked to provide reliable, comparable and publicly available data, on which the Tribunal's decisions can then fairly be made.

116. The purpose of the categories and the specified criteria is to enable the Tribunal to annually determine the maximum and minimum amounts of fees to be paid to Mayors and Councillors in each of the categories it determines: s 239.

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117. They having no other statutory purpose, it is difficult to see the reason for a number of current categories attracting overlapping fees; there being limited differences between the fees attracted by other categories, while fees for the Chairperson of the Darling Shire Council are very substantially higher than those paid to very many Mayors.

118. This and the submissions advanced also raise the question of whether the categories and criteria provided by the 2023 Annual Determination, adjusted in the limited way explained by this Determination, adequately reflect the requirements of the Act. As well as whether they continue to remain appropriate and fit for purpose or require further review.

119. The matters specified in s 240(1) driving the need to take into account relevant statistical and demographical data, such as that sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Office of the Local Government and Planning NSW, to which regard has been paid in the past. As well as to data provided by Councils about their particular areas and operations, which also have to be taken into account.

120. One of the difficulties on this review was that the Tribunal had no up to date data about the position of the majority of Councils, which would enable it to determine whether the current category and criteria continue to be fit for purpose, given the requirements of s 240. As well as whether the categories into which Councils are currently placed, remain appropriate.

121. The history of the categories established by past Determinations began in 1994, when there were more Councils in existence and fees were fixed having regard to past history. In 1995, 5 categories were established, with three special categories then also continuing, S1 – Sydney City Council, S2 Newcastle and Wollongong City Councils and S3 – County Councils.

122. In the Tribunal's ongoing 3 yearly reviews since then, categories have been altered, merged and increased for various reasons, including to reflect Council mergers. A new model being adopted in 2017 when the number of Councils was reduced to 128. That

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having established 5 Metropolitan categories and 4 Non Metropolitan categories. In 2020 criteria for some categories were altered, two new categories created and one renamed.

123. In 2023 a further two new categories were created, three Councils which met the criteria thresholds for existing categories were reclassified and criteria consistency improved by the inclusion of the non-resident population, for a number of categories. A consideration permitted by s 240(1), which enables the Tribunal to have regard to such matters as it considers relevant to the provision of efficient and effective local government. The County Council categories remaining unchanged.

124. Submissions advanced in 2026:

- Sought the creation of 2 new categories;
- Proposed recategorisation of 7 Councils - Parramatta, Lake Macquarie, Murray River, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Randwick, Shellharbour and Willoughby Councils;
- Sought that one category revert to a previous name;
- questioned the suitability of current criteria; and
- Urged the Tribunal to take into account other matters which Council now consider to be relevant to the determination of categories and their categorisation. Visitor numbers, being the best example.

125. If accepted, these submissions require consideration of how these aims could properly be reflected in the category criteria, which the submissions did not address.

126. It also appears that there may, in 2026, be further Council demergers, which will also necessitate consideration of the categories and Council allocations, in order that appropriate fees are fixed for their Councillors and Mayors in 2027.

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127. This all helped drive the Tribunal's conclusion that further change is required to current categories and criteria. But that the submissions and information it has received on this review, did not enable final views to be formed about what those changes should justly be. That will be revisited in the 2027 Annual Review.

Correction of an identified anomaly

128. The current category allocations and criteria appear in the 2025 Annual Determination at Section 5 and Appendix 1 respectively.

129. One required change which has been identified results from an anomaly. The criteria for the category Regional Strategic contains the following sentence:

Currently, only Lake Macquarie Council meets the criteria to be categorised as a Regional Strategic Area. Its population and overall scale of Council operations will be greater than Regional Centre Councils.

130. This is incorrect. There currently being 5 Councils classified as Regional Strategic: Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Mid-Coast, Shoalhaven, and Tweed. As a result, this erroneous statement has been removed from Appendix 1 of the 2026 Annual Determination.

Proposed renaming of "Principal CBD" as the "Principal City"

131. This change in name was urged in order to revert to a prior category name, the Council submitting that this would properly recognise its regional, national and international significance, which extended beyond the Sydney CBD. As well as reflecting significant increases in the roles and responsibilities of its Councillors, in Australia's only global city and to ensure that fees they receive appropriately reflect their responsibilities.

132. The submission explained alterations, over time, to the area which the Council covers. It now having eight distinct economic precincts, as the result of the area added to the City in

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2004: the Harbour, City North, Pyrmont, City South, Eastern Creative, Tech Centre West, Entertainment and Recreation and Southern Enterprise. That having had an impact on representation and other matters relied on to advance a proposed significant increase in Councillors' fees.

133. It was in 2017 that the name change from Principal City to Principal CBD was introduced as part of a restructure which reflected the evolving shape of local government in the State. That retaining the Council of the City of Sydney in its own category, while recognising the emergence of the second CBD in Sydney at Parramatta.

134. The Tribunal can see no disadvantage from the proposed name change. But is still not persuaded that it should now be adopted, without consideration being given to such a change within the wider review proposed for 2027.

135. No change having been proposed to either the criteria which apply to this category, or to the Major CBD category into which only the Council of the City of Parramatta falls. It recognising Parramatta to be the secondary CBD, which some submissions urged was no longer appropriate.

Proposed reclassification of City of Parramatta Council from Major CBD to Principal CBD

136. Council sought to be recategorised from the Major CBD to Principal CBD category, to better reflect its size, rate of growth, economic influence, operational budget and strategic and geographical importance.

137. Council also submitting that it plays a leading role in Greater Sydney's advancement. With factors relied on including:

- 30% of Australia's top 500 companies have offices located in Paramatta;

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- The city is accessible to 2.3 million people within 45 minutes, by car or public transport;
- Creative and cultural institutions such as Riverside Theatre, Olympic Park and the upcoming Powerhouse Paramatta museum are located there;
- As is a large Health and research precinct which includes six (6) universities and Westmead Hospital;
- The Engineering and Innovation Hub, as well as Western Sydney Startup Hub also being located within the LGA; and
- It having the second largest economy, which generates a gross regional product of $32.88 billion, and 33,000 businesses with over 202,000 jobs.

138. What was advanced did not accord with submissions advanced by some other Councils.

139. The Tribunal is not persuaded that the City of Parramatta Council is incorrectly categorised or satisfies the criteria of Principal CBD, which reflect the unique position of the Council of the City of Sydney. Nor did it advance any changed criteria which would fairly capture both its position and that of the Council of the City of Sydney. That the two can fairly be equated, has also not been established.

140. The Determination has long recognised the distinct role which the Council of the City of Sydney plays, with the result the higher fees its Mayor and Councillors receive, which is reflected in the current criteria:

The Council of the City of Sydney (the City of Sydney) is the principal central business district (CBD) in the Sydney Metropolitan area. The City of Sydney is home to Sydney's primary commercial office district with the largest concentration of businesses and retailers in Sydney. The City of Sydney's sphere of economic influence is the greatest of any local government area in Australia.

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The CBD is also host to some of the city's most significant transport infrastructure including Central Station, Circular Quay and International Overseas Passenger Terminal. Sydney is recognised globally with its iconic harbour setting and the City of Sydney is host to the city's historical, cultural and ceremonial precincts. The City of Sydney attracts significant visitor numbers and is home to 60 per cent of Metropolitan Sydney's hotels.

The role of Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney has significant prominence reflecting the CBD's importance as home to the country's major business centres and public facilities of state and national importance. The Lord Mayor's responsibilities in developing and maintaining relationships with stakeholders, including other Councils, state and federal governments, community and business groups, and the media are considered greater than other mayoral roles in NSW.

141. The submission and data advanced did not establish that Parramatta satisfies these criteria. Nor a basis for the conclusion that its Mayor and Councillors should receive the same fees as those received by the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Sydney.

142. The criteria which apply to its category, Major CBD, being:

The Council of the City of Parramatta (City of Parramatta) is the economic capital of Greater Western Sydney and the geographic and demographic centre of Greater Sydney. Parramatta is the second largest economy in NSW (after Sydney CBD) and the sixth largest in Australia.

As a secondary CBD to Metropolitan Sydney the Parramatta local government area is a major provider of business and government services with a significant number of organisations relocating their head offices to Parramatta. Public administration and safety have been a growth sector for Parramatta as the State Government has promoted a policy of moving government agencies westward to support economic development beyond the Sydney CBD.

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The City of Parramatta provides a broad range of regional services across the Sydney Metropolitan area with a significant transport hub and hospital and educational facilities. The City of Parramatta is home to the Westmead Health and Medical Research precinct which represents the largest concentration of hospital and health services in Australia, servicing Western Sydney and providing other specialised services for the rest of NSW.

The City of Parramatta is also home to a significant number of cultural and sporting facilities (including Sydney Olympic Park) which draw significant domestic and international visitors to the region.

143. The assumptions reflected in these criteria were challenged by other Councils as no longer being correct. Blacktown Council relying, for example, on data which showed that its residential population in 2024 was considerably greater than that of Parramatta, 274,956 to 438, 843. As was its total population, including workers not residing within its area.

144. The data received helped drive the conclusion that the current criteria may no longer be fit for purpose. And that further consideration needs to be given to what appropriate categories now are and what criteria should apply to them.

145. But the reclassification proposed on this review, cannot be accepted.

Proposed new Metropolitan Major – High Growth Category

146. Blacktown City Council sought the creation of a new category, Metropolitan Major – High Growth, for which it did not advance either criteria, or proposed fees.

147. It is now classified as a Metropolitan Major Council, together with Canterbury Bankstown. They having both last been assessed as falling below the Major CBD category, into which only the City of Parramatta falls. The current criteria for the Metropolitan Major category are:

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Councils categorised Metropolitan Major will typically have a minimum residential population of 400,000.

Councils may also be categorised Metropolitan Major if their residential population combined with their non-resident working population exceeds 400,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population must exceed 50,000.

Other features may include:

- *total operating revenue exceeding $300M per annum*
- *the provision of significant regional services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities*
- *significant industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors*
- *high population growth.*

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Major will have a sphere of economic influence and provide regional services considered to be greater than those of other Metropolitan Councils.

148. Blacktown contended that the proposed new category would recognise larger, more complex Councils which exceed the criteria of Metropolitan Major. It being relevant that it would continue to outstrip Parramatta in various respects, given its current and expected ongoing growth. This new category thus facilitating fair and appropriate adjustments to the remuneration payable to Mayors and Councillors.

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149. The Council relying on data such as population, budget and asset growth, as well as 'transformational' projects and ongoing developments which had driven further change and challenges for it and its officers, reflective of its strategic planning and economic sphere of influence. It claiming now to be the fourth largest economy in NSW, with significant plans for further growth to 2041.

150. It also relied on comparisons which it sought to draw with Canterbury-Bankstown, from which it said it is now differentiated by a range of factors, which it is not necessary to explain.

151. What was not advanced was either proposed criteria for the new category sought, nor fees which might fairly attach to it. The Council placing reliance on what parliamentarians are paid in NSW, a reliance which I have explained is not available under the current statutory scheme.

152. The difficulty with what was proposed is also revealed by the limited difference between the maximum and minimum fees for the existing categories, which reflects an assessment that the work involved cannot be significantly differentiated.

153. Nor can it be accepted that it is appropriate for criteria to be based on anticipated growth in population, infrastructure, assets or budgets, as this and some other submissions urged. That is not embraced by s 240 of the Act. Nor can anticipated developments be accepted to be a reliable basis on which decisions can fairly be made about categories or criteria, depending as they do on assumptions.

154. The basis of what is anticipated at a particular point in time being unlikely to be able to be established by independent, reliable and publicly available data, which will allow relevant comparisons to be drawn. And the adoption of such criteria giving rise to the difficulties which will result, if what is anticipated, does not come to pass.

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155. It may also not be overlooked that when the submissions were received, Major CBD Mayoral fees ranged from $44,840 to $126,320, while those in Metropolitan Major Councils ranged from $44,840 to $114,300. This helps explain why the view has to be taken that there is little purpose to be served by the adoption of the proposed new category, which would sit between the existing categories.

156. Particularly without identification of criteria which reflect its true differentiation from the existing categories. That such differentiation does not exist, is reflected in the current small differences in fees for the existing categories.

157. The result is that the Tribunal has not been persuaded that the proposed new category can be established.

158. If in the 2027 review the establishment of new categories is pursued, the Tribunal should be provided with a proposal which addresses not only the name of the proposed category, but also appropriate criteria, together with the maximum and minimum fees which are proposed. They will have to have appropriate relationships with other categories, which will also have to be explained by the submission.

159. As will the consequences of their adoption for other Councils which may be affected. Such Councils will also have to be given an opportunity to be heard, before the Tribunal comes to any conclusions about proposed new categories. That will be achieved by service of the proposed change on other affected Councils.

Metropolitan Major

160. No Council sought any alteration to the criteria or recategorisation to this category.

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Metropolitan Large

161. Both Randwick and Willoughby Councils sought to be recategorised as Metropolitan Large Councils, currently being categorised as Metropolitan Medium. Despite neither satisfying the population threshold, although Randwick does satisfy the revenue criteria. Their total populations as at 1 July 2025 being, 176,656 and 133,052 respectively, including non-resident workers.

162. Randwick City Council sought to be reclassified from Metropolitan Medium to Metropolitan relying on:

- Population estimates as at 1 July of 201,000, comprising of 156,000 residents and 45,000 non- resident working population;
- A high population growth that regularly exceeds the Sydney average;
- An operating revenue of $221 million;
- A Gross Regional Product of $10.55 billion for the year ending June 2024;
- The provision of reginal services, including major education, health, sporting, recreation and cultural facilities; and
- Significant industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors.

163. Willoughby City Council contending that it exceeded the functions of a typical Metropolitan Medium Council, relying on:

- A population as at 30 June 2024 of 79,634 with a growth rate of 5.47% between 2022 and 2024;
- A forecast for continued population growth due to the planned construction of additional dwellings, the likely impact being an increase of 15,000 to 20,000 people in coming years;

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- A high daily visitation rate driven by the employment and commercial hub of Chatswood with opal data showing in excess of 50,000 entries and exits per day at Chatswood station;
- Total revenue of $187.9 million for the 2025/2026 financial year;
- A Gross Regional Product of $13.11 billion for the year ending June 2024; and
- The provision of regional services in health, education, culture, transport and two (2) large retail precincts.

164. The current criteria are:

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Large will typically have a minimum residential population of 200,000.

Councils may also be categorised as Metropolitan Large if their residential population combined with their non-resident working population exceeds 200,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population must exceed 50,000.

Other features may include:

• total operating revenue exceeding $200M per annum

• the provision of significant regional services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities

• significant industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors

• high population growth.

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Councils categorised as Metropolitan Large will have a sphere of economic influence and provide regional services considered to be greater than those of other Metropolitan Councils.

165. It follows that the recategorisation sought by Randwick and Willoughby Councils cannot be accepted, given the current population requirements.

166. The data also suggested that the Inner West Council may no longer satisfy the applicable criteria, it having been reclassified in 2020 from Metropolitan Medium, but having in 2024 non-resident workers of only 43,100 and a residential population of 193,125. In the 2027 review this Council will thus be invited to establish which criteria it then satisfies.

167. The data also shows that Campbelltown Council has a total population over the threshold for the Metropolitan Large category, but that it does not satisfy the non-resident working population criteria and so it also cannot be reclassified.

Metropolitan Medium

168. No changes were sought to the criteria, which are:

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Medium will typically have a minimum residential population of 100,000.

Councils may also be categorised as Metropolitan Medium if their residential population combined with their non-resident working population exceeds 100,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population must exceed 50,000.

Other features may include:

- *total operating revenue exceeding $100M per annum*

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• *services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities*

• *industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors • high population growth.*

The sphere of economic influence, the scale of Council operations and the extent of regional servicing would be below that of Metropolitan Large Councils.

169. Canada Bay, a Metropolitan Small Council, does satisfy the revenue criteria and has a total population of over 100,000, but it does not satisfy the non-resident working population criteria and so also cannot be recategorised.

Proposed new Metropolitan Small – Fast Growing category

170. Burwood Council, categorised as a Metropolitan Small Council, proposed the creation of this new category, in which it sought to be included. It proposing that it be 'aligned' to the Metropolitan Medium category, to recognise its scope, scale and strategic importance, given the challenges of rapid population growth and increasing service demands it faced.

171. The criteria for the Metropolitan Small Council are:

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Small will typically have a residential population less than 100,000.

Other features which distinguish them from other Metropolitan Councils include:

• *total operating revenue less than $150M per annum.*

While these Councils may include some of the facilities and characteristics of both Metropolitan Large and Metropolitan Medium Councils the overall sphere of economic

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influence, the scale of Council operations and the extent of regional servicing would be below that of Metropolitan Medium Councils.

172. Burwood Council pointed to the criteria for Metropolitan Major, Large and Medium categories, which were considered to have regard to population growth, economic influence and impact of services, as well as considerations such as strategic importance. While Metropolitan Small criteria were confined to population size and operating revenue. It contending that its inclusion in the proposed new category was warranted due to:

- Its recognition by the NSW Government as a designated strategic centre;
- Increased complexity in planning, service delivery, and intergovernmental coordination;
- A population that is expected to double in the next 10 years due to major developments in the town centre and in close proximity to the new metro station; and
- Its economic growth and influence across Greater Sydney, specifically its night time economic initiatives.

173. The Tribunal has not concluded that the creation of this proposed new category is warranted, given the existing criteria and the resulting fees which the current categories attract.

174. Given the existing overlap in the fees of the Metropolitan Small and Medium categories and how their criteria are structured, the Tribunal is not persuaded that an intervening category is needed.

175. These submissions did help shed light on the inherent difficulties of the existing fee structures. Which has to be considered in light of the overlaps and small differences in the fee ranges between the differing categories. But that still precludes the adoption of this proposed new category.

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Metropolitan Small

176. No change to the criteria was proposed. They are:

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Small will typically have a residential population less than 100,000.

Other features which distinguish them from other Metropolitan Councils include:

- *total operating revenue less than $150M per annum.*

While these Councils may include some of the facilities and characteristics of both Metropolitan Large and Metropolitan Medium Councils the overall sphere of economic influence, the scale of Council operations and the extent of regional servicing would be below that of Metropolitan Medium Councils.

Major Regional City

177. This category applies to Newcastle and Wollongong, and no change was sought to the criteria, which are:

Newcastle City Council and Wollongong City Councils are categorised as Major Regional City. These Councils:

- *are metropolitan in nature with major residential, commercial and industrial areas*
- *typically host government departments, major tertiary education and health facilities and incorporate high density commercial and residential development.*

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• provide a full range of higher order services and activities along with arts, culture, recreation, sporting and entertainment facilities to service the wider community and broader region

• have significant transport and freight infrastructure servicing international markets, the capital city and regional areas

• have significant natural and man-made assets to support diverse economic activity, trade and future investment

• typically contain ventures which have a broader State and national focus which impact upon the operations of the Council.

The proposed change to the Major Strategic Area criteria

178. Lake Macquarie Council proposed a change to the criteria of this category, which would result in its reclassification from Regional Strategic Area to the Major Strategic Area category. By reducing the population threshold from 300,000 to 200,000. That proposal not impacting any other Council.

179. The submissions it advanced were one of the few which directed required attention to matters which have to be considered by the Tribunal, when considering change to categories and criteria. Including the relevant history, the consequences of changes earlier made, relevant comparisons between positions of Councils in the affected category and the consequences of the proposed further change.

180. The current criteria for the two categories are:

Major Strategic Area

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Councils categorised as Major Strategic Area will have a minimum population of 300,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included. Other features may include:

- *health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community*
- *a full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres*
- *total operating revenue exceeding $250M per annum*
- *significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention*
- *a proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.*

Currently, only Central Coast Council meets the criteria to be categorised as a Major Strategic Area. Its population, predicted population growth, and scale of the Council's operations warrant that it be differentiated from other Non-metropolitan Councils. Central Coast Council is also a significant contributor to the regional economy associated with proximity to and connections with Sydney and the Hunter Region.

Regional Strategic Area

Councils categorised as Regional Strategic Area are differentiated from Councils in the Regional Centre category on the basis of their significant population and will typically have a residential population above 100,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included. Other features may include:

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- *health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community*
- *a full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres*
- *total operating revenue exceeding $250M per annum*
- *significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention*
- *a proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.*

Currently, only Lake Macquarie Council meets the criteria to be categorised as a Regional Strategic Area. Its population and overall scale of Council operations will be greater than Regional Centre Councils.

181. In 2023 the Tribunal determined that the population criteria threshold for the Regional Strategic Area had to be adjusted from 200,000 down to 100,000, that resulting in Lake Macquarie Council no longer being the only Council in this category. Council reiterated its views, urged in 2024 and 2025, that this change had distorted the distinction between the Major Strategic Area and Regional Strategic Area categories, given the other Councils which now also fell into the Regional Strategic category.

182. The Council's population statistics in 2024 were of 221,859 residents, plus a non-resident working population of 23,769, totalling 246,095. It drew a comparison with that of the Central Coast Council, which has 354,803 residents, plus a non-resident working population of 11,043, totalling 365,846. While of the four other Councils categorised as Regional Strategic Areas, the greatest total population was Shoalhaven, which has 115,435.

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183. The Council also relied on it having similar gross regional product to Wollongong Council, a Major Regional City. As well as more than double that of the other Councils now in the Regional Strategic category. Its case that the population threshold for Major Strategic Area should be revised from 300,000 down to 200,000 also being supported by:

- Its population, now making it the second largest Non-metropolitan Council after Central Coast with proximity to Sydney and tourist numbers similar to that Council;
- Its density of some 338/sqm, being considerably more than Maitland at 245, Tweed and 76 and Shoalhaven only 24, while Central Coast was 211 and even Wollongong 324;
- Its predicted population growth to 2046, with resulting ongoing building demand;
- The impact of major NSW Government projects within its LGA, including the Low and Mid-rise Housing reform announced in February 2025;
- The Renewable energy zone and Transport Oriented Development Program;
- An annual economic output of $30.03 billion, (approximately 20% of the Hunter economy);
- 14,768 active businesses;
- A Gross Regional Product of $17.39 billion;
- A tourism industry that sees 1.65 million tourists per year; and
- University, shopping, airport and art facilities, as well as Australia's largest power station.

184. The Council thus urged acceptance that its output and scale of operations were now significantly greater than that of other Councils in its category and more akin to Central Coast Council, with the result that the population threshold for the Major Strategic Area category should be reviewed.

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185. The Tribunal has concluded that the Council's submissions should be accepted. The 2023 changes having had unintended consequences, which ought now to be addressed, rather than awaiting the 2027 further review.

186. The submissions which this Council and some others made, also drew attention to the considerable impact of significant daily visitor numbers, not taken into account by the criteria. This is a matter which should be addressed in the 2027 Annual Review, so that the Tribunal can consider whether and how that might sensibly be reflected in category criteria.

Regional Strategic Area

187. No change to the criteria was proposed.

188. Port Macquarie-Hastings and Shellharbour sought to be recategorised as Regional Strategic Areas, but neither satisfy the population criteria. Having populations in 2024 respectively of only 92,772 and 89,967 respectively, including non-resident workers. They both still satisfying the criteria for their current category, Regional Centre, which are:

Councils categorised as Regional Centre will typically have a minimum residential population of 40,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included.

Other features may include:

- *a large city or town providing a significant proportion of the region's housing and employment*

- *health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community*

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• a full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres

• total operating revenue exceeding $100M per annum • the highest rates of population growth in regional NSW

• significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention

• a proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.

Councils in the category of Regional Centre are often considered the geographic centre of the region providing services to their immediate and wider catchment communities.

189. Port Macquarie-Hastings Council contended that it met the criteria for Regional Strategic Area, relying on:

- An expectation that Council did exceed the population threshold when non-resident working population was included;
- A projected total operating revenue of $276 million in 2025/26;
- Gross Regional Product of $13.287 million;
- An economic output this is underpinned by healthcare, retail, construction, education and training, tourism, professional and technical services;
- Tier 1 regional health services that services a catchment area beyond their LGA boundary;
- Four (4) tertiary education institutions;
- The Council operated Port Macquarie regional airport that services Sydney, Brisbane and Lord Howe Island and a total of 5,013 flights annually;

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- A tourism industry that attracts over 1.7 million visitors per annum and contributing $540 million to the economy; and
- Regional commercial and cultural services that include a performing arts theatre, an art gallery, courthouse and major hospitality, entertainment and conference venues.

190. Shellharbour City Council's proposal relied on:

- A residential and non-residential working population in 2024 of approximately 90,000, with expectations that the residential population will hit 100,000 by 2035;
- An annual population growth rate in excess of 1.8%;
- An expected operating revenue of $262 million in 2025/26;
- A Council owned and operated regional airport;
- A Council owned marina;
- A Tertiary training campus; and
- Construction of the new Shellharbour Hospital which will deliver improved health facilities for the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District.

191. The criteria do not encompass categories being allocated on the basis of anticipated growth in population and revenues and so the recategorisations sought must be refused.

192. It also appears that Armidale Council does not meet the population threshold, but in earlier reviews the Tribunal concluded that it should remain in this category, for specified reasons. In the 2027 Annual Review it will be invited to make a submission about its appropriate categorisation, given the criteria which it then satisfies.

Regional Centre

193. No change to the criteria was proposed. They are:

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Councils categorised as Regional Centre will typically have a minimum residential population of 40,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included.

Other features may include:

- *a large city or town providing a significant proportion of the region's housing and employment*
- *health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community*
- *a full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres*
- *total operating revenue exceeding $100M per annum*
- *the highest rates of population growth in regional NSW*
- *significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention*
- *a proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.*

Councils in the category of Regional Centre are often considered the geographic centre of the region providing services to their immediate and wider catchment communities.

Regional Rural

194. Broken Hill Council also no longer satisfies the criteria of this category, which it submitted it should maintain, its population in 2024 only being 17,839. In the 2027 Annual Review it

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will be invited to address its appropriate categorisation, to ensure that it is then placed into the appropriate category, given the criteria which it then satisfies.

195. The applicable criteria for this category being:

Councils categorised as Regional Rural will typically have a minimum residential population of 20,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included.

Other features may include:

- *a large urban population existing alongside a traditional farming sector, and are surrounded by smaller towns and villages*
- *health services, tertiary education services and regional airports which service a regional community*
- *a broad range of industries including agricultural, educational, health, professional, government and retail services*
- *large visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and events.*

196. Murray River Council sought to be recategorised as Regional Rural, it being currently classified as Rural Large, despite not satisfying the population criteria, its population in 2025 still only totalling 16,042. It relied on large visitor numbers to support its submissions, which had increased over time, as well as other changes. Referring to matters such as:

- An annual population growth rate of 8-11% in the main centre of Moama, with predicted population numbers reaching over 18,000 by 2046;
- A growing tourism, accommodation and food industry that supports 14.1% of the employment figures in their LGA;

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- Tourist visitation growing on average by 10% per annum, with the average number of visitors in 2023 and 2024 of 481,595; and
- Significant growth in education, training, health and retail service employment categories.

197. Despite this, the Tribunal has concluded that this submission cannot be accepted. Population is an important aspect of the categorisation system which cannot routinely be overlooked when Councils are categorised. The Act not contemplating subjective categorisation.

Rural Large

198. No changes were proposed to the criteria, which are:

Councils categorised as Rural Large will have a residential population greater than 10,000, and a Councillor to resident ratio of at least 1 to 1200.

Other features may include:

• one or two significant townships combined with a considerable dispersed population spread over a large area and a long distance from a major regional centre

• a limited range of services, facilities and employment opportunities compared to Regional Rural Councils

• local economies based on agricultural/resource industries.

199. The Tribunal has identified that Dungog Shire Council now has a residential population greater than 10,000 and a Councillor to resident ratio greater than 1 to 1,200. As a result,

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Dungog Shire Council will be classified as a Rural Large Council in the 2026 Annual Determination.

Rural

200. No changes were proposed to these criteria, which are limited to "Councils categorised as Rural will typically have a residential population less than 10,000".

201. Although Glenn Innes Severn Council observed that this review provided an opportunity to "recalibrate the remuneration and categorisation system to ensure its contemporary, fair, capable of supporting the expectation and responsibilities placed on elected representatives."

County Councils

202. A summary of County Council functions produced by the Tribunal Secretariat is:

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council

A local government authority for weed management control in the Walgett, Coonamble, Waren, Gilgandra and Warrumbungle Shire Council areas.

Central Tablelands Water

Central Tablelands Water is the trading name adopted by Central Tablelands County Council, a water supply authority constituted under NSW Local Government Legislation.

Central Tablelands County Council was first proclaimed in 1944. The county area embraces the Shires of Blayney, Cabonne and Weddin. Bulk water is also supplied to Cowra Shire Council to service rural consumers and the villages of Woodstock and Gooloogong.

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Goldenfields Water

It is responsible for water supply functions within the local government areas of Bland, Coolamon, Junee, Temora, and parts of Cootamundra-Gundagai, Hilltops and Narrandera.

It also supplies water in bulk to Hilltops and Cootamundra-Gundagai Councils, which distribute the water directly to residents in parts of their local government area.

Approximately 11, 974 properties are connected directly to its drinking water supply network in Bland, Coolamon, Junee, Temora and parts of Cootamundra-Gundagai and Narrandera.

The facilities it owns and operate include:

- *34 water pumping stations (including river extraction and Jugiong Water Treatment Plant Pumping Station)*
- *72 water supply reservoir sites with approximately 115 reservoirs*
- *Eight bores*
- *Six re-chlorination stations*
- *2100 km of water mains*

Western Sydney Weeds Authority (formerly Hawkesbury River County Council)

Western Sydney Weeds Authority (formally Hawkesbury River County Council) is a special purpose Council, its goal being to administer the Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW) throughout our Council areas of Blacktown, Hawkesbury, Penrith and the Hills Shire. That involving

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weed management, detection of new incursions and containment of high-risk plant species that impact on biodiversity, agriculture, and property.

Riverina Water County Council

It is responsible for the provision of safe, reliable water at the lowest sustainable cost. over an area of approximately 15,400 square kilometres with a population of more than 77,000 people.

Rous County Council

Its experts and advisors supply the Northern Rivers with water, weed biosecurity, and rural flood mitigation. It sources, stores, treats and supplies water to the Ballina, Byron, Lismore and Richmond Valley Councils, which on-sell water to their communities.

Protecting the region's biodiversity by managing and eradicating high-risk weed species. Working closely with communities and Councils in Ballina, Byron, Lismore, Richmond Valley, Kyogle and Tweed Shire regions.

And also managing the rural flood mitigation for the Richmond River floodplain. Including monitoring and managing an 80km network of levees, 750 floodgates, and 180km of drains to reduce inundation and divert flood waters.

Upper Hunter County Council

It is the registered trading name of Upper Hunter County Council a single purpose Council which is a Local Control Authority for invasive plants under the NSW Biosecurity Act, 2015 (NSW).

Its present area of operation is the local government areas of Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook and Singleton located at the northern end of the Hunter Valley, New South Wales.

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It provides weed management systems utilizing technology to prevent, contain or reduce the biosecurity risk of invasive plants to the environment, economy and community within the area of operation of the County Council.

Upper Macquarie County Council

It is a local control authority for the Biosecurity Act 2015. Two Councillors are delegated from each of four constituent Councils to form an eight Member Central Tablelands Weeds Authority Council. Its core function being to detect priority weeds and actively encourage landholders to correctly manage the identified priority weed in accordance with the Central Tablelands Local Lands Services Strategic Weed Management Plan.

It carries out its functions across Bathurst Regional Council, City of Lithgow Council, Blayney Shire Council and Oberon Council.

County Councils – Water

203. No change was proposed for the criteria, which are "County Councils that provide water and/or sewerage functions with a joint approach in planning and installing large water reticulation and sewerage systems."

204. The current list of these Councils is accurate.

County Councils – Other

205. No change was proposed for the criteria which are "*County Councils that administer, control and eradicate declared noxious weeds as a specified Local Control Authority under the Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW).*"

206. Two County Councils – Other have been removed from the 2026 Annual Determination, being the Central Murray and the New England Tableland County Councils. The New

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England Tableland County Council was dissolved on 16 June 2025, by the *Local Government (Dissolution of New England County Council) Proclamation 2025*. The Central Murray County Council was dissolved on 1 July 2019, by a proclamation made under s 397 of the *Local Government Act*, as noted in NSW Government Gazette No 65-2205 of 27 June 2019.

207. The result is that only four Councils now fall into this classification.

Section 4 – The 2027 Annual Review

Structure and fee considerations

208. In the 2026 Annual Review, it has come to light that:

- There has been considerable change which has affected the work of those elected or appointed to Council offices, in part driven by Government decisions which have affected Councils over time. Including in the case of Metropolitan Councils those explained in the Governments draft 2026 Sydney Plan and in the case of Non-metropolitan Councils, by various regional plans;
- They and submissions advanced raise for consideration whether the current number of categories remain necessary. Reliance having been placed on Victoria, for example, where there are only 4 categories;
- The current criteria, first fixed in 2017 and amended since then in various Annual Determinations, do not accord entirely with the requirements of s 240, which specifies the matters by which the Tribunal **must** determine the categories of Councils and Mayors;
- Some of the current criteria could better assist transparent classification of Councils into categories;
- There has not for some time been an overall assessment of whether Councils continue to satisfy the criteria of the categories into which they have been placed over time;
- Changes in the fee structure, over time, have resulted in a considerable overlap between the maximum and minimum fees payable in various categories, which may no longer be appropriate, given submissions advanced;
- Some light on which was also shed by the conclusions arrived at in the 2025 Special Determination, in relation to the Central Darling Shire Council, on which reliance has been placed.

Section 4 – The 2027 Annual Review

209. The results are best explained by the following snapshot of the current categories, fees, overlaps and ratios. It having to be understood that Mayors and Chairpersons are paid both the Councillor fee, as well as the separate fee fixed for their offices. This also helps explain the Tribunal's decision to undertake the further review in 2027.

Table 1 – Table of Councillor and Mayoral fees, by Council categories

	Mayoral/Chairperson Additional Fees (Effective 1 July 2025)		Councillor Fees (Effective 1 July 2025)		Ratio (Mayor: Councillor)	
Category	**Min**	**Max**	**Min**	**Max**	**Min**	**Max**
Principal CBD	$193,650	$254,810	$31,640	$46,420	6.1:1	5.5:1
Central Darling Shire Council - Appointed Chairperson	$72,080	$72,180	$13,830	$13,930	5.2:1	5.2:1
Major CBD	$44,840	$126,320	$21,120	$39,100	2.1:1	3.2:1
Metropolitan Major	$44,840	$114,300	$21,120	$36,970	2.1:1	3.1:1
Major Regional City	$44,840	$114,300	$21,120	$36,690	2.1:1	3.1:1
Major Strategic Area	$44,840	$114,300	$21,120	$36,690	2.1:1	3.1:1
Metropolitan Large	$44,840	$101,470	$21,120	$34,820	2.1:1	2.9:1

Section 4 – The 2027 Annual Review

	Mayoral/Chairperson Additional Fees (Effective 1 July 2025)		Councillor Fees (Effective 1 July 2025)		Ratio (Mayor: Councillor)	
Regional Strategic Area	$44,840	$101,470	$21,120	$34,820	2.1:1	2.9:1
Metropolitan Medium	$33,630	$78,480	$15,830	$29,550	2.1:1	2.7:1
Regional Centre	$32,940	$68,800	$15,830	$27,860	2.1:1	2.5:1
Regional Rural	$22,420	$50,680	$10,530	$23,220	2.1:1	2.2:1
Metropolitan Small	$22,420	$50,650	$10,530	$23,220	2.1:1	2.2:1
Rural Large	$16,820	$40,530	$10,530	$18,890	1.6:1	2.1:1
Rural	$11,210	$30,390	$10,530	$13,930	1.1:1	2.2:1
Water	$4,490	$19,080	$2,090	$11,620	2.1:1	1.6:1
Other	$4,490	$12,670	$2,090	$6,930	2.1:1	1.8:1

Section 4 – The 2027 Annual Review

The conduct of the 2027 Annual Review

210. In 2027, the Tribunal intends to commence its review earlier than usual, in order to accommodate the detailed review of the Determination's categories which it has concluded it is necessary to pursue. Together with a consideration of appropriate criteria which reflect the requirements of s 240 of the Act. In order to facilitate the adoption of fees appropriate for the revised structure, also having regard to demonstrated change over time, as well as current responsibilities of Mayors and Councillors.

211. That will also require a review of the category into which each Council should then be placed, which s 239 of the Act requires must be undertaken at least once every three years.

212. Submissions will thus be invited in a two stage process.

213. The first, to determine how the Determination should be amended to achieve the category and criteria structure which the Act envisages, as well as the appropriate maximum and minimum fees. That, it must be observed, will not necessarily result in the current number of categories being retained.

214. In the second stage submissions about Councils' placement into the new structure will be sought.

215. The Tribunal will then ask Councils to provide reliable data to support their submissions about which category they fall into. Addressing each of the applicable criteria adopted, as well as relevant comparisons which they seek to draw with other Councils.

216. Categorisation having to be as transparent and fair as possible, the Tribunal intends to rest its decisions on reliable data such as that available from ABS statistics and budgets which Councils adopt year to year. The Tribunal will thus invite those who make submissions to provide reliable data and information, on which its decisions can be made. Not merely the expression of unsupported opinions.

Section 4 – The 2027 Annual Review

217. As it has in the past, the Tribunal will thus also ask Councils, when inviting submissions, to confirm that the information and submissions advanced have been endorsed by a Council vote.

218. It will thus invite submissions and information which will enable it to examine and determine whether the current categories and criteria remain fit for purpose. Given the requirements of the Act, the data on which the Tribunal's decisions must be based and the problems to which this report has drawn attention, which it will seek to address.

219. If it is considered that categories require adjustment, submissions should address what form the new categories and criteria should take, to reflect the statutory purpose of the categories of Councils and mayoral offices and their role in the fair determination of fees. As well as addressing proposed criteria which adhere to the requirements of s 240(1) of the Act, which will help the Tribunal to determine the maximum and minimum fees appropriate for the new structure, which should thus also be addressed.

220. At the first stage of this process, Councils will be asked to serve proposals which will affect other Councils, on all affected Councils, so that they may have a fair opportunity to address such proposals in their submissions.

221. What is proposed in order to adjust fees to reflect cost of living increases should also be identified at the first stage. As well as the final fees proposed. The submissions should also address changes relied on to warrant their adoption. With reliable information which supports the claimed changes, also being provided.

222. An example of potential revised criteria for the current Metropolitan Major category, which has regard to all of the requirements of s 240 of the Act, as well as to matters which the Tribunal has in the past identified to be relevant to the determination of the category into which Councils follows.

Section 4 – The 2027 Annual Review

223. What the Tribunal envisages in the 2027 review including the adoption of a structure which, if dollar figures are specified, may have to be adjusted over time, in order to reflect changes over time. As may specified population sizes.

224. A revised category for Metropolitan Major Councils, if it is retained, which has regard to the s 240 requirements, could thus provide:

Metropolitan Major

Councils categorised Metropolitan Major;

(1) must have a minimum residential population, or a combined residential and non-resident working population (of at least 50,000), which exceeds 400,000.

(2) will typically serve:

(a) a dense population occupying a built up physical terrain;

(b) a widely diverse community

(c) an area at least as large as those of Metropolitan Large Councils of ?,

(d) industrial, commercial and residential development which is both at least as significant and as extensive as that of Metropolitan Large Councils, with established development corridors;

(3) will also have:

(a) to manage a significant volume of business, consistent with its assets and budgets, which is at least as significant and varied as that of Metropolitan Large Councils;

Section 4 – The 2027 Annual Review

(b) operating revenue exceeding, for example, $394,617,030 per annum, that being $300 million adjusted by December CPI since December 2016;

(c) a sphere of economic influence and significance beyond the Council area, nationally as well as regionally, reflective of their service of:

(i) natural and/or developed attractions within the Council area, including sport, recreational and cultural facilities, which daily attracts significant tourism and/or visitors from outside the Council area; and

(ii) major health, education and other facilities which support the greater Sydney population; and

(d) a continuing high rate of population growth and development for which the Council is planning, evidenced by ?.

225. After submissions have been received in the second stage, the Tribunal will make its 2027 Annual Determination, which will include the new categories, criteria and increased fees the Tribunal has determined will take effect from 1 July 2027. As well as identifying the category into which each Council will then be placed.

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

The Hon Acting Justice M Schmidt
Dated: 23 April 2026

Section 5 – Determinations

Determination No. 1 – Allocation of Councils into each of the categories as per section 239 of the Act effective 1 July 2026

General Purpose Councils – Metropolitan

Principal City (1)

- Sydney

Major CBD (1)

- Parramatta

Metropolitan Major (2)

- Blacktown
- Canterbury-Bankstown

Metropolitan Large (10)

- Bayside
- Cumberland
- Fairfield
- Inner West
- Liverpool
- Northern Beaches
- Penrith
- Ryde
- Sutherland
- The Hills

Metropolitan Medium (8)

- Campbelltown
- Camden
- Georges River
- Hornsby
- Ku-ring-gai
- North Sydney
- Randwick
- Willoughby

Metropolitan Small (8)

- Burwood
- Canada Bay
- Hunters Hill
- Lane Cove
- Mosman
- Strathfield
- Waverley
- Woollahra

Section 5 – Determinations

General Purpose Councils - Non-Metropolitan

Major Regional City (2)

- Newcastle
- Wollongong

Major Strategic Area (2)

- Central Coast
- Lake Macquarie

Regional Strategic Area (4)

- Maitland
- Mid-Coast
- Shoalhaven
- Tweed

Regional Centre (22)

- Albury
- Armidale
- Ballina
- Bathurst
- Blue Mountains
- Byron
- Cessnock
- Clarence Valley
- Coffs Harbour
- Dubbo
- Eurobodella
- Hawkesbury
- Lismore
- Orange
- Port Macquarie-Hastings
- Port Stephens
- Queanbeyan-Palerang
- Shellharbour
- Tamworth
- Wagga Wagga
- Wingecarribee
- Wollondilly

Regional Rural (14)

- Bega
- Broken Hill
- Goulburn Mulwaree
- Griffith
- Hilltops
- Kempsey

Section 5 – Determinations

- Kiama
- Lithgow
- Mid-Western
- Muswellbrook
- Nambucca
- Richmond Valleys
- Singleton
- Snowy Monaro

Rural Large (17)

- Bellingen
- Cabonne
- Cootamundra-Gundagai
- Cowra
- Dungog
- Federation
- Greater Hume
- Gunnedah
- Inverell
- Leeton
- Moree Plains
- Murray River
- Narrabri
- Parkes
- Snowy Valleys
- Upper Hunter
- Yass

Rural (37)

- Balranald
- Berrigan
- Bland
- Blayney
- Bogan
- Bourke
- Brewarrina
- Carrathool
- Central Darling*
- Cobar
- Coolamon
- Coonamble
- Edward River
- Forbes
- Gilgandra
- Glen Innes Severn
- Gwydir
- Hay
- Junee
- Kyogle
- Lachlan
- Liverpool Plains
- Lockhart
- Murrumbidgee

Section 5 – Determinations

- Narrandera
- Narromine
- Oberon
- Temora
- Tenterfield
- Upper Lachlan
- Uralla
- Walcha
- Walgett
- Warren
- Warrumbungle
- Weddin
- Wentworth

* Designated as a Rural and Remote Council by the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*

County Councils

Water (4)

- Central Tablelands
- Goldenfields Water
- Riverina Water
- Rous

Other (4)

- Castlereagh-Macquarie
- Upper Hunter
- Upper Macquarie
- Western Sydney Weeds Authority (formerly Hawkesbury River)

Section 5 – Determinations

Determination No. 2 - Fees for Councillors and Mayors as per section 241 of the Act effective from 1 July 2026

The annual fees to be paid in each of the categories to Councillors, Mayors, Members, and Chairpersons of County Councils effective on and from 1 July 2026 as per section 241 of the *Local Government Act 1993* are determined as follows:

Table 1: Fees for General Purpose and County Councils

General Purpose Councils – Metropolitan

Councillor/Member Annual Fee ($) effective 1 July 2026

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Principal City	32,810	48,140
Major CBD	21,900	40,550
Metropolitan Major	21,900	38,340
Metropolitan Large	21,900	36,110
Metropolitan Medium	16,420	30,640
Metropolitan Small	10,920	24,080

Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee* ($) effective 1 July 2026

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Principal City	200,820	264,240
Major CBD	46,500	130,990
Metropolitan Major	46,500	118,530
Metropolitan Large	46,500	105,220
Metropolitan Medium	34,870	81,380
Metropolitan Small	23,250	52,520

Section 5 – Determinations

General Purpose Councils - Non-Metropolitan

Councillor/Member Annual Fee ($) effective 1 July 2026

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Major Regional City	21,900	38,050
Major Strategic Area	21,900	38,050
Regional Strategic Area	21,900	36,110
Regional Centre	16,420	28,890
Regional Rural	10,920	24,080
Rural Large	10,920	19,590
Rural	10,920	14,450

Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee* ($) effective 1 July 2026

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Major Regional City	46,500	118,530
Major Strategic Area	46,500	118,530
Regional Strategic Area	46,500	105,220
Regional Centre	34,160	71,350
Regional Rural	23,250	52,560
Rural Large	17,440	42,030
Rural	11,620	31,510

County Councils

Councillor/Member Annual Fee ($) effective 1 July 2026

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Water	2,170	12,050
Other	2,170	7,190

Section 5 – Determinations

Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee* ($) effective 1 July 2026

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Water	4,660	19,790
Other	4,660	13,140

*This fee must be paid in addition to the fee paid to the Mayor/Chairperson as a Councillor/Member (s.249(2)).

Section 5 – Determinations

Determination No. 3 - Fees for appointed Councillors and Chairperson as per clause 12(c), Schedule 11 of the Act effective from 1 July 2026

Councils designated as 'rural and remote Councils'

The annual fees to be paid to appointed Councillors and the Chairperson of councils designated as a rural and remote Council on and from 1 July 2026, as per clause 12(c), schedule 11 of the *Local Government Act 1993* are determined as follows:

Table 2: Fees for appointed Councillors and Chairpersons of rural and remote Councils

Appointed Councillor Annual Fee ($) effective 1 July 2026

Council	Minimum	Maximum
Central Darling Shire Council	14,340	14,450

Appointed Chairperson Additional Fee ($) effective 1 July 2026**

Council	Minimum	Maximum
Central Darling Shire Council	74,750	74,850

**This fee must be paid in addition to the fee paid to the Chairperson as an appointed Councillor (s.249(2)).

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

The Hon Acting Justice M Schmidt

Dated: 23 April 2026

Appendices

Appendix 1 Criteria that apply to categories

Principal CBD

The Council of the City of Sydney (the City of Sydney) is the principal central business district (CBD) in the Sydney Metropolitan area. The City of Sydney is home to Sydney's primary commercial office district with the largest concentration of businesses and retailers in Sydney. The City of Sydney's sphere of economic influence is the greatest of any local government area in Australia.

The CBD is also host to some of the city's most significant transport infrastructure including Central Station, Circular Quay and International Overseas Passenger Terminal. Sydney is recognised globally with its iconic harbour setting and the City of Sydney is host to the city's historical, cultural and ceremonial precincts. The City of Sydney attracts significant visitor numbers and is home to 60 per cent of Metropolitan Sydney's hotels.

The role of Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney has significant prominence reflecting the CBD's importance as home to the country's major business centres and public facilities of state and national importance. The Lord Mayor's responsibilities in developing and maintaining relationships with stakeholders, including other Councils, state and federal governments, community and business groups, and the media are considered greater than other mayoral roles in NSW.

Appendices

Major CBD

The Council of the City of Parramatta (City of Parramatta) is the economic capital of Greater Western Sydney and the geographic and demographic centre of Greater Sydney. Parramatta is the second largest economy in NSW (after Sydney CBD) and the sixth largest in Australia.

As a secondary CBD to Metropolitan Sydney the Parramatta local government area is a major provider of business and government services with a significant number of organisations relocating their head offices to Parramatta. Public administration and safety have been a growth sector for Parramatta as the State Government has promoted a policy of moving government agencies westward to support economic development beyond the Sydney CBD.

The City of Parramatta provides a broad range of regional services across the Sydney Metropolitan area with a significant transport hub and hospital and educational facilities. The City of Parramatta is home to the Westmead Health and Medical Research precinct which represents the largest concentration of hospital and health services in Australia, servicing Western Sydney and providing other specialised services for the rest of NSW.

The City of Parramatta is also home to a significant number of cultural and sporting facilities (including Sydney Olympic Park) which draw significant domestic and international visitors to the region.

Appendices

Metropolitan Major

Councils categorised Metropolitan Major will typically have a minimum residential population of 400,000.

Councils may also be categorised Metropolitan Major if their residential population combined with their non-resident working population exceeds 400,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population must exceed 50,000.

Other features may include:

- Total operating revenue exceeding $300M per annum
- The provision of significant regional services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities
- Significant industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors
- High population growth.

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Major will have a sphere of economic influence and provide regional services considered to be greater than those of other Metropolitan Councils.

Metropolitan Large

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Large will typically have a minimum residential population of 200,000.

Councils may also be categorised as Metropolitan Large if their residential population combined with their non-resident working population exceeds 200,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population must exceed 50,000.

Other features may include:

- Total operating revenue exceeding $200M per annum

Appendices

- The provision of significant regional services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities
- Significant industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors
- High population growth.

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Large will have a sphere of economic influence and provide regional services considered to be greater than those of other Metropolitan Councils.

Metropolitan Medium

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Medium will typically have a minimum residential population of 100,000.

Councils may also be categorised as Metropolitan Medium if their residential population combined with their non-resident working population exceeds 100,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population must exceed 50,000.

Other features may include:

- Total operating revenue exceeding $100M per annum
- Services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities
- Industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors
- High population growth.

The sphere of economic influence, the scale of Council operations and the extent of regional servicing would be below that of Metropolitan Large Councils.

Appendices

Metropolitan Small

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Small will typically have a residential population less than 100,000.

Other features which distinguish them from other Metropolitan Councils include:

- Total operating revenue less than $150M per annum.

While these Councils may include some of the facilities and characteristics of both Metropolitan Large and Metropolitan Medium Councils the overall sphere of economic influence, the scale of Council operations and the extent of regional servicing would be below that of Metropolitan Medium Councils.

Appendices

Major Regional City

Newcastle City Council and Wollongong City Councils are categorised as Major Regional City. These Councils:

- Are metropolitan in nature with major residential, commercial and industrial areas
- Typically host government departments, major tertiary education and health facilities and incorporate high density commercial and residential development
- Provide a full range of higher order services and activities along with arts, culture, recreation, sporting and entertainment facilities to service the wider community and broader region
- Have significant transport and freight infrastructure servicing international markets, the capital city and regional areas
- Have significant natural and man-made assets to support diverse economic activity, trade and future investment
- Typically contain ventures which have a broader State and national focus which impact upon the operations of the Council.

Major Strategic Area

Councils categorised as Major Strategic Area will have a minimum population of 200,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included.

Other features may include:

- Health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community
- A full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres

Appendices

- Total operating revenue exceeding $250M per annum
- Significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention
- A proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.

Regional Strategic Area

Councils categorised as Regional Strategic Area are differentiated from Councils in the Regional Centre category on the basis of their significant population and will typically have a residential population above 100,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included.

Other features may include:

- Health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community
- A full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres
- Total operating revenue exceeding $250M per annum
- Significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention
- A proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.

Appendices

Regional Centre

Councils categorised as Regional Centre will typically have a minimum residential population of 40,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included.

Other features may include:

- A large city or town providing a significant proportion of the region's housing and employment
- Health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community
- A full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres
- Total operating revenue exceeding $100M per annum
- The highest rates of population growth in regional NSW
- Significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention
- A proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.

Councils in the category of Regional Centre are often considered the geographic centre of the region providing services to their immediate and wider catchment communities.

Appendices

Regional Rural

Councils categorised as Regional Rural will typically have a minimum residential population of 20,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included.

Other features may include:

- A large urban population existing alongside a traditional farming sector, and are surrounded by smaller towns and villages
- Health services, tertiary education services and regional airports which service a regional community
- A broad range of industries including agricultural, educational, health, professional, government and retail services
- Large visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and events.

Councils in the category of Regional Rural provide a degree of regional servicing below that of a Regional Centre.

Rural Large

Councils categorised as Rural Large will have a residential population greater than 10,000, and a Councillor to resident ratio of at least 1 to 1200.

Other features may include:

- One or two significant townships combined with a considerable dispersed population spread over a large area and a long distance from a major regional centre
- A limited range of services, facilities and employment opportunities compared to Regional Rural Councils
- Local economies based on agricultural/resource industries.

Appendices

Rural

Councils categorised as Rural will typically have a residential population less than 10,000.

County Councils - Water

County Councils that provide water and/or sewerage functions with a joint approach in planning and installing large water reticulation and sewerage systems.

County Councils - Other

County Councils that administer, control and eradicate declared noxious weeds as a specified Local Control Authority under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 31**

Title: **Bi-Monthly Omnibus Planning Update**

Author: Simone Plummer - Director Planning

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Note the progress of Our Fairer Future Plan Stage 2 and in particular that the draft masterplan and supporting technical studies are on track to be reported to Council in September 2026**

2. **Endorse for forwarding the outcomes of early engagement for the Parramatta Road Corridor State-led Rezoning to the Department of Planning, Housing and Industry to inform preparation of the State-led plan**

3. **Note the launch of Council's online information briefing for the Parramatta Road Corridor State-led Rezoning, including the recorded webinar, background information and community question facility, and continue to provide responses to community enquiries during the exhibition period.**

4. **Note that Council has requested the inclusion of the City Architect on the jury for the Bays West international design competition and continue to advocate to the NSW Government for Council representation in the design process.**

Executive Summary

- Our Fairer Future Plan Stage 2 is progressing, with masterplanning and supporting technical studies underway and a report to Council scheduled for September 2026.
- Parramatta Road Corridor State-led Rezoning early engagement has been completed, with community feedback highlighting transport, built form, heritage, green space, affordability and infrastructure as key issues for the State-led planning process.
- Council has launched an online information briefing for the Parramatta Road Corridor project, including a recorded webinar, supporting information and a community question facility.

- For Bays West, Council has requested that the City Architect be included on the jury for the international design competition and is awaiting a response from the State Government.
- The King Street Special Entertainment Precinct is the subject of a separate report to this Council meeting.
- The draft Inner West DCP is on public exhibition, supported by drop-in sessions, a webinar and stakeholder engagement activities, including the new eDCP tool and Solar Panels Policy.
- The draft Inner West Affordable Housing Policy is also on public exhibition, with consultation including an Affordable Housing Providers Round Table and a Local Democracy Group webinar.

Purpose

To provide an update on the implementation of *Our Fairer Future Plan* and allied projects that support housing delivery, affordability and liveable communities across the Inner West.

Strategic Direction

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

2: Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport

Background

At the Council meeting held on 9 December 2025, Council resolved to receive regular omnibus updates on a range of significant strategic planning projects. In this regard, at the most recent Council meeting, held on 21 April 2026, Council further resolved the following C0426(1) Item 3:

1. *That Council endorse the delivery of the draft Our Fairer Future Plan Stage 2 to a September 2026 meeting.*

2. *That Council submit early engagement submissions to the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure to inform the creation of the Parramatta Road Corridor State led plan;*
   a) *That Council host an online information briefing for the new streets now within the Parramatta Road Corridor Plan.*
   b) *That Council will advocate for comprehensive community consultation, including face-to-face engagement, to be undertaken by DPHI when the draft plans become available for exhibition likely to be in September 2026.*

3. *That Council request the State Government to invite Council's City Architect to be part of the International Design Competition Jury for the Bays West Precinct.*

4. *That Council notes the draft King Street Special Entertainment Precinct planning proposal will be received in June 2026 for exhibition.*

This report provides an update on the Council resolutions relating to the matters identified in the minutes.

Discussion

Our Fairer Future Plan (Stage 2)

Phase 2 of Our Fairer Future Plan includes:

a) Croydon/Iron Cove precinct (deferred from OFFP Phase 1),
b) Specific sites in Ashfield, Dulwich Hill, Marrickville and Leichhardt identified as requiring further technical investigation in the OFFP Phase 1 masterplan and Council's resolution of 30 September 2025,
c) Remaining areas identified through the low and mid-rise housing reforms by Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
d) Lewisham Station
e) Any land owned by Homes NSW within the LGA for potential rezoning opportunities, with a focus on delivering increased social and affordable housing outcomes.

Hassell were selected as the urban design consultants to collaborate with Council on the preparation of Our Fairer Future Stage 2 masterplan, supported by a multidisciplinary team of technical specialists. This includes Worley (flood risk), Curio Projects (heritage), Urbis (transport) and Atlas Economics (economic feasibility), who are undertaking detailed technical analysis to support a robust, evidence-based planning process. The work of the technical consultants directly informs the refinement of uplift areas and planning outcomes.

Weekly project meetings are held with Hassell, complemented by regular half day workshops that bring together the full strategic planning team and the technical consultants. These workshops are a key component of the planning process, enabling refinement of analysis, assumptions, and emerging outcomes.

Workshop 1 focused on analysis across the project areas to identify locations suitable for increased housing density. Hassell presented the outcomes of a constraints and opportunities assessment, which considered heritage, flooding, aircraft noise, subdivision patterns (including small lots and strata-titled properties), and declared or approved State Significant Development (SSD) sites. Broader urban and environmental factors were also analysed, including topography, tree canopy cover, urban heat vulnerability, the blue-green grid, access to open space, proximity to public transport, walkability and active transport networks, access to shops and services, and height limitations associated with airport flight paths.

Through this process, a series of opportunity areas were identified for further investigation. Some areas require additional technical analysis – particularly where heritage or flood constraints apply – which is being progressed by the relevant specialist consultants.

The focus of Workshop 2 was to explore development scenarios to accommodate additional density within the identified opportunity areas. This included testing urban design outcomes alongside economic feasibility, led by Atlas Economics, and assessing theoretical development capacity.

The project continues to progress within the project milestones, with the final masterplan scheduled to be reported to the September 2026 Council meeting.

Parramatta Road Corridor State-led Rezoning (SLR) – Early Engagement

Council undertook early engagement from 25 February 2026 to 7 April 2026, with 151 emails, 572 Your Say Inner West Survey responses and 1 State Agency Submission.

Refer to *Attachment 1* for full details on engagement activities and summary of feedback was provided.

1. Engagement Activities

a) Your Say Page

The Your Say page went live on 25 February 2026 and provided the following:

- Project details and background
- Areas of investigation map
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Project stages
- How to have your say
- Survey Questions (Refer to *Attachment 1 and 2*)

b) Newsletter Advertisement

Early consultation was advertised on the February 2026 Newsletter edition.

Submissions provided feedback on the following topics:

- Public Transport
- Reducing car dominance and traffic
- Opposition to high rise and support for lower height limits
- Heritage and neighbourhood character
- Green space, trees and urban cooling

- Pedestrian safety, walkability and crossings
- Parking
- Cycling
- Infrastructure and services
- Revitalisation and local activation
- Public domain improvements
- Affordable housing
- Flooding
- Biodiversity

Overall, the SLR project remains on track against the indicative timeframes provided by DPHI, with Council participating in workshops and providing feedback to DPHI.

- 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).

It is recommended that Council forward the engagement outcomes report, survey responses and email submissions to the State Government to inform the State-led Rezoning Proposal and advocate for community-focused outcomes to be delivered through this state-led planning work.

Online Information Briefing

A landing page within the Inner West website is launching Monday 15th June to host relevant information and reports. This includes a recorded webinar providing background and frequently asked questions in order to provide a fuller understanding to the community of the State led rezoning project. The webinar also has within it the facility to lodge a question to which a response is being provided within 2 working days. This facility will remain available for 28 days until 13 July

Bays West Precinct

A letter was sent requesting Inner West Council's City Architect be invited to participate on the Jury for a planned Internation Design Competition. A response is yet to be received from the State Government.

King Street Special Entertainment Precinct

The King Street Special Entertainment Precinct is the subject of a separate report to this Council meeting.

Draft Inner West DCP

The draft Inner West DCP has been placed on public exhibition. This includes the Inner West Solar Panels Policy and a new eDCP tool for navigating the document and improving the stakeholder experience when using the DCP online.
The draft DCP engagement strategy includes;

- Speak with a planner drop in sessions
    - 15 June; Monday 6-8pm at Leichhardt Service Center
    - 17 June; Wednesday 5-7pm at Balmain Library
    - 18 June; Thursday 1-3pm at Ashfield Service Centre
    - 18 June; Thursday 6-8pm at Marrickville Pavilion
    - 20 June; Saturday 11am-1pm at Newtown Pride Centre
- Online DCP Webinar
    - 17 June Wednesday 12-1pm
- Forums for Industry Professionals
- Dedicated meeting with the Housing for All Local Democracy Group
- Combined Local Democracy Group Workshop

Local Industry Professionals Workshop

On 2 June 2026, Council hosted a workshop with more than 35 local planning, architecture, and building design professionals as part of the engagement process. Participants provided constructive feedback, expressing strong support for Council's proposed approach to private open space requirements, dwelling mix, and the new policy allowing solar panels within heritage conservation areas. Matters were also raised that will need refinement avoid unintended consequences. They largely concern single dwellings and how calculations are made to determine compliance.

Architectural Excellence Design Review Panel

On June 4 2026 the DCP was presented to the Architectural Excellence Design Review Panel. The panel commended Council on a stronger and clearer DCP. Similarly to the Industry Professionals workshop, they also pointed out areas of refinement that Council staff will work to address.

Review of Inner West Affordable Housing Policy

The draft Inner West Affordable Housing Policy (AHP) has been placed on public exhibition and an Affordable Housing Providers Round Table was held 12 May 2026. The draft AHP engagement strategy also includes an online Combined Local Democracy Group webinar.

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no legal and risk implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the implementation of the proposed recommendations outlined in the report, all projects are proceeding within their assigned budget.

Attachment 1 has 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. ⇨ Parramatta Road State-led Rezoning - Early Engagement Outcomes Report - **Published Separately on Council's Website**

Item: **C0626(1) Item 32**

Title: **Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Upgrade – Monthly Update**

Author: Peter Shields - Acting Director Property and Major Projects

Recommendation

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

1. **FDC has appointed all critical design consultants and the For Construction project design package is progressing;**

2. **The date for the temporary closure of the two pools has been set to be Monday 29 June 2026. Communications with the community and impacted staff relating to the temporary closure has been implemented; and**

3. **A last swim free event is arranged for Sunday 28 June 2026.**

Executive Summary

- A status report on the Leichhardt Aquatic Centre Project is provided to each ordinary meeting of Council until the project is delivered.
- The delivery of Stage 2 remains subject to normal delivery risks and ongoing programme review. FDC are progressing in keeping with planned timing and all required design consultants have been engaged.
- The last day the two pools will be available to the community will be Sunday 28 June 2026. Site works are set to commence in early July. Major demolition is set for late July.
- The project remains within the total approved budget for Stages 1 and 2, and Council staff will continue to provide regular updates on progress, service impacts and key milestones.

Purpose

This report provides Council with a monthly update on progress of the Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Upgrade and outlines key activities undertaken since the previous Council report.

Strategic Direction

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

Background

At the Council meeting held on 28 April 2026, Council endorsed the appointment of FDC Construction (NSW) Pty Ltd to deliver the Stage 2 Project, subject to finalisation of contractual terms, and resolved that a further update be provided to Council once the agreement had been executed.

At the Council meeting held on 19 May 2026, Council received a status update confirming that the construction contract for Stage 2 had been executed and that further monthly progress reports would continue to be provided.

This report provides an update on project progress since the 19 May 2026 Council meeting.

Discussion

Stage 2 Contract and Project Delivery

The execution of the Stage 2 design and construction contract has provided the ability for the project to progress with the next phase of works, including For Construction design, site establishment and construction coordination.

The project team is continuing to work closely with the contractor and project advisers to support a smooth transition into delivery. Current focus areas include design coordination, construction planning, approvals, operational interface management and stakeholder communications.

FDC have advised that that all key designers for the project have been engaged and this work is progressing to ensure the pool is closed and work proceeds as programmed.

Programme

The current programme provides for design finalisation and pre-construction activities during 2026, followed by staged construction works. The works are complex and the risk of timing impacts resulting from latent conditions remains high until underground works and the pool shell are well advanced. With such great uncertainty, it is not reasonable to announce to the community a completion date for the project until these risks no longer bear influence on the program.

The temporarily closure of the two pools is an early milestone for the project. This closure date is set for Monday 29 June 2026. A last swim free event is arranged for Sunday 28 June 2026. This event will serve as another opportunity to promote the project and forthcoming works. From the date of the temporary closure Council staff will be recovering and storing items ahead of the pool areas being formally handed over to FDC on Friday 3 July 2026.

As with all major construction projects, the programme will continue to be reviewed as works progress. Project Assurance also continues to independently monitor project progress. Council staff will continue to report on programme status through its regular monthly updates. The project is presently meeting the agreed program.

Operational Continuity and Service Planning

Construction of Stage 2 will require the closure of the 50-metre pool and dive pools. Council is continuing detailed operational planning to minimise impacts on users and maintain continuity of core aquatic services across its network.

Core programs, including learn-to-swim, squad training, water polo activities, aqua fitness and lap swimming, will continue on site where feasible or be relocated to other Inner West Council aquatic facilities. Memberships and multi-passes will remain transferable across Council's aquatic network.

Alternative facilities, including Ashfield Aquatic Centre, Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre, Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre and Dawn Fraser Baths, will be available throughout the construction period. Operational adjustments are being planned to help accommodate demand at these locations.

Council is also continuing engagement with staff, user groups and the community to support the transition arrangements and provide clear information about service impacts, alternative locations and project timing.

Community Engagement

A proactive communications approach has been enacted to support project delivery and keep the community informed throughout the construction period. This includes updates on timing, key milestones, temporary service changes and alternative aquatic options.

The communications program is intended to ensure residents, user groups, staff and other stakeholders receive timely and practical information as the project progresses.

Legal and Risk Implications

The Legal Services Team continues to monitor compliance with the contract and the delivery of the project.

Financial Implications

The Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Upgrade remains within the total approved budget for Stages 1 and 2 of $55.934 million (excluding GST).

Actual costs plus committed costs, including project contingency, for both Stages 1 and 2 are within the approved overall project funding envelope. Remaining budget provisions continue to support Stage 2 delivery, associated consultant costs and project contingency. Council will continue to monitor expenditure closely and report on financial status through its regular project updates.

Project Assurance specialists continue to independently monitor the project performance.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 33**

Title: **Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment - Project Status Update**

Author: Peter Shields - Acting Director Property and Major Projects

Recommendation

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

1. **The detailed design for the western grandstand, northern grandstand and lower bowl seating has progressed to a tender-ready stage, supported by specialist consultants;**

2. **Procurement to appoint a suitably qualified contractor to complete the design and deliver the works is progressing, with the three shortlisted tenderers invited to a select tender process released on 1 June 2026 and closing in late July; and**

3. **The State Significant Development Application process continues, with regular engagement between the consultant team and the DPHI, with planning approval expected later this year.**

Executive Summary

- Council adopted the masterplan Leichhardt Oval in late 2023 and is now proceeding to build a new northern grandstand, refurbish the western grandstand, enhance the lower seating bowl and other related infrastructure. A report is provided to every meeting of Council confirming progress since the previous report.
- The tender design has been completed and incorporated into the tender documentation. The select tender is proceeding from 1 June 2026 and closing in late July 2026.
- The program remains on track, with planning approval targeted for August 2026, construction to commence in October 2026 and completion anticipated in early 2028.
- This report recommends that Council receive and note the project update.

Purpose

A project status update report for the Leichhardt Oval Upgrade is provided to every meeting of Council.

Strategic Direction

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

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, Council resolved the following C0425(1) Item 12:

> *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.

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

This report provides an update on activities progressed for the project since the prior Council report.

Discussion

The Leichhardt Oval Refurbishment has progressed into procurement following Council's endorsement of the final design concepts in April 2025, which confirmed the project's high-level scope.

During May 2026, the project team finalised the detailed tender design package and issued it to the independent quantity surveyor to support cost planning.

Procurement to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced contractor to complete the design and deliver the works is continuing. Following Council's April resolution, three

contractors were shortlisted through the Expression of Interest process and invited to participate in the select tender.

The Request for Tender was issued on 1 June 2026 and closes in late July 2026. Tenders will then be evaluated, with a recommendation report to be presented to Council at a subsequent meeting.

The project is continuing through the State Significant Development process, with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) as the consent authority.

The State Significant Development Application was formally lodged in late December 2025 and placed on public exhibition by DPHI from 16 January to 12 February 2026. Community members and government agencies provided submissions on the proposed design through the DPHI website as part of the assessment process.

The Department has compiled the submissions and provided them to the project team. Responses have since been submitted to support the Department's assessment.

The overall program remains on track, with planning approval targeted for August 2026. This will enable contractor mobilisation ahead of construction commencing 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	Completed (May 2026)
Planning Approval	August 2026	In progress
Procurement	August 2026	In progress
Contract award and execution	September 2026	Future
Construction commences on-site	October 2026	Future
Construction complete	Early 2028	Future

Legal and Risk Implications

There are appropriate risk management measures in place for this project with independent project assurance, an external project management and the quantity surveyor involved in each stage of the project. Council's contract lawyer will be involved in the preparation of the tender documentation and the construction contract once a tender is awarded.

Financial Implications

Council officers, together with EY, Cox Architecture and key technical consultants including RLB, have undertaken a comprehensive cost-assurance exercise for the project. Through ongoing value-engineering activities, the team has continued to refine the project's design, scope and cost profile, ensuring that financial parameters accurately reflect detailed technical requirements.

Value-engineering and scope-refinement efforts have focused on minimising capital and future operational costs while maintaining functional performance. This has included assessing structural efficiencies, optimising building services, refining operational layouts, evaluating alternative systems and materials, and identifying potential staging opportunities. Collectively, these measures support prudent financial management by pursuing cost efficiencies without compromising asset quality or longevity.

As the project has continued to progress through the detailed design, clearer definition of structural, services, accessibility and operational requirements have strengthened the definition of project scope and reduced risks for tenderers in pricing specified works. Initial cost estimates for the Western Grandstand, lower seating bowl and Northern Grandstand were set at approximately $50 million.

Council had previously allocated $40 million for this project in the 2025/2026 Long Term Financial, noting any additional funding beyond the $40 million allocation would be expended in the 2027/28 financial year. Council's Director Corporate has confirmed that $10 million of developer contributions funding will be available for use, with any remaining funding to be sourced from the depreciation reserve as a significant portion of the work involves the replacement of an aging asset. As time progresses other funding sources may provide an alternative funding source for the allocated budget, including grant funding.

The Request For Tender will be arranged into separable portions. Separable portions will enable Council to consider the cost of specific items alongside the project scope and funding for the project. Once the tenders are evaluated, the Chief Financial Officer will confirm final funding arrangements and this information will be reported to Council when a recommendation to award the tender is being made.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 34**

Title: **Investment Report as at 30 April 2026**

Author: Sharon Bowman - Director Corporate

Recommendation

That Council receive the investment report for April 2026, noting that the $179.1m non-fossil fuel portfolio had an annualised marked to market return for the month of 4.60% pa (compared with the AusBond Bank Bill Index benchmark of 4.24% pa).

Executive Summary

- A monthly investment report is provided to Council detailing the investment portfolio in terms of movements, performance, and compliance
- During the month of April 2026:
    - Council made $1.0m of new investments
    - Council's market value investment portfolio size is $179.1m ($1.0m higher than last month)
    - Council's portfolio return for the month was 4.60% annualised on a marked-to-market basis, performing well against the 'AusBond Bank Bill Index' Benchmark of 4.24% pa
- Over the past 12 months, the portfolio has returned 4.54% pa on a marked-to-market basis (outperforming the benchmark by 0.76%)
- Council's entire investment portfolio remains invested in a non-fossil fuel portfolio, with 55% of the portfolio in Non-Fossil Fuel Lending authorised deposit-taking institutions (ADIs), 12% in Socially Responsible Investments, and 33% in Green investments
- The RBA increased the cash rate by 0.25% on 5 May, and the market is still factoring in an additional rate increase in 2026

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to meet the requirements of reg 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, which requires the Responsible Accounting Officer to prepare and present a formal investment report to Council on a monthly basis.

Strategic Direction

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

5: Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

Background

The objective of investing Council's funds is to seek the most favourable return available, whilst:

- Complying with the legislative requirements listed below
- 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
- Remaining within the credit rating policy guidelines imposed by the NSW TCorp loan covenant requirements
- Managing credit and interest rate risk within identified thresholds and parameters.

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 Acting Chief Financial Officer, Sajjad Ali, 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*, the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, and Council's Investment Policy.

Discussion

Changes in our portfolio

During the month of April, Council made one new investment of $1.0m, being

- $1.0m 5-year Floating Rate Note with Heritage & Peoples Choice Bank at a floating rate of 5.6531%pa

Investment advice provided to Council suggested that staggering a mix of fixed deposits between 9 months to 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 of surplus funds in senior FRNs.

Despite the possibility of further rate rises in 2026, locking in rates above 5.25% p.a. across 1-3 year tenors should still outperform benchmark.

The value of our Portfolio

The *attachments* to this report detail all investments held by Council and interest returns for the period ending 30 April 2026.

Council's market value investment portfolio size is $179.1m, $1.0m higher than the prior month market value of $178.1m.

Ethical (Non-fossil fuel) investment portfolio

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) also comply with the Non-Fossil Fuel standards.

These investments include:

- Green Term Deposits/Floating Rate Notes from banks which may also provide fossil fuel lending (such as CBA and Westpac)
- Bond issues from a range of institutions and government agencies
- Targeted funding to a wide range of green and socially responsible projects and initiatives.

Category	Invested ($)	Invested (%)
Green	$60,000,000	33.51%
Socially Responsible Investment	$21,166,090	11.82%
Non-Fossil Fuel Lending	$97,900,130	54.67%
Fossil Fuel Lending	$0	0.00%
Total	**$179,066,220**	**100.00%**

Figure 1 Investment type

Investment Returns

Council's portfolio during the month had an annualised return of 4.60% pa on a marked-to-market basis, performing well against the 'AusBond Bank Bill Index' Benchmark of 4.24% pa.

For the past 12 months, the portfolio has returned 4.54% pa on a marked-to-market basis against the Benchmark of 3.79%.

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 valuations of existing bonds fall and rise in the market. While the market value of a bond or note may drop below the face 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 market value will return to its face value at maturity.

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 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

Reserves	Apr-26
External Restrictions	129,708,874
Internal restrictions	128,253,377
Working Funds	7,114,497
	265,076,748

Reconciliation	Apr-26
Bank & Cash	86,010,528
Investments	179,066,220
TOTAL	**265,076,748**

Figure 2 External / Internal Restrictions & Working Funds

Other Investment Information

Financial markets rebounded strongly in April despite the stalemate between the US and Iran continuing. Markets remain strongly focussed on the impacts on inflation, with central bank expectations and global bond yields repricing sharply in recent months.

In the deposit market, over April, at the short-end of the curve (12 months and less), the average deposit rates offered by the domestic major banks were up to 10bp higher compared to the previous month. Despite Middle East tensions somewhat easing over the month during the 'ceasefire', markets are still pricing in another two rate hikes for 2026. At the longer-end of the curve (2-5 years), the average rates were up to 20bp higher compared to where they were the previous month.

Domestic issues

The following issues are being considered in Council's investment strategy:

- The RBA Monetary Policy Board decided to lift the official cash rate by 25bp to 4.35% on 5 May.
- The market is still factoring in a further interest rate rise in 2026.
- Monthly CPI was +4.6% year on year in March, up from +3.7% year on year in February, driven by a sharp increase in fuel prices.

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications

This report's recommendations will have no financial impact on Council.

Attachments

1. ⇩ Investment Report Commentary - April 2026

2. ⇩ Investment Report - April 2026

Arlo Advisory

Monthly Investment Review

INNER WEST

April 2026

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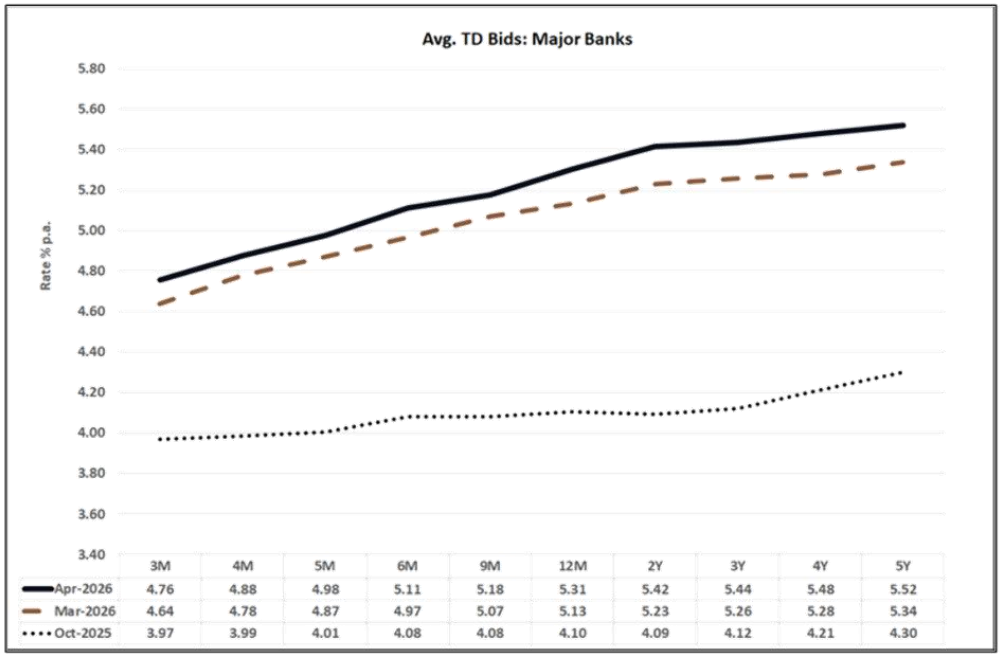
Arlo Advisory

Market Update Summary

Financial markets rebounded strongly in April despite the stalemate between the US and Iran continuing. US President Trump said the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz would remain in place until Iran relents in its nuclear program. Markets remain strongly focussed on the impacts on inflation, with central bank expectations and global bond yields repricing sharply in recent months.

In the deposit market, over April, at the short-end of the curve (12 months and less), the average deposit rates offered by the domestic major banks was up to 10bp higher compared to where they were the previous month (April). Despite Middle East tensions somewhat easing over the month during the 'ceasefire', markets are still pricing in another two rate hikes for 2026. At the longer-end of the curve (2-5 years), the average rates were up to 20bp higher compared to where they were the previous month.



	3M	4M	5M	6M	9M	12M	2Y	3Y	4Y	5Y
Apr-2026	4.76	4.88	4.98	5.11	5.18	5.31	5.42	5.44	5.48	5.52
Mar-2026	4.64	4.78	4.87	4.97	5.07	5.13	5.23	5.26	5.28	5.34
Oct-2025	3.97	3.99	4.01	4.08	4.08	4.10	4.09	4.12	4.21	4.30

Source: Imperium Markets

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Inner West Council's Portfolio & Compliance

Asset Allocation

A large proportion of the portfolio is directed to fixed and floating rate term deposits (~65%). The remainder of the portfolio is held in FRNs (~19%), which includes a residual exposure to the grandfathered mortgage backed securities, and fixed bonds (~16%).

Senior FRNs remain marginally 'expensive' on a historical basis but new issuances should continue to be considered on a case by case scenario for diversification purposes (duration and asset type). In the interim, staggering a mix of fixed deposits between 9 months to 3 years remains a more optimal strategy for the 'core' assets to maximise returns over a longer-term cycle, which can be supplemented by investing a small proportion of surplus funds in senior FRNs.

Should inflation be within the RBA's target band of 2-3% over the longer-term, fixed assets yielding above 5¼-5½% p.a. for 1-3 years or higher should outperform benchmark.

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Term to Maturity

The portfolio remains highly liquid with around 45% of assets maturing within 12 months.

There is significant capacity to invest in short-medium (1-3 years), which is where we see the current value to optimise returns in the longer-run once the immediate capital projects are delivered. Where there is (counterparty) capacity to invest in attractive medium-longer term investments, we recommend this be allocated to medium-term fixed assets or newly issued FRNs (refer to respective sections below).

The non-compliance in the +10 year category reflects the grandfathered Mortgage Backed Securities which have a final maturity date of +2050.

Compliant	Horizon	Invested ($)	Invested (%)	Min Limit (%)	Max Limit (%)	Available ($)
✓	0 - 12 months	$80,725,244	45.08%	30%	100%	$98,340,977
✓	1 – 3 years	$44,521,158	24.86%	0%	60%	$62,918,574
✓	3 – 5 years	$36,633,657	20.46%	0%	40%	$34,992,831
✓	5 – 10 years	$16,098,720	8.99%	0%	20%	$19,714,524
X	+10 years	$1,087,441	0.61%	0%	0%	-$1,087,441
		$179,066,220	**100.00%**			

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Counterparty

Capacity limits are often dependent on the overall movement in the portfolio's balances (inflows or capital expenditures). With the adoption of the new policy, there is now higher capacity to invest with the BBB rated entities.

Overall, the portfolio is lightly diversified across the investment grade spectrum, with no exposure to unrated ADIs. The exposure to "Unrated" assets reflects the grandfathered Mortgage Backed Securities.

Compliant	Issuer	Rating	Invested ($)^	Invested (%)	Max Limit (%)	Available ($)
✓	Commonwealth Govt	AAA	$2,379,805	1.33%	50%	$87,153,305
✓	National Housing FIC	AAA	$3,828,036	2.14%	50%	$85,705,074
✓	NSW TCorp	AA+	$4,765,665	2.66%	50%	$84,767,445
✓	South Australian Govt	AA+	$10,192,584	5.69%	50%	$79,340,526
✓	Westpac	AA-	$60,000,000	33.51%	50%	$29,533,110
✓	Bendigo and Adelaide	A-	$6,259,097	3.50%	35%	$56,414,080
✓	BOQ	A-	$48,972,382	27.35%	35%	$13,700,795
✓	Bank Australia	BBB+	$8,543,849	4.77%	20%	$27,269,395
✓	Beyond Bank	BBB+	$1,204,268	0.67%	20%	$34,608,976
✓	Bank of Us	BBB+	$1,100,000	0.61%	20%	$34,713,244
✓	BankVic	BBB+	$3,000,000	1.68%	20%	$32,813,244
✓	Great South. Bank	BBB+	$3,452,887	1.93%	20%	$32,360,357
✓	Heritage Bank	BBB+	$11,998,156	6.70%	20%	$23,815,088
✓	Newcastle Permanent	BBB+	$7,072,365	3.95%	20%	$28,740,879
✓	Teachers Mutual Bank	BBB+	$2,998,548	1.67%	20%	$32,814,696
✓	RACQ Bank	BBB+	$2,211,136	1.23%	20%	$33,602,108
X	EmeraldMBS2006-1A	Unrated	$271,191	0.15%	0%	-$271,191
X	EmeraldMBS2006-1B	Unrated	$816,250	0.46%	0%	-$816,250
			$179,066,220	**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.

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Ethical (Environmentally, Socially Responsible or Fossil Fuel Free) Investments

Council has made the active decision to divest any investment which has an exposure to fossil fuels. Council will continue to favour newly issued fossil fuel-free investment products and/or ethical investments, providing it does not significantly compromise the risk and return profile of the overall investment portfolio.

The overall summary of Council's investments can be categorised as follows:

Category	Invested ($)	Invested (%)
Green	$60,000,000	33.51%
Socially Responsible Investment	$21,166,090	11.82%
Non-Fossil Fuel Lending	$97,900,130	54.67%
Fossil Fuel Lending	$0	0.00%
Total	**$179,066,220**	**100.00%**

Credit Quality

The portfolio remains diversified from a credit ratings perspective. The portfolio is mainly directed amongst the investment grade spectrum. All aggregate ratings categories are within the adopted Policy limits. The exposures to "Unrated" investments comprise of the grandfathered MBS investments.

Compliant	Credit Rating	Invested ($)	Invested (%)	Max Limit (%)	Available ($)
✓	AAA Category	$6,207,841	3.47%	100%	$172,858,379
✓	AA Category	$74,958,249	41.86%	100%	$104,107,971
✓	A Category	$55,231,479	30.84%	70%	$70,114,875
✓	BBB Category	$41,581,210	23.22%	30%	$12,138,656
✓	Unrated Category	$1,087,441	0.61%	10%	$16,819,181
		$179,066,220	**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.

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Performance

Council's performance (excluding cash holdings) for the month ending April 2026 is summarised as follows:

Performance (Actual)	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year
Official Cash Rate	0.33%	0.97%	1.87%	3.11%	3.77%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	0.34%	0.95%	1.87%	3.11%	3.79%
Council's T/D Portfolio	0.36%	1.05%	2.12%	3.63%	4.39%
Council's FRT/D Portfolio	0.39%	1.14%	2.32%	3.93%	4.72%
Council's FRN Portfolio	0.43%	1.23%	2.57%	4.48%	5.28%
Council's Bond Portfolio	0.32%	0.94%	1.89%	3.18%	3.81%
Council's Total Portfolio^	**0.37%**	**1.07%**	**2.20%**	**3.79%**	**4.54%**
Outperformance	**0.03%**	**0.13%**	**0.33%**	**0.68%**	**0.76%**

^Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings.

Performance (Annualised)	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year
Official Cash Rate	4.10%	4.02%	3.81%	3.75%	3.77%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	4.24%	3.94%	3.80%	3.74%	3.79%
Council TDs	4.52%	4.39%	4.33%	4.37%	4.39%
Council's FRT/D Portfolio	4.88%	4.77%	4.74%	4.73%	4.72%
Council FRNs	5.34%	5.15%	5.26%	5.40%	5.28%
Council's Bond Portfolio	3.99%	3.90%	3.85%	3.83%	3.81%
Council's Portfolio^	**4.60%**	**4.47%**	**4.48%**	**4.56%**	**4.54%**
Outperformance	**0.36%**	**0.53%**	**0.68%**	**0.82%**	**0.76%**

^Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings.

For the month of April, the portfolio (excluding cash) provided a solid return of +0.37% (actual) or +4.60% p.a. (annualised), outperforming the benchmark AusBond Bank Bill Index return of +0.34% (actual) or +4.24% p.a. (annualised).

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Recommendations for Council

Term Deposits

Going forward, over the long-run, Council's interest income can be increased by undertaking a slightly longer duration position (spread across 1-3 years), with rates on offer along this part of the curve likely to be offered up to ¼-½% p.a. higher compared to shorter tenors in a normal market environment. Despite the possibility of a few rate hikes in 2026, locking in rates above 5¼% p.a. across 1-3 year tenors (small proportion of surplus funds) should still outperform benchmark in the long-run, on assumption that the RBA can get inflation back within their 2-3% target band.

As at the end of April, Council's **deposit** portfolio was yielding 4.38% p.a. (unchanged from the previous month) with a weighted average duration of around 567 days (~1.6 years). ***We recommend Council maintains this average duration in the long-run to optimise returns.***

Please refer to the section below for further details on the Term Deposit market.

Securities

Primary (new) **FRNs** (with maturities between 3-5 years) are expensive on a historical basis but remains an option (particularly for those investors with portfolios skewed towards fixed assets) and should be considered on a case by case scenario. **Fixed Bonds** may also provide some attractive opportunities from new (primary) issuances and potentially secondary market offers (or 'tap').

Please refer to the sections below for further details on each market.

Council FRNs – Recommendations for Sale/Switches

We now recommend Council sells/switches out of the following FRN(s):

Issuer	Rating	Maturity Date	Trade Reference	ISIN	Face Value	Trading Margin	Capital Price ($)	Unrealised Gain ($)
Bend. Adel	A-	14/05/2027	176855902	AU3FN0087797	$2,000,000	+51.7bp	$100.428	$8,558
Newcastle	BBB+	10/02/2027	542315	AU3FN0066221	$4,750,000	+69.5bp	$100.179	$8,512
Bank Aust	BBB+	30/10/2026	544590	AU3FN0082509	$1,650,000	+69.7bp	$100.339	$5,595

The above sale would result in a capital gain of **~$22.7k** and could easily be switched into higher yielding complying assets. We will inform Council when the opportunity arises.

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Council's Fixed Bonds

A handful of Councils' fixed bonds are now at a discount to par given the rise in bond yields over the past few years. Unless there is an emergency to access funds at short notice, Council is likely to hold these assets to maturity and will receive its original face value back. If there is an opportunity to sell prior to maturity (if official rates fall to an attractive level), we will inform Council accordingly.

Grandfathered Investments

Council holds the following 'grandfathered' Mortgage Backed Securities (MBS). The valuation as at the end of April 2026 is shown as follows:

Asset	Maturity Date	ISIN	Face Value	Capital Value	Current Price	Monthly Actual Return (%)
2006-1A*	21/08/2051	AU300EMER013	$289,208	$271,191	$93.770	0.08%
2006-1B	21/08/2056	AU300EMER021	$1,000,000	$816,250	$81.625	0.23%

** Emerald MBS 2006-1A paid out a distribution of $15,951.10 in Feb 2026 which resulted in the decline in the face value to $289,208.25*

The MBS2006-1A security should pay its capital well before the final maturity date.

We note the liquidity of assets such as the above in the secondary market is considered very poor with large bid-ask spreads (we would indicatively suggest a bid-ask spread of around $5-$10 either side of the current 'fair' value). In most circumstances, bids are well below the indicated "mid" or "fair" values. As such, Council is expected to hold this asset for the long-term, potentially until it makes its final payment.

Third Party Valuer ("Arms-Length")

Imperium Markets uses an external third party provider (IBS Capital[1]) who has started valuing (effective 31st March 2022) Council's holding of this asset on a daily basis (end-of-business day valuations).

IBS Capital prices all investor's securities (FRNs, bonds, mortgage backed securities) on a daily basis. We believe this is important for auditing purposes, especially when investors revaluate their assets at the end of every financial year. The revaluations of all securities on the Imperium Markets platform is NOT biased i.e. they are not provided by the bank or financial intermediary that sold the security to the client.

IBS Capital's methodology is based on extensive experience in financial markets, and it has been developed by an AFMA accredited principal. In designing the valuation methodology the following AASB directives were used - market approach valuation technique as per paragraphs 61-66 of the AASB13 Standard as well as Appendix B, Application guidance, Valuation techniques paragraph of the same document.

Where applicable, end-of-day closing prices (trading margins and yields) are crossed checked and compared with other external data providers including YieldBroker, Refinitiv and/or Bloomberg's. To make sure that adverse liquidity conditions do not influence closing prices, changes to each day's closing prices from the previous trading date are analysed. If the changes are considerably different to changes in

[1] http://ibscapital.com.au/

benchmark rates, the use of interpolation, based on securities with similar characteristics such as credit rating, maturity and capital structure (level of seniority), are applied.

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Term Deposit Market Review

Current Term Deposits Rates

As at the end of April, we see value in the following:

ADI	LT Credit Rating	Term	Rate % p.a.
Westpac	AA-	5 years	5.60%
ING	A	5 years	5.50%
BoQ	A-	5 years	5.24%
Westpac	AA-	4 years	5.50%
NAB	AA-	4 years	5.50%
ANZ	AA-	4 years	5.48%
ING	A	4 years	5.46%
NAB	AA-	3 years	5.50%
NAB	AA-	3 years	5.50%
ING	A	3 years	5.41%
BankVic	BBB+	3 years	5.40%
Police CU	Unrated	2 years	5.75%
Westpac	AA-	2 years	5.55%
BankVic	BBB+	2 years	5.45%
ING	A	2 years	5.42%

The above deposits are suitable for investors looking to maintain diversification and lock-in a slight premium compared to purely investing short-term.

For terms under 12 months, we believe the strongest value is currently being offered by the following ADIs (*we stress that rates are indicative, dependent on daily funding requirements and different for industry segments*):

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ADI	LT Credit Rating	Term	Rate % p.a.
Police CU	Unrated	12 months	5.55%
ICBC, Sydney	A	12 months	5.50%
Westpac	AA-	12 months	5.48%
NAB	AA-	12 months	5.46%
CBA	AA-	12 months	5.39%
Police CU	Unrated	9 months	5.65%
NAB	AA-	9 months	5.37%
SBI, Sydney	BBB	9 months	5.35%
NAB	AA-	9 months	5.29%
Suncorp	AA-	9 months	5.26%
Regional Australia	BBB+	6 months	5.35%
NAB	AA-	6 months	5.28%
Newcastle Grt.	BBB+	6 months	5.25%
Bank of China, Sydney	A	6 months	5.22%
Bendigo-Adelaide	A-	6 months	5.21%
Aus. Military	BBB+	3 months	5.01%
NAB	AA-	3 months	5.00%
Heritage and P. C.	BBB+	3 months	5.00%

For those investors that do not require high levels of liquidity and can stagger their investments longer term, they will be rewarded over a longer-term cycle if they roll for an average min. term of 12 months, with a spread of investments out to 5 years (this is where we see current value). In a normal market environment (upward sloping yield curve), investors could earn over a cycle, on average, up to ¼-½% p.a. higher compared to those investors that entirely invest in short-dated deposits.

Despite the possibility of additional rate hikes in 2026, investors should consider allocating some longer-term surplus funds for diversification purposes by investing across 1-5 year fixed deposits and locking in rates above 5¼-5½% p.a. Should inflation get under control (be within the RBA's 2-3% target band), yields above these levels should still outperform benchmark.

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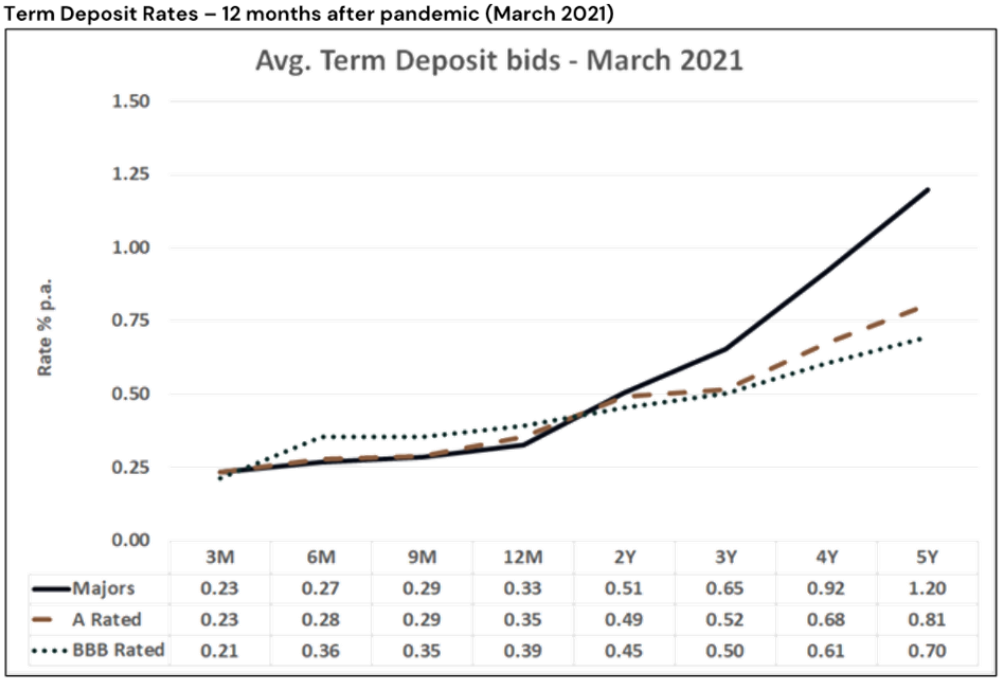
Term Deposits Analysis

Pre-pandemic (March 2020), a 'normal' marketplace meant the lower rated ADIs (i.e. BBB category) were offering higher rates on term deposits compared to the higher rated ADIs (i.e. A or AA rated). But due to the cheap funding available provided by the RBA via their Term Funding Facility (TFF) during mid-2020, allowing the ADIs to borrow as low as 0.10% p.a. fixed for 3 years, those lower rated ADIs (BBB rated) did not require deposit funding from the wholesale deposit. Given the higher rated banks had more capacity to lend (as they have a greater pool of mortgage borrowers), they subsequently were offering higher deposit rates. In fact, some of the lower rated banks were not even offering deposit rates at all. As a result, most investors placed a higher proportion of their deposit investments with the higher rated (A or AA) ADIs over the past three years.

Term Deposit Rates – 12 months after pandemic (March 2021)



	3M	6M	9M	12M	2Y	3Y	4Y	5Y
Majors	0.23	0.27	0.29	0.33	0.51	0.65	0.92	1.20
A Rated	0.23	0.28	0.29	0.35	0.49	0.52	0.68	0.81
BBB Rated	0.21	0.36	0.35	0.39	0.45	0.50	0.61	0.70

Source: Imperium Markets

The abnormal marketplace experienced during the pandemic is starting to reverse as the competition for deposits slowly increases, partially driven by the RBA's term funding facility coming to an end. In recent months, we have started to periodically see some of the lower rated ADIs ("A" and "BBB" rated) offering slightly higher rates compared to the domestic major banks ("AA" rated) on different parts of the curve (i.e. pre-pandemic environment). Some of this has been attributed to lags in adjusting their deposit rates as some banks (mainly the lower rated ADIs) simply set their rates for the week.

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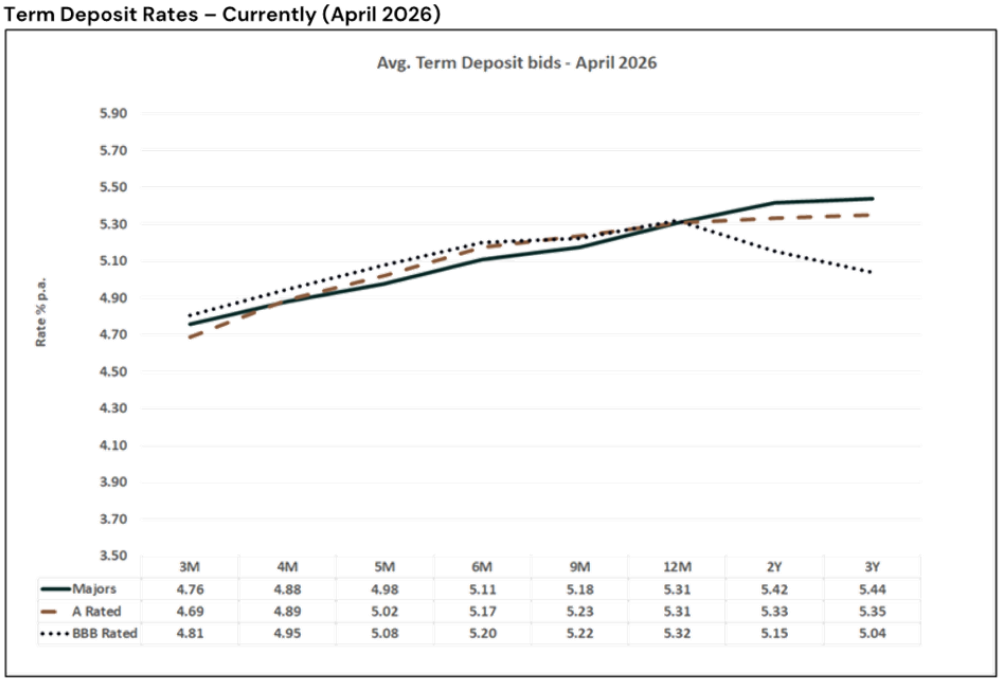
Going forward, investors should have a larger opportunity to invest a higher proportion of its funds with the lower rated institutions (up to Policy limits), from which the majority are not lending to the Fossil Fuel industry or considered 'ethical'. We are slowly seeing this trend emerge, although the major banks always seem to react more quickly than the rest of the market during periods of volatility:

Term Deposit Rates – Currently (April 2026)



	3M	4M	5M	6M	9M	12M	2Y	3Y
Majors	4.76	4.88	4.98	5.11	5.18	5.31	5.42	5.44
A Rated	4.69	4.89	5.02	5.17	5.23	5.31	5.33	5.35
BBB Rated	4.81	4.95	5.08	5.20	5.22	5.32	5.15	5.04

Source: Imperium Markets

Financial Stability of the Banking (ADI) Sector

The RBA's Financial Stability reaffirms the strong balance sheet across the ADI sector. They noted that the risk of widespread financial stress remains limited due to the generally strong financial positions of most (individual) borrowers. Very few mortgage borrowers are in negative equity, limiting the impact on lenders (ADIs) in the event of default and supporting their ability to continue providing credit to the economy. Most businesses that have entered insolvency are small and have little debt, limiting the broader impact on the labour market and thus household incomes, and on the capital position of lenders (ADIs).

Australian banks (collectively the APRA regulated ADIs) have maintained prudent lending standards and are well positioned to continue supplying credit to the economy. A deterioration in economic conditions or temporary disruption to funding markets is unlikely to halt lending activity. Banks have anticipated an

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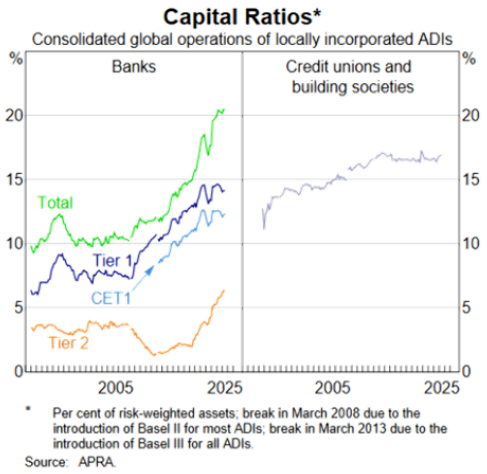
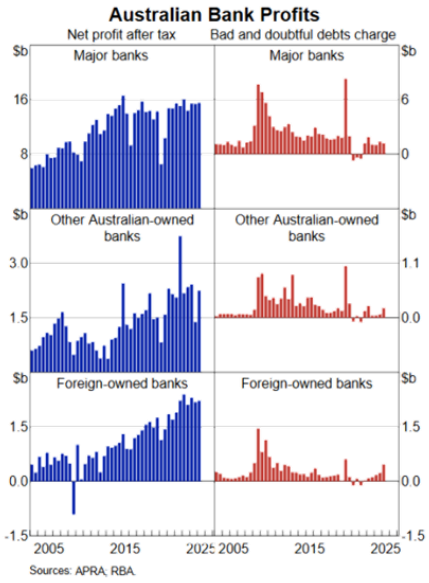
increase in loan arrears and have capital and liquidity buffers well above regulatory requirements (*see Capita Ratios chart below*). APRA's mandate is to "*protect depositors*" and provide "*financial stability*".

Over the past two decades, both domestic and international banks continue to operate and demonstrate high levels of profitability (*see Australian Bank Profits chart below*), which also covers two stress-test environments being the GFC (September 2008) and the COVID pandemic period (March 2020):





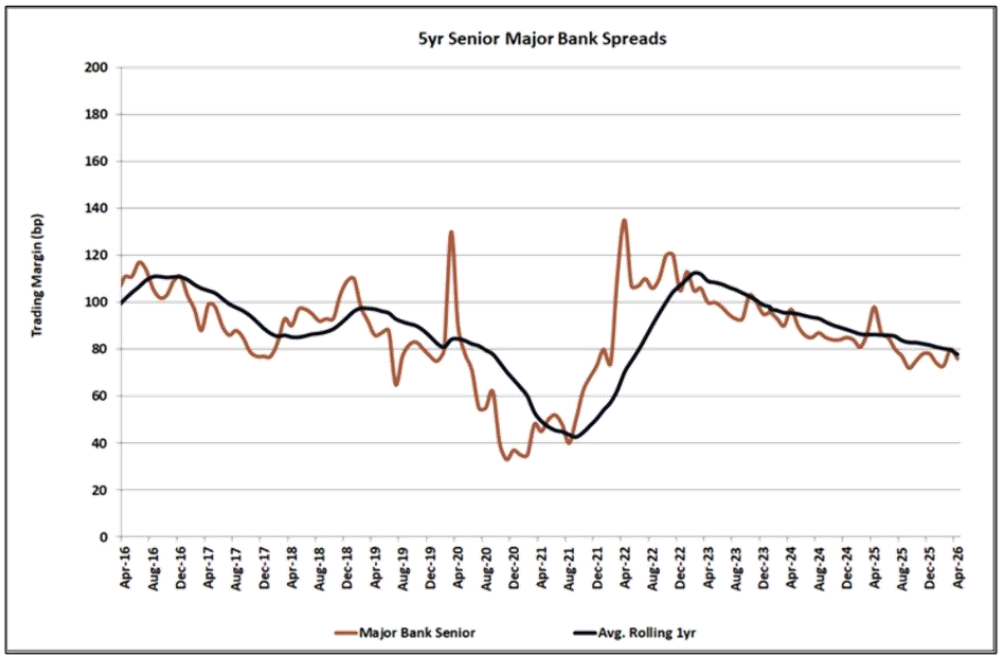
The Council of Financial Regulators (CFR) - being the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA), the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), the Australian Treasury and the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), have the ultimate aim of promoting the stability of the financial system, whilst supporting effective and efficient regulation. In their latest quarterly review, the CFR agreed on the following priorities heading into 2026:

- Improving preparedness for geopolitical risks;
- Operational vulnerabilities, including cyber, third parties and AI;
- Amplification of systemic liquidity risk: further strengthening CFR and industry readiness to respond to systemic liquidity stress events; and
- High household leverage: continuing to closely monitor household leverage and bank lending standards.

The Council noted that in each of these priority areas, CFR agencies are taking forward a number of initiatives to strengthen the resilience of the financial system.

Senior FRNs Market Review

Over April, amongst the senior major bank FRNs, physical credit securities tightened up to 4bp at the long-end of the curve. Long-term major bank senior securities remain 'expensive' on a historical basis, noting the 5yr margin has averaged around the +92bp level over a cycle (currently around +76bp).



Source: IBS Capital

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During the month, the regional and international banks were active in the primary market. The main new issuances are summarised as follows:

Issuer	Rating	Term	Margin
MyState	BBB	3yrs	+115bp
Macquarie Bank	A+	3yrs	+75bp
UBS AG	A+	3yrs	+73bp
UBS AG	A+	5yrs	+86bp
Bendigo-Adelaide	A-	3yrs	+81bp
Community First	BBB	3yrs	+130bp
Maitland Mutual	BBB	3yrs	+140bp
Heritage	BBB+	5yrs	+128bp
MUFG, Sydney	A	3¼yrs	+67bp
Beyond Bank	BBB+	3yrs	+115bp

Amongst the "A" and "BBB" rated sector, the securities tightened up to 3bp at the 3-5 year part of the curve. Overall, credit securities are marginally expensive on a historical basis but remain a good option for diversification purposes. FRNs will continue to play a role in investors' portfolios mainly based on their liquidity and the ability to roll down the curve and gross up returns over ensuing years (in a relatively stable credit environment), whilst also providing some diversification to those investors skewed towards fixed assets (and especially with the RBA on a tightening bias).

Senior FRNs (ADIs)	30/04/2026	31/03/2026
"AA" rated – 5yrs	+76bp	+80bp
"AA" rated – 3yrs	+60bp	+63bp
"A" rated – 5yrs	+85bp	+88bp
"A" rated – 3yrs	+70bp	+70bp
"BBB" rated – 3yrs	+115bp	+115bp

Source: IBS Capital

We now generally recommend switches ('benchmark' issues only) into new primary issues, out of the following senior FRNs that are maturing:

- On or before early-2029 for the "AA" rated ADIs (domestic major banks);
- On or before mid-2027 for the "A" rated ADIs; and
- Within 6-9 months for the "BBB" rated ADIs (consider case by case).

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Investors holding onto the above senior FRNs ('benchmark' issues only) in their last few years are now generally holding sub optimal investments and are not maximising returns by foregoing realised capital gains. In the current challenging economic environment, any boost in overall returns should be locked in when it is advantageous to do so, particularly as switch opportunities become available.

Senior Fixed Bonds – ADIs (Secondary Market)

Investors may look at some opportunities in the secondary market. We currently see value in the following fixed bond lines (please note supply in the secondary market may be limited on any day):

ISIN	Issuer	Rating	Capital Structure	Maturity Date	~Remain. Term (yrs)	Fixed Coupon	Indicative Yield
AU3CB0314763	Bendigo	A-	Senior	24/10/2028	2.49	4.79%	5.45%
AU3CB0308955	BoQ	A-	Senior	30/04/2029	3.01	5.30%	5.54%
AU3CB0319879	Nova Sco.	A-	Senior	21/03/2030	3.90	5.23%	5.79%
AU3CB0331056	ING Bank	A	Senior	13/02/2031	4.80	5.21%	5.49%
AU3CB0326890	CBA	AA-	Senior	09/10/2035	9.45	5.18%	5.82%

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Economic Commentary

International Market

Financial markets rebounded strongly in April despite the stalemate between the US and Iran continuing. US President Trump said the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz would remain in place until Iran relents in its nuclear program. Markets remain strongly focussed on the impacts on inflation, with central bank expectations and global bond yields repricing sharply in recent months.

Across equity markets, the US indices rallied strongly, reaching their all-time highs again, with the S&P 500 Index gaining +10.42%, whilst the tech heavy NASDAQ surged +15.29%. Europe's main indices also experienced solid returns, with gains across Germany's DAX (+7.11%), France's CAC (+3.81%) and UK's FTSE (+1.99%).

The US FOMC voted 8-4 to hold rates. There were three FOMC members voting against the easing guidance. US unemployment rate unexpectedly fell to 4.3% (4.26% unrounded) in March, its lowest level since June 2025.

US inflation jumped to +3.3% y/y in March (its fastest annual pace in nearly two years) driven by surging energy costs and tariff impacts. Monthly CPI rose +0.9%, with core inflation (excluding food/energy) increasing +0.2% over the month, or +2.6% y/y.

The Bank of Canada held rates at the 2.25% cycle low, as expected. Canada's March CPI rose to +2.4% y/y in March from +1.8% y/y, but undershot the +2.6% y/y consensus, while the average of the two core measures eased to +2.25% y/y.

The Bank of Japan kept its policy rate unchanged, as widely expected, though a 6-3 vote was somewhat surprising, with three members voting for a 25bp hike.

China's GDP grew by +5.0% y/y in Q1 2026, exceeding market expectations of +4.8%, and higher from the +4.5% growth recorded for the previous quarter.

New Zealand's Q1 CPI came in stronger than expected, with annual inflation remaining at +3.1% rather than slipping.

The MSCI World ex-Aus Index rose +9.68% for the month of April:

Index	1m	3m	1yr	3yr	5yr	10yr
S&P 500 Index	+10.42%	+3.89%	+29.45%	+20.02%	+11.51%	+13.32%
MSCI World ex-AUS	+9.68%	+3.49%	+29.81%	+20.37%	+11.89%	+13.31%
S&P ASX 200 Accum. Index	+2.18%	-1.22%	+10.12%	+9.66%	+8.36%	+9.31%

Source: S&P, MSCI

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Domestic Market

Monthly CPI was +4.6% y/y in March (consensus +4.8% y/y), up from +3.7% y/y in February, driven by a sharp increase in fuel prices. The monthly trimmed mean was +3.3% y/y in line with consensus. On a quarterly basis, the Q1 trimmed mean was +0.8% q/q and +3.5% y/y, up from +3.4% y/y in Q4.

Australia's unemployment rate held steady at 4.3% over the past two months. Total jobs growth during March was slightly below forecasts, with +17.9k positions added compared to an expected +20k. The participation rate dipped marginally to 66.8% from 66.9%, indicating a slight reduction in labour supply that contributed to the steady unemployment rate in March.

Dwelling prices across the combined capitals have risen +9.3% over the past year. In March, prices rose +0.6% m/m. Mid-size capitals continued to outperform, while Sydney and Melbourne have slowed, with prices declining in the month.

The Australian dollar rose around +3.92%, finishing the month at US71.13 cents (from US68.45 cents the previous month).

Credit Market

The global credit indices tightened significantly during the month as risk assets rebounded strongly. Overall, credit assets remain resilient despite the volatility due to the ongoing geopolitical tensions, with spreads well below longer-term historical averages:

Index	April 2026	March 2026
CDX North American 5yr CDS	56bp	67bp
iTraxx Europe 5yr CDS	60bp	73bp
iTraxx Australia 5yr CDS	75bp	92bp

Source: Markit

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Fixed Interest Review

Benchmark Index Returns

Index	April 2026	March 2026
Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index (0+YR)	+0.34%	+0.32%
Bloomberg AusBond Composite Bond Index (0+YR)	+0.05%	-1.42%
Bloomberg AusBond Credit FRN Index (0+YR)	+0.47%	+0.25%
Bloomberg AusBond Credit Index (0+YR)	+0.20%	-1.15%
Bloomberg AusBond Treasury Index (0+YR)	-0.08%	-1.36%
Bloomberg AusBond Inflation Gov't Index (0+YR)	+0.75%	-0.89%

Source: Bloomberg

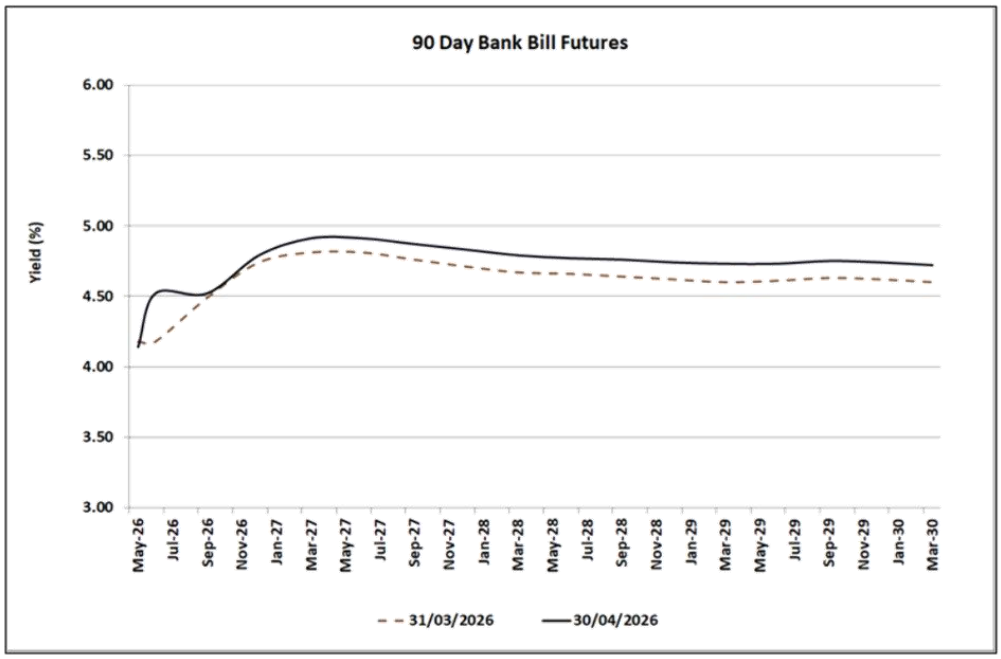
Other Key Rates

Index	April 2026	March 2026
RBA Official Cash Rate	4.10%	4.10%
90 Day (3 month) BBSW Rate	4.37%	4.32%
3yr Australian Government Bonds	4.76%	4.66%
10yr Australian Government Bonds	5.06%	4.97%
US Fed Funds Rate	3.50%-3.75%	3.50%-3.75%
2yr US Treasury Bonds	3.88%	3.79%
10yr US Treasury Bonds	4.40%	4.30%

Source: RBA, ASX, US Department of Treasury

90 Day Bill Futures

Domestic bill futures marginally rose across the board this month, consistent with the overall movement in the bond market. Markets have largely already priced in the expected two rates hikes prior to April.



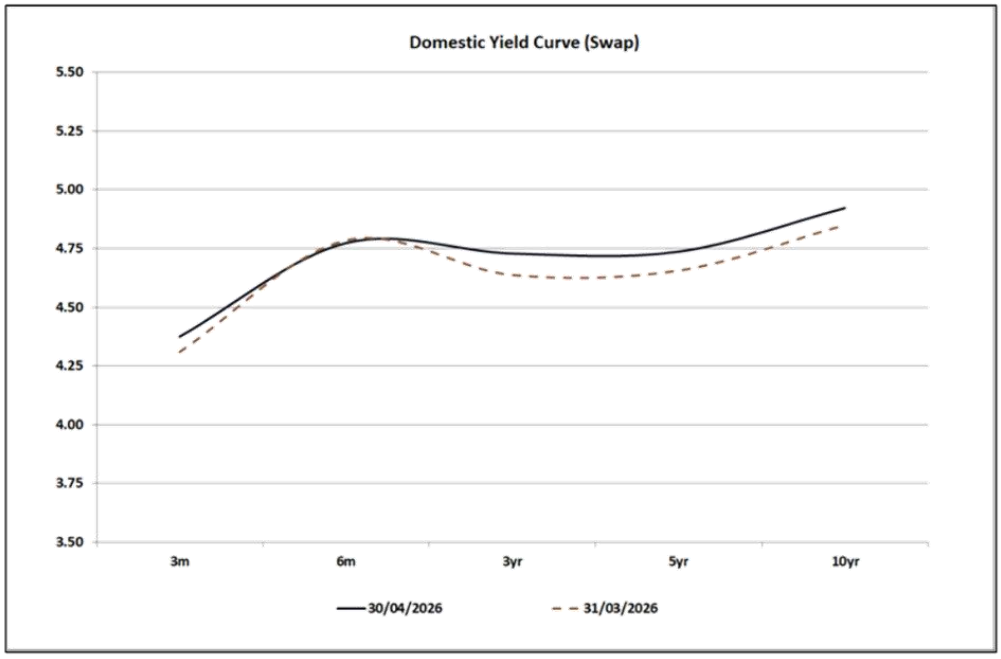
Source: ASX

Fixed Interest Outlook

After keeping US interest rates unchanged in April, US Fed Chair Powell said it was "*'easy to see why*" future decisions between holding and hiking rates would be considered more evenly, especially with core inflation at +3.2% and the full impacts of events in the Middle East are yet to be seen.

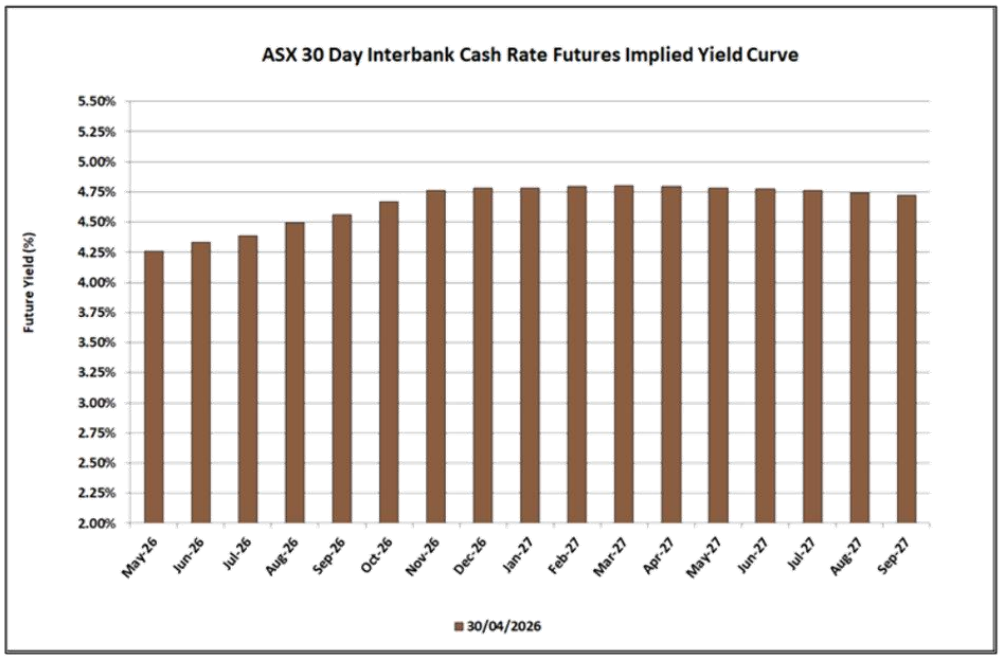
Domestically, the RBA will remain alert to second round effects as higher energy prices flow through to be more evident in Q2 and Q3. The starting point is not favourable with Q1 core inflation tracking at around +3.5% y/y prior to the shock and the RBA will remain concerned about broad and rapid second round effect pass-through.

Yields rose up to 10bp at the longer-end of the curve this month:



Source: ASX, RBA

Financial markets are currently fully pricing in two more rate hikes in 2026 (by July and October, with the next cut potentially delivered in early 4-5 May). There is also the potential for a further rate hike in early 2027 if inflation continues to spike or remain elevated:



Source: ASX

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Investment Report

01/04/2026 to 30/04/2026

Portfolio Valuation as at 30/04/2026

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	At Maturity	03/12/2025	03/06/2026	4.3900	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	35,841.64	7,216.44
Heritage and Peoples Choice Limited	BBB+	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	At Maturity	23/03/2026	23/06/2026	5.0500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	26,979.45	20,753.42
Westpac	AA-	FRTD	GREEN	Quarterly	30/06/2021	30/06/2026	4.7152	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	12,401.62	11,626.52
Bank of Us	BBB+	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	At Maturity	22/01/2026	22/07/2026	4.4700	1,100,000.00	1,100,000.00	13,336.52	4,041.37
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	At Maturity	22/01/2026	22/07/2026	4.4700	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	48,496.44	14,695.89
Westpac	AA-	TD	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	At Maturity	22/01/2026	22/07/2026	4.4700	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	48,496.44	14,695.89
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	At Maturity	22/01/2026	22/07/2026	4.5100	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	48,930.41	14,827.40
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	At Maturity	17/09/2025	17/09/2026	4.1100	3,500,000.00	3,500,000.00	89,068.77	11,823.29
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	At Maturity	18/09/2025	18/09/2026	4.0900	6,500,000.00	6,500,000.00	163,880.14	21,850.68
Heritage and Peoples Choice Limited	BBB+	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	At Maturity	23/03/2026	23/09/2026	5.2000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	27,780.82	21,369.86
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	At Maturity	26/09/2025	28/09/2026	4.2100	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	75,087.95	10,380.82
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	At Maturity	30/10/2025	30/10/2026	4.3400	6,000,000.00	6,000,000.00	130,556.71	21,402.74
Bank Australia	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	30/10/2023	30/10/2026	5.8731	1,655,595.15	1,650,000.00	265.50	265.50
Newcastle Greater Mutual Group Ltd	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	10/02/2022	10/02/2027	4.9428	4,758,512.00	4,750,000.00	51,459.29	19,297.23
RACQ Bank	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL	Quarterly	05/03/2024	05/03/2027	5.6448	2,211,136.40	2,200,000.00	19,393.37	10,207.04

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
			LENDING								
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	Annual	17/03/2025	17/03/2027	4.3800	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	10,800.00	7,200.00
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	Quarterly	21/03/2024	22/03/2027	4.7000	18,000,000.00	18,000,000.00	90,394.52	69,534.25
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Annual	30/04/2025	30/04/2027	3.9900	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	546.58	546.58
Bendigo and Adelaide	A-	BOND	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Semi-Annual	14/05/2024	14/05/2027	5.1000	1,596,161.60	1,600,000.00	37,558.36	6,706.85
Bendigo and Adelaide	A-	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	14/05/2024	14/05/2027	4.9572	2,008,558.00	2,000,000.00	20,100.43	8,148.82
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	26/09/2025	27/09/2027	4.0900	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	7,843.84	6,723.29
Great Southern Bank	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	01/11/2024	01/11/2027	4.8785	1,454,089.00	1,450,000.00	17,054.70	5,814.10
Bank Australia	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	27/09/2024	21/02/2028	5.6935	1,519,234.50	1,500,000.00	15,676.62	7,019.38
Bank Australia	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	21/02/2024	21/02/2028	5.6935	1,367,311.05	1,350,000.00	14,108.96	6,317.45
Beyond Bank	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	21/03/2025	21/03/2028	5.4630	1,204,268.40	1,200,000.00	7,004.61	5,388.16
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Annual	30/04/2025	28/04/2028	4.0400	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	553.42	553.42
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	Annual	30/04/2025	28/04/2028	3.9600	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	216.99	216.99
BankVic	BBB+	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Annual	18/09/2025	18/09/2028	4.0800	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	75,452.05	10,060.27
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	26/09/2025	26/09/2028	4.1100	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	8,107.40	6,756.16
Teachers Mutual Bank	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	03/10/2025	03/10/2028	5.2673	2,998,548.00	3,000,000.00	10,390.29	10,390.29

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
Bendigo and Adelaide	A-	BOND	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Semi-Annual	24/10/2024	24/10/2028	4.7900	687,787.80	700,000.00	643.04	643.04
Great Southern Bank	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	03/11/2025	03/11/2028	4.7950	1,998,798.00	2,000,000.00	22,858.36	7,882.19
NSW Treasury Corp	AA+	BOND	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	Semi-Annual	15/11/2018	15/11/2028	3.0000	4,765,665.00	5,000,000.00	67,808.22	12,328.77
BOQ	A-	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	20/11/2025	20/11/2028	4.7568	4,000,144.00	4,000,000.00	36,490.52	15,638.79
Bank Australia	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	27/11/2025	27/11/2028	5.0161	4,001,708.00	4,000,000.00	34,631.70	16,491.29
Newcastle Greater Mutual Group Ltd	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	14/02/2024	14/02/2029	5.8072	918,884.70	900,000.00	10,596.15	4,295.74
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Annual	26/03/2024	26/03/2029	4.9900	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	9,843.29	8,202.74
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Annual	30/04/2025	30/04/2029	4.1400	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	567.12	567.12
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	Annual	30/04/2025	30/04/2029	4.0400	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	332.05	332.05
BOQ	A-	BOND	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Semi-Annual	30/04/2024	30/04/2029	5.3000	2,972,238.00	3,000,000.00	435.62	435.62
Heritage and Peoples Choice Limited	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	05/11/2025	05/11/2029	4.9826	997,972.00	1,000,000.00	11,603.32	4,095.29
Bendigo and Adelaide	AAA	BOND	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Semi-Annual	28/11/2024	28/11/2029	4.9580	1,966,590.00	2,000,000.00	41,837.37	8,150.14
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Annual	30/04/2025	30/04/2030	4.2900	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	587.67	587.67
NHFIC	AAA	BOND	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	Semi-Annual	10/02/2021	27/05/2030	1.5200	1,301,889.00	1,500,000.00	9,682.19	1,873.97
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL	Annual	05/08/2025	06/08/2030	4.1500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	152,924.66	17,054.79

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
			LENDING								
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	Annual	13/08/2025	13/08/2030	4.1400	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	148,019.18	17,013.70
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Annual	13/08/2025	13/08/2030	4.1400	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	148,019.18	17,013.70
Newcastle Greater Mutual Group Ltd	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	23/01/2026	23/01/2031	5.4800	1,394,968.40	1,400,000.00	1,681.53	1,681.53
Heritage and Peoples Choice Limited	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	30/04/2026	30/04/2031	5.6531	1,000,184.00	1,000,000.00	154.88	154.88
South Australian Government	AA+	BOND	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	Semi-Annual	27/06/2024	23/05/2031	4.5000	4,852,180.00	5,000,000.00	97,397.26	18,493.15
South Australian Government	AA+	BOND	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	Semi-Annual	24/01/2025	23/05/2031	4.5000	1,940,872.00	2,000,000.00	38,958.90	7,397.26
NHFIC	AAA	BOND	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	Semi-Annual	01/07/2021	01/07/2031	1.7400	2,526,147.00	3,000,000.00	17,018.63	4,290.41
South Australian Government	AA+	BOND	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	Semi-Annual	11/10/2024	24/05/2034	1.7500	1,518,176.00	2,000,000.00	15,150.68	2,876.71
Commonwealth Government	AAA	BOND	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	Semi-Annual	14/06/2024	21/06/2034	4.2500	2,379,805.00	2,500,000.00	37,842.47	8,732.88
South Australian Government	AA+	BOND	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	Semi-Annual	10/02/2026	24/05/2035	4.7500	1,881,356.00	2,000,000.00	41,123.29	7,808.22
EmeraldMBS2006-1A	Unrated	FRN	MBS	Quarterly	17/07/2006	21/08/2051	4.4435	271,191.15	289,208.25	2,358.94	1,056.24
EmeraldMBS2006-1B	Unrated	FRN	MBS	Quarterly	17/07/2006	21/08/2056	4.7435	816,250.00	1,000,000.00	8,707.25	3,898.77
TOTALS								**179,066,220.15**	**181,089,208.25**	**2,065,057.30**	**544,826.78**

Portfolio by Asset as at 30/04/2026

Asset Type: TD

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	At Maturity	03/12/2025	03/06/2026	4.3900	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	35,841.64	7,216.44
Heritage and Peoples Choice Limited	BBB+	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	At Maturity	23/03/2026	23/06/2026	5.0500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	26,979.45	20,753.42
Bank of Us	BBB+	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	At Maturity	22/01/2026	22/07/2026	4.4700	1,100,000.00	1,100,000.00	13,336.52	4,041.37
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	At Maturity	22/01/2026	22/07/2026	4.4700	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	48,496.44	14,695.89
Westpac	AA-	TD	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	At Maturity	22/01/2026	22/07/2026	4.4700	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	48,496.44	14,695.89
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	At Maturity	22/01/2026	22/07/2026	4.5100	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	48,930.41	14,827.40
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	At Maturity	17/09/2025	17/09/2026	4.1100	3,500,000.00	3,500,000.00	89,068.77	11,823.29
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	At Maturity	18/09/2025	18/09/2026	4.0900	6,500,000.00	6,500,000.00	163,880.14	21,850.68
Heritage and Peoples Choice Limited	BBB+	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	At Maturity	23/03/2026	23/09/2026	5.2000	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	27,780.82	21,369.86
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	At Maturity	26/09/2025	28/09/2026	4.2100	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	75,087.95	10,380.82
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	At Maturity	30/10/2025	30/10/2026	4.3400	6,000,000.00	6,000,000.00	130,556.71	21,402.74
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	Annual	17/03/2025	17/03/2027	4.3800	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	10,800.00	7,200.00
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	Quarterly	21/03/2024	22/03/2027	4.7000	18,000,000.00	18,000,000.00	90,394.52	69,534.25
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Annual	30/04/2025	30/04/2027	3.9900	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	546.58	546.58
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	26/09/2025	27/09/2027	4.0900	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	7,843.84	6,723.29

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Annual	30/04/2025	28/04/2028	4.0400	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	553.42	553.42
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	Annual	30/04/2025	28/04/2028	3.9600	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	216.99	216.99
BankVic	BBB+	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Annual	18/09/2025	18/09/2028	4.0800	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	75,452.05	10,060.27
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	26/09/2025	26/09/2028	4.1100	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	8,107.40	6,756.16
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Annual	26/03/2024	26/03/2029	4.9900	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	9,843.29	8,202.74
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Annual	30/04/2025	30/04/2029	4.1400	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	567.12	567.12
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	Annual	30/04/2025	30/04/2029	4.0400	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	332.05	332.05
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Annual	30/04/2025	30/04/2030	4.2900	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	587.67	587.67
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Annual	05/08/2025	06/08/2030	4.1500	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	152,924.66	17,054.79
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	Annual	13/08/2025	13/08/2030	4.1400	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	148,019.18	17,013.70
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Annual	13/08/2025	13/08/2030	4.1400	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	148,019.18	17,013.70
TD SUBTOTALS								**113,100,000.00**	**113,100,000.00**	**1,362,663.23**	**325,420.55**

Asset Type: FRTD

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
Westpac	AA-	FRTD	GREEN	Quarterly	30/06/2021	30/06/2026	4.7152	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	12,401.62	11,626.52
FRTD SUBTOTALS								**3,000,000.00**	**3,000,000.00**	**12,401.62**	**11,626.52**

Asset Type: FRN

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
Bank Australia	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	30/10/2023	30/10/2026	5.8731	1,655,595.15	1,650,000.00	265.50	265.50
Newcastle Greater Mutual Group Ltd	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	10/02/2022	10/02/2027	4.9428	4,758,512.00	4,750,000.00	51,459.29	19,297.23
RACQ Bank	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	05/03/2024	05/03/2027	5.6448	2,211,136.40	2,200,000.00	19,393.37	10,207.04
Bendigo and Adelaide	A-	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	14/05/2024	14/05/2027	4.9572	2,008,558.00	2,000,000.00	20,100.43	8,148.82
Great Southern Bank	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	01/11/2024	01/11/2027	4.8785	1,454,089.00	1,450,000.00	17,054.70	5,814.10
Bank Australia	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	27/09/2024	21/02/2028	5.6935	1,519,234.50	1,500,000.00	15,676.62	7,019.38
Bank Australia	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	21/02/2024	21/02/2028	5.6935	1,367,311.05	1,350,000.00	14,108.96	6,317.45
Beyond Bank	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	21/03/2025	21/03/2028	5.4630	1,204,268.40	1,200,000.00	7,004.61	5,388.16
Teachers Mutual Bank	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	03/10/2025	03/10/2028	5.2673	2,998,548.00	3,000,000.00	10,390.29	10,390.29
Great Southern Bank	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	03/11/2025	03/11/2028	4.7950	1,998,798.00	2,000,000.00	22,858.36	7,882.19
BOQ	A-	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	20/11/2025	20/11/2028	4.7568	4,000,144.00	4,000,000.00	36,490.52	15,638.79
Bank Australia	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	27/11/2025	27/11/2028	5.0161	4,001,708.00	4,000,000.00	34,631.70	16,491.29
Newcastle Greater Mutual Group Ltd	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	14/02/2024	14/02/2029	5.8072	918,884.70	900,000.00	10,596.15	4,295.74
Heritage and Peoples Choice	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	05/11/2025	05/11/2029	4.9826	997,972.00	1,000,000.00	11,603.32	4,095.29

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
Limited Newcastle Greater Mutual Group Ltd	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	23/01/2026	23/01/2031	5.4800	1,394,968.40	1,400,000.00	1,681.53	1,681.53
Heritage and Peoples Choice Limited	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	30/04/2026	30/04/2031	5.6531	1,000,184.00	1,000,000.00	154.88	154.88
EmeraldMBS2006-1A	Unrated	FRN	MBS	Quarterly	17/07/2006	21/08/2051	4.4435	271,191.15	289,208.25	2,358.94	1,056.24
EmeraldMBS2006-1B	Unrated	FRN	MBS	Quarterly	17/07/2006	21/08/2056	4.7435	816,250.00	1,000,000.00	8,707.25	3,898.77
FRN SUBTOTALS								**34,577,352.75**	**34,689,208.25**	**284,536.42**	**128,042.70**

Asset Type: BOND

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
Bendigo and Adelaide	A-	BOND	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Semi-Annual	14/05/2024	14/05/2027	5.1000	1,596,161.60	1,600,000.00	37,558.36	6,706.85
Bendigo and Adelaide	A-	BOND	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Semi-Annual	24/10/2024	24/10/2028	4.7900	687,787.80	700,000.00	643.04	643.04
NSW Treasury Corp	AA+	BOND	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	Semi-Annual	15/11/2018	15/11/2028	3.0000	4,765,665.00	5,000,000.00	67,808.22	12,328.77
BOQ	A-	BOND	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Semi-Annual	30/04/2024	30/04/2029	5.3000	2,972,238.00	3,000,000.00	435.62	435.62
Bendigo and Adelaide	AAA	BOND	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Semi-Annual	28/11/2024	28/11/2029	4.9580	1,966,590.00	2,000,000.00	41,837.37	8,150.14
NHFIC	AAA	BOND	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	Semi-Annual	10/02/2021	27/05/2030	1.5200	1,301,889.00	1,500,000.00	9,682.19	1,873.97
South Australian Government	AA+	BOND	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	Semi-Annual	27/06/2024	23/05/2031	4.5000	4,852,180.00	5,000,000.00	97,397.26	18,493.15

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
South Australian Government	AA+	BOND	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	Semi-Annual	24/01/2025	23/05/2031	4.5000	1,940,872.00	2,000,000.00	38,958.90	7,397.26
NHFIC	AAA	BOND	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	Semi-Annual	01/07/2021	01/07/2031	1.7400	2,526,147.00	3,000,000.00	17,018.63	4,290.41
South Australian Government	AA+	BOND	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	Semi-Annual	11/10/2024	24/05/2034	1.7500	1,518,176.00	2,000,000.00	15,150.68	2,876.71
Commonwealth Government	AAA	BOND	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	Semi-Annual	14/06/2024	21/06/2034	4.2500	2,379,805.00	2,500,000.00	37,842.47	8,732.88
South Australian Government	AA+	BOND	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	Semi-Annual	10/02/2026	24/05/2035	4.7500	1,881,356.00	2,000,000.00	41,123.29	7,808.22
BOND SUBTOTALS								**28,388,867.40**	**30,300,000.00**	**405,456.03**	**79,737.01**

Portfolio by Asset Totals as at 30/04/2026

Type	Capital Value ($)	Face Value ($)	Accrued ($)	Accrued MTD ($)
TD	113,100,000.00	113,100,000.00	1,362,663.23	325,420.55
FRTD	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	12,401.62	11,626.52
FRN	34,577,352.75	34,689,208.25	284,536.42	128,042.70
BOND	28,388,867.40	30,300,000.00	405,456.03	79,737.01
TOTALS	**179,066,220.15**	**181,089,208.25**	**2,065,057.30**	**544,826.78**

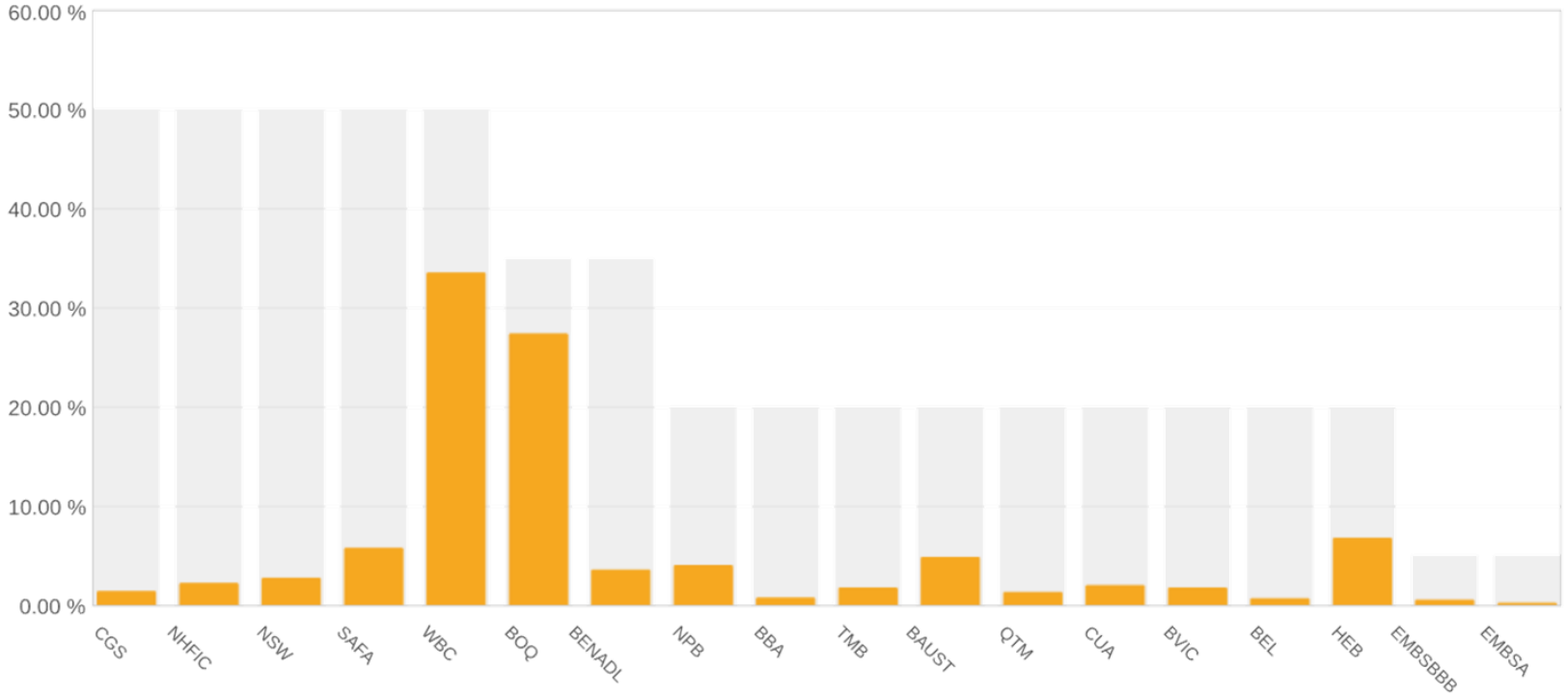
Counterparty Compliance as at 30/04/2026

Long Term Investments

Compliant	Bank Group	Term	Rating	Invested ($)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Limit ($)	Available ($)
✔	Commonwealth Government	Long	AAA	2,379,805.00	1.33	50.00	-	87,153,305.08
✔	NHFIC	Long	AAA	3,828,036.00	2.14	50.00	-	85,705,074.08
✔	NSW Treasury Corp	Long	AA+	4,765,665.00	2.66	50.00	-	84,767,445.08
✔	South Australian Government	Long	AA+	10,192,584.00	5.69	50.00	-	79,340,526.08
✔	Westpac	Long	AA-	60,000,000.00	33.51	50.00	-	29,533,110.08
✔	BOQ	Long	A-	48,972,382.00	27.35	35.00	-	13,700,795.05
✔	Bendigo and Adelaide	Long	A-	6,259,097.40	3.50	35.00	-	56,414,079.65
✔	Newcastle Permanent	Long	BBB+	7,072,365.10	3.95	20.00	-	28,740,878.93
✔	Beyond Bank	Long	BBB+	1,204,268.40	0.67	20.00	-	34,608,975.63
✔	Teachers Mutual Bank	Long	BBB+	2,998,548.00	1.68	20.00	-	32,814,696.03
✔	Bank Australia	Long	BBB+	8,543,848.70	4.77	20.00	-	27,269,395.33
✔	RACQ Bank	Long	BBB+	2,211,136.40	1.24	20.00	-	33,602,107.63
✔	Great Southern Bank	Long	BBB+	3,452,887.00	1.93	20.00	-	32,360,357.03
✔	BankVic	Long	BBB+	3,000,000.00	1.68	20.00	-	32,813,244.03

Compliant	Bank Group	Term	Rating	Invested ($)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Limit ($)	Available ($)
✔	Bank of Us	Long	BBB+	1,100,000.00	0.61	20.00	-	34,713,244.03
✔	Heritage Bank	Long	BBB+	11,998,156.00	6.70	20.00	-	23,815,088.03
✔	EmeraldMBS2006-1B	Long	Unrated	816,250.00	0.46	5.00	-	8,137,061.01
✔	EmeraldMBS2006-1A	Long	Unrated	271,191.15	0.15	5.00	-	8,682,119.85
TOTALS				**179,066,220.15**	**100.00**			

Counterparty Compliance - Long Term Investments

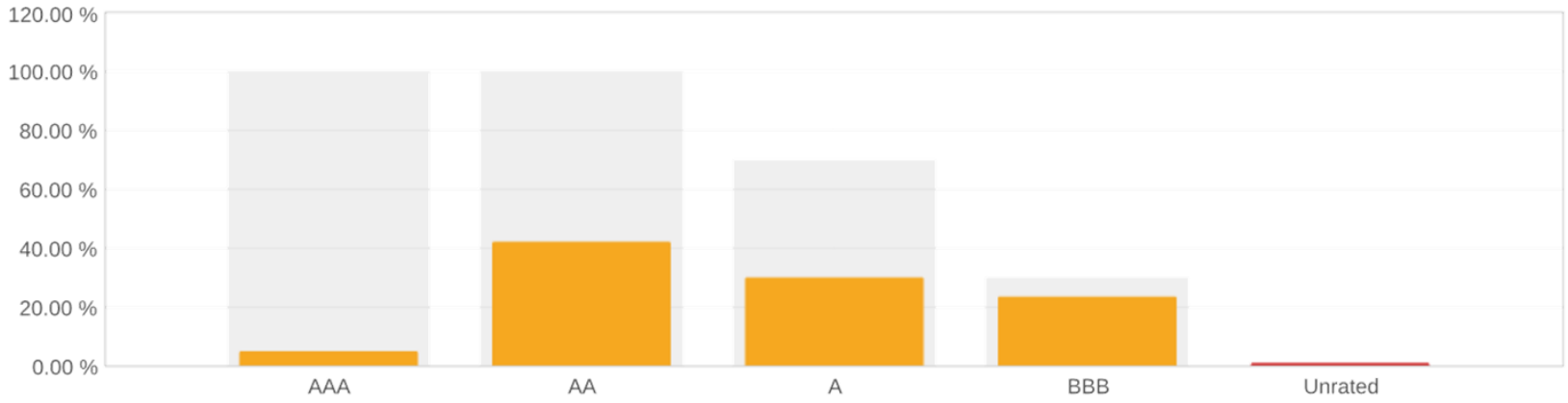


Credit Quality Compliance as at 30/04/2026

Long Term Investments

Compliant	Rating	Invested ($)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Available ($)
✔	AAA	8,174,431.00	4.57	100.00	170,891,789.15
✔	AA	74,958,249.00	41.86	100.00	104,107,971.15
✔	A	53,264,889.40	29.75	70.00	72,081,464.71
✔	BBB	41,581,209.60	23.22	30.00	12,138,656.45
✖	Unrated	1,087,441.15	0.61	0.00	-1,087,441.15
TOTALS		**179,066,220.15**	**100.00**		

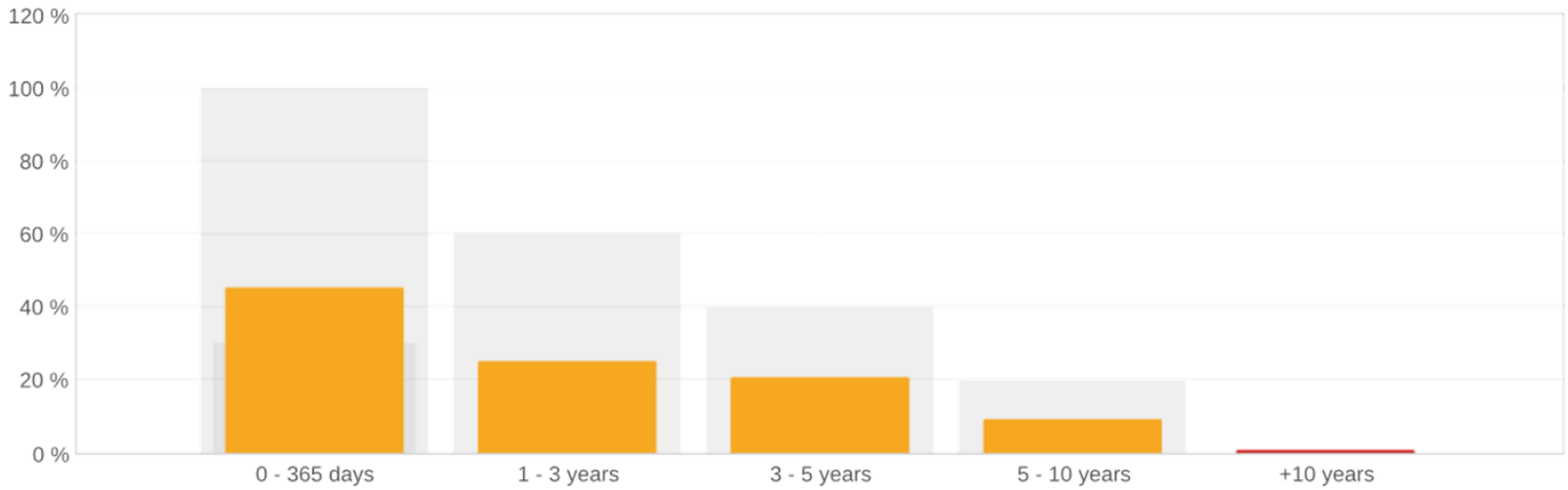
Credit Quality Compliance - Long Term Investments



Maturity Compliance as at 30/04/2026

Compliant	Term	Invested ($)	Invested (%)	Min Limit (%)	Max Limit (%)	Available ($)
✔	0 - 365 days	80,725,243.55	45.08	30.00	100.00	98,340,976.60
✔	1 - 3 years	44,521,158.05	24.86	0.00	60.00	62,918,574.04
✔	3 - 5 years	36,633,657.40	20.46	0.00	40.00	34,992,830.66
✔	5 - 10 years	16,098,720.00	8.99	0.00	20.00	19,714,524.03
✖	+10 years	1,087,441.15	0.61	0.00	0.00	-1,087,441.15
TOTALS		**179,066,220.15**	**100.00**			

Maturity Compliance



Trades in Period

From: 01/04/2026 To: 30/04/2026

New Trades - From: 01/04/2026 To: 30/04/2026

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Value ($)	Reference
Heritage and Peoples Choice Limited	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	30/04/2026	30/04/2031	5.6531	1,000,000.00	12911487
TOTALS								**1,000,000.00**	

Sell Trades - From: 01/04/2026 To: 30/04/2026

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Selling Date	Yield/Margin (%)	Face Value ($)	Gross Value ($)	Capital Value ($)	Reference
No entries for this item												
TOTALS									**0**			

Matured Trades - From: 01/04/2026 To: 30/04/2026

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Value ($)	Reference
No entries for this item									
TOTALS								**0**	

Unrealised Gains / Losses as at 30/04/2026

Issuer	Rating	Type	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Allocation	Cost ($)	Value ($)	Purchase Price	Current Price	Gain/Loss ($)
Bank Australia	BBB+	FRN	30/10/2023	30/10/2026	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	1,650,000.00	1,655,595.15	100.0000	100.3391	5,595.15
Newcastle Greater Mutual Group Ltd	BBB+	FRN	10/02/2022	10/02/2027	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	4,750,000.00	4,758,512.00	100.0000	100.1792	8,512.00
RACQ Bank	BBB+	FRN	05/03/2024	05/03/2027	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	2,200,000.00	2,211,136.40	100.0000	100.5062	11,136.40
Bendigo and Adelaide	A-	BOND	14/05/2024	14/05/2027	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	1,597,888.00	1,596,161.60	99.8680	99.7601	-1,726.40
Bendigo and Adelaide	A-	FRN	14/05/2024	14/05/2027	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	2,000,000.00	2,008,558.00	100.0000	100.4279	8,558.00
Great Southern Bank	BBB+	FRN	01/11/2024	01/11/2027	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	1,450,000.00	1,454,089.00	100.0000	100.2820	4,089.00
Bank Australia	BBB+	FRN	27/09/2024	21/02/2028	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	1,521,030.00	1,519,234.50	101.4020	101.2823	-1,795.50
Bank Australia	BBB+	FRN	21/02/2024	21/02/2028	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	1,350,000.00	1,367,311.05	100.0000	101.2823	17,311.05
Beyond Bank	BBB+	FRN	21/03/2025	21/03/2028	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	1,200,000.00	1,204,268.40	100.0000	100.3557	4,268.40
Teachers Mutual Bank	BBB+	FRN	03/10/2025	03/10/2028	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	3,000,000.00	2,998,548.00	100.0000	99.9516	-1,452.00
Bendigo and Adelaide	A-	BOND	24/10/2024	24/10/2028	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	700,000.00	687,787.80	100.0000	98.2554	-12,212.20
Great Southern Bank	BBB+	FRN	03/11/2025	03/11/2028	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	2,000,000.00	1,998,798.00	100.0000	99.9399	-1,202.00
NSW Treasury Corp	AA+	BOND	15/11/2018	15/11/2028	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	4,900,300.00	4,765,665.00	98.0060	95.3133	-134,635.00
BOQ	A-	FRN	20/11/2025	20/11/2028	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	4,000,000.00	4,000,144.00	100.0000	100.0036	144.00
Bank Australia	BBB+	FRN	27/11/2025	27/11/2028	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	4,000,000.00	4,001,708.00	100.0000	100.0427	1,708.00
Newcastle Greater Mutual Group Ltd	BBB+	FRN	14/02/2024	14/02/2029	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	900,000.00	918,884.70	100.0000	102.0983	18,884.70

Issuer	Rating	Type	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Allocation	Cost ($)	Value ($)	Purchase Price	Current Price	Gain/Loss ($)
BOQ	A-	BOND	30/04/2024	30/04/2029	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	2,992,470.00	2,972,238.00	99.7490	99.0746	-20,232.00
Heritage and Peoples Choice Limited	BBB+	FRN	05/11/2025	05/11/2029	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	1,000,000.00	997,972.00	100.0000	99.7972	-2,028.00
Bendigo and Adelaide	A-	BOND	28/11/2024	28/11/2029	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	2,000,000.00	1,966,590.00	100.0000	98.3295	-33,410.00
NHFIC	AAA	BOND	10/02/2021	27/05/2030	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	1,535,415.00	1,301,889.00	102.3610	86.7926	-233,526.00
Newcastle Greater Mutual Group Ltd	BBB+	FRN	23/01/2026	23/01/2031	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	1,400,000.00	1,394,968.40	100.0000	99.6406	-5,031.60
Heritage and Peoples Choice Limited	BBB+	FRN	30/04/2026	30/04/2031	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	1,000,000.00	1,000,184.00	100.0000	100.0184	184.00
South Australian Government	AA+	BOND	27/06/2024	23/05/2031	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	4,942,850.00	4,852,180.00	98.8570	97.0436	-90,670.00
South Australian Government	AA+	BOND	24/01/2025	23/05/2031	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	1,983,600.00	1,940,872.00	99.1800	97.0436	-42,728.00
NHFIC	AAA	BOND	01/07/2021	01/07/2031	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	3,000,000.00	2,526,147.00	100.0000	84.2049	-473,853.00
South Australian Government	AA+	BOND	11/10/2024	24/05/2034	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	1,536,340.00	1,518,176.00	76.8170	75.9088	-18,164.00
Commonwealth Government	AAA	BOND	14/06/2024	21/06/2034	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	2,492,450.00	2,379,805.00	99.6980	95.1922	-112,645.00
South Australian Government	AA+	BOND	10/02/2026	24/05/2035	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	1,916,480.00	1,881,356.00	95.8240	94.0678	-35,124.00
EmeraldMBS2006-1A	Z	FRN	17/07/2006	21/08/2051	MBS	289,208.25	271,191.15	100.0000	93.7702	-18,017.10
EmeraldMBS2006-1B	Z	FRN	17/07/2006	21/08/2056	MBS	1,000,000.00	816,250.00	100.0000	81.6250	-183,750.00
TOTALS						**64,308,031.25**	**62,966,220.15**			**-1,341,811.10**

Realised Gains / Losses

From: 01/04/2026 To: 30/04/2026

Issuer	Rating	Type	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Selling Date	Cost Price	Current Price	Purchase Price	Selling Price	Realised	Type
No entries for this item											
TOTALS						**0**	**0**				**0**

Interest Received in Period

From: 01/04/2026 To: 30/04/2026

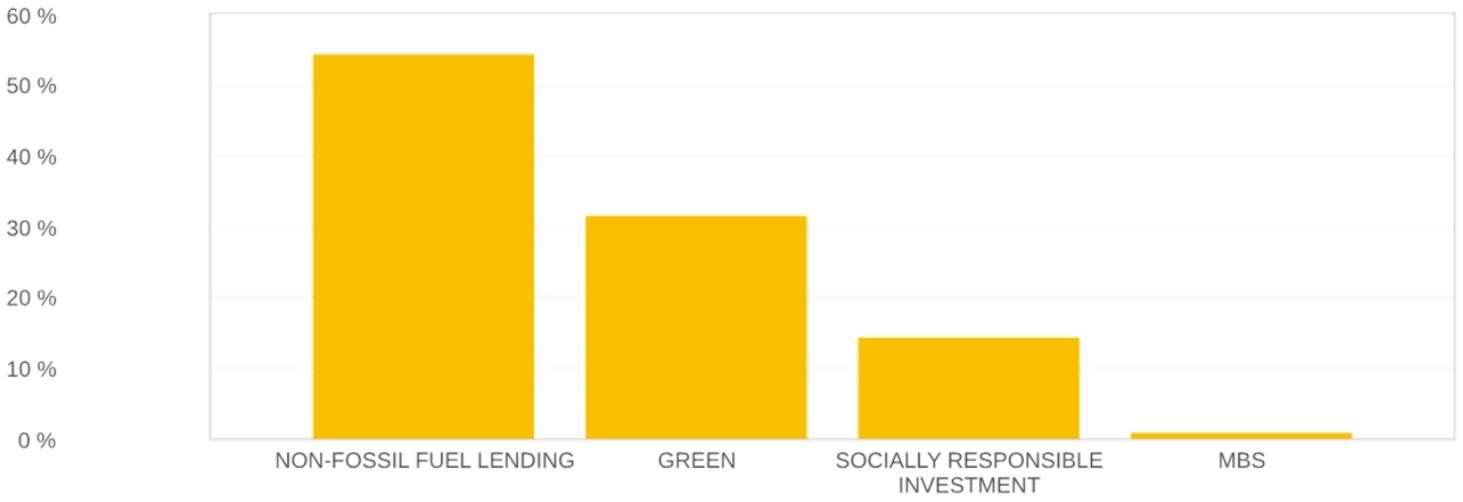
Periodic Interest

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Frequency	Value ($)	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Coupon Date	Type	Rate (%)	Received ($)
Bank Australia	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	1,650,000.00	30/10/2023	30/10/2026	30/04/2026	Periodic	5.3362	21,710.29
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Annual	5,000,000.00	30/04/2025	30/04/2027	30/04/2026	Periodic	3.9900	199,500.00
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	Annual	2,000,000.00	30/04/2025	28/04/2028	30/04/2026	Periodic	3.9600	79,200.00
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Annual	5,000,000.00	30/04/2025	28/04/2028	30/04/2026	Periodic	4.0400	202,000.00
Teachers Mutual Bank	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	3,000,000.00	03/10/2025	03/10/2028	07/04/2026	Periodic	4.6907	35,469.40
Bendigo and Adelaide	A-	BOND	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Semi-Annual	700,000.00	24/10/2024	24/10/2028	24/04/2026	Periodic	4.7900	16,765.00
Westpac	AA-	TD	GREEN	Annual	3,000,000.00	30/04/2025	30/04/2029	30/04/2026	Periodic	4.0400	121,200.00
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Annual	5,000,000.00	30/04/2025	30/04/2029	30/04/2026	Periodic	4.1400	207,000.00
BOQ	A-	BOND	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Semi-Annual	3,000,000.00	30/04/2024	30/04/2029	30/04/2026	Periodic	5.3000	79,500.00
BOQ	A-	TD	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Annual	5,000,000.00	30/04/2025	30/04/2030	30/04/2026	Periodic	4.2900	214,500.00
Newcastle Greater Mutual Group Ltd	BBB+	FRN	NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	Quarterly	1,400,000.00	23/01/2026	23/01/2031	23/04/2026	Periodic	4.9385	17,047.97
TOTALS					**34,750,000.00**						**1,193,892.67**

Allocation as at 30/04/2026

Code	Number of trades	Invested ($)	Invested (%)
NON-FOSSIL FUEL LENDING	35	96,812,689.00	54.07
GREEN	11	56,000,000.00	31.27
SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT	9	25,166,090.00	14.05
MBS	2	1,087,441.15	0.61
TOTALS	**57**	**179,066,220.15**	**100.0**

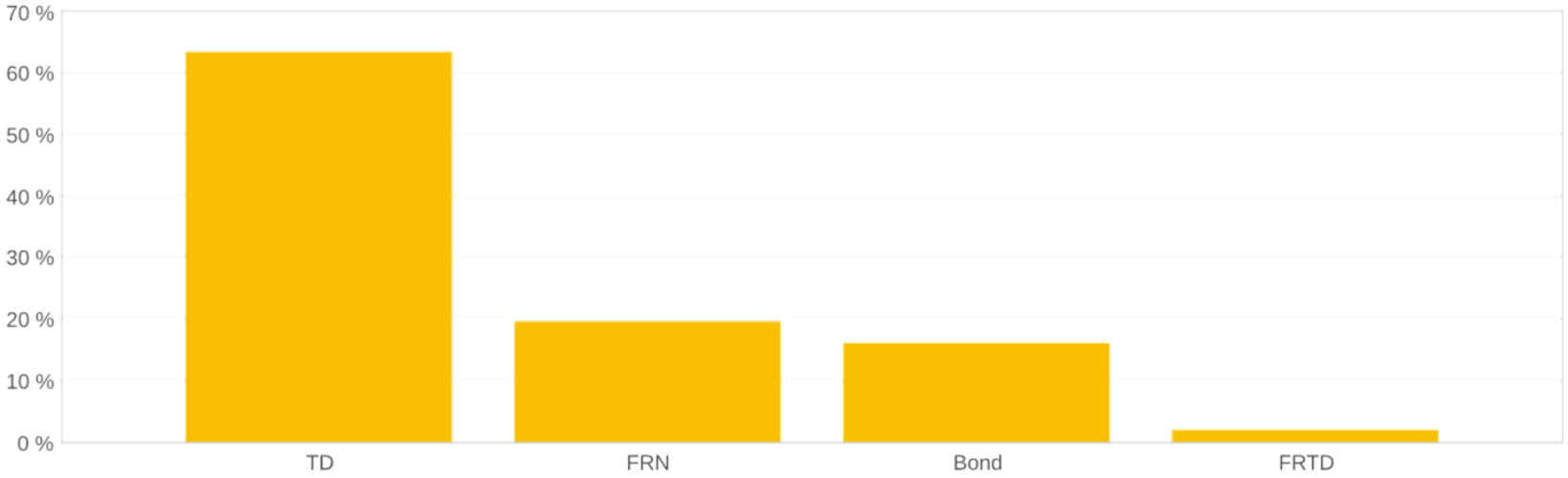
Allocation Distribution as at 30/04/2026



Asset Class as at 30/04/2026

Code	Number of Trades	Invested ($)	Invested (%)
TD	26	113,100,000.00	63.16
FRN	18	34,577,352.75	19.31
Bond	12	28,388,867.40	15.85
FRTD	1	3,000,000.00	1.68
TOTALS	**57**	**179,066,220.15**	**100.0**

Asset Class Distribution



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Item: **C0626(1) Item 35**

Title: **Parklets and on Road Dining**

Author: Simone Plummer - Director Planning

Recommendation

That Council note that the draft 26/27 Fees and Charges has a charge that enables the costs associated with on-road dining / parklet installation when requested by a business to be paid for by the business.

Executive Summary

- This report responds to Council's March 2026 resolution seeking advice on parklet design options, installation costs, proposed fee changes and feedback from businesses.
- On-road dining parklets were introduced as a temporary COVID-19 support measure and have been well used by businesses and the community, but Council's current budget only allows around 5 installations each year.
- The estimated cost of a basic parklet safety installation is about $10,500, with higher costs for larger sites. It is proposed that future approved applicants fund installation costs rather than Council.
- Businesses consulted support the continuation of on-road dining, have indicated a willingness to pay installation costs, and are also willing to contribute to decorative improvements within a budget of their choosing.
- Council is developing design options with UNSW that will inform a future parklet design guide and updated Interim Outdoor Dining Guidelines, with further reporting to Council once that work is complete.

Purpose

To provide Council with an update on the parklet and on-road dining program, including installation costs, proposed future cost recovery arrangements, business feedback and progress on design options.

Strategic Direction

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

3: Creative communities and a strong economy

Background

Parklets installed by Council

On-road dining was initially introduced to the Inner West as a Covid 19 measure to support business. In their first iteration on-road dining parklets were installed as a temporary measure and were therefore funded from a small operational Council budget. They have proven to be popular with both business and community and across the many installations since their commencement have only been removed twice due to lack of use either at the request of or with no objection from the adjacent business.

Budget constraints have enabled the installation of around 22 on-road dining parklets since commencement. It costs around $10,00-$15,000 for installation dependent on shape and length of each parklet. This budget restricts the number of parklets installed annually as the demand for parklets exceeds Council's capacity to provide them.

Furthermore not every application is approved due to local constraints such as road geometry (too steep / too narrow / too close to traffic control measures), parking, impact on nearby residents, adjacency of residential dwellings and the amount of existing courtyard or indoor space already available to the business.

Following a Notice of Motion at the Council Meeting of 18 November 2025 Council officers commenced a detailed investigation for the installation of parklets for on road dining in Australia Street Newtown. A report responding to the Notice of Motion was provided to the Ordinary Meeting of March 2026 outlining further steps around the development of a design guide for parklets with UNSW design students and progress regarding the community engagement and installation of parklets in Australia Street. At this meeting Council also resolved the following in part, (C1125 (1) Item 33):

7. *That Council receive a report back on the above to the June 2026 Council Meeting, detailing the design options and costs, resulting proposed changes to*

the Schedule of Fees and Charges, and outcomes of engagement with businesses.

Discussion

There are two steps to the installation of an on-road parklet. The first is the installation of barriers for the protection of diners, which to date as has been at Council's expense. The second step is the decorative improvements which to date have been left to the business owner to determine and fund.

The below table highlights the costs associated with a basic safety installation of on-road dining provision.

Estimation of a costs for a common parklet installation funded by Council

Description	Costs
Purchase of Barriers and Installation (2 x 6m barriers & 2 x 2m barriers)	**$9,000**
Traffic Management for installation and placement	**$1,500**
Total	**$10,500**

The cost of installation increases with size, as for some sites there is opportunity for a larger parklet depending on the local conditions.

It is proposed that the current application process, assessment and contractual arrangements be retained and the cost of installation as per the estimate above be borne by the applicant upon approval.

Development of Parklet Design Criteria

Council officers are working with faculty and students at the University of NSW School of Built Environment, Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture to develop a range of design options for parklets, taking into account sustainable environmental design principles, street appeal, accessibility and functionality needs. Costing for some options have been completed. While the full suite of options has not been completed some indicative costs are as below;

Parklet with approximate decking and design costs

Description	Costs
Timber Decking Note: extends over 2 parking spaces	$10,000
Planter Boxes and Pots	Can range from $1,000 to $12,000 dependant on size and configuration

Feedback from local business

Feedback from businesses who have participated in the on road dining process has been

- Strong support for the business opportunity offered by on road dining where it is available
- Willingness to pay for parklet installation coupled with a frustration around the limits imposed by the operational budget
- Willingness to engage with Council to improve the decorative appearance of the parklet to a budget of the business choosing.

Parklet Design Options

As the work with UNSW concludes a parklet design guide with costings will be brought to Council for consideration and engagement with the community.

This parklet design guide will include updated Interim Outdoor Dining Guidelines. In combination the work is premised on a spectrum of design options and costs to accommodate a range of business budgets, improve the amenity provided the parklet and consider the safety of pedestrians, diners and road users. The business will select those decorative options that best fit their budget and business.

Legal and Risk Implications

Council currently enters into an agreement with each business operator for the use of on-road dining parklets. If Council endorses changes to the on-road dining process, including the future proposed decorative design requirements, the agreement template will be reviewed and updated as required. Any revised arrangements would apply only to future businesses and would continue to address matters such as liability, indemnity and business insolvency to appropriately protect Council from potential risk.

Financial Implications

Council has an annual budget of $50,000 for Parklets which limits approval to no more than five new sites per year. An amendment to the Schedule of Fees and Charges has been incorporated into the draft 26/27 Fees and Charges to enable the costs associated with parklet installation when requested by a business to be paid for by the business.

Conclusion

The provision of temporary on road dining at Council's expense was a highly successful measure for the support and recovery of local business during and post Covid. Now however it is a constraining limit on the number of approvals Council can issue, and provides an advantage to businesses in terms of the provision of extra dining space where it is able to be approved.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 36**

Title: **Notice of Motion: Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre – Planning And Future Expansion**

Author: Councillor Victor Macri

Motion

That Council:

1. **Prepares a report for consideration at the February 2027 Council meeting addressing the operation and future of the Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre;**
   a) **Operational overview – analysis of current usage, including visitation data, participation in existing programs (e.g. learn-to-swim, gym, water aerobics), and opportunities for new or expanded programming;**
   b) **Condition assessment – a detailed review of the current condition of the facility, including any maintenance, compliance or upgrade requirements.**
   c) **Capacity and water space – investigation into opportunities to increase water availability to the community within the existing footprint and, where feasible, through expansion to adjacent areas.**
   d) **Hydrotherapy provision – assessment of the feasibility of delivering a hydrotherapy pool, including the potential integration of supporting medical and allied health practitioner spaces.**

2. **Allocate $50,000 from the Aquatics 26/27 Operations budget to fund the relevant consultants.**

Background

The former Marrickville local government area was historically serviced by three public swimming facilities: Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre (Enmore), Fanny Durack Pool (Petersham), and Marrickville Pool (McNeilly Park), which closed in the early 2000s.

The loss of Marrickville Pool has placed sustained pressure on the remaining facilities, particularly Annette Kellerman, noting that Fanny Durack Pool operates on a seasonal basis and is unavailable during cooler months.

Inner West Council has demonstrated a strong track record in delivering high-quality aquatic facilities. The redevelopment of Ashfield Aquatic Centre provides an exemplary model of meeting contemporary community expectations through thoughtful planning and consultation. Similarly, the current redevelopment of Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre is expected to continue this standard.

With increasing population density—particularly within the Marrickville Ward—the demand for aquatic facilities continues to grow. It is essential that Council begins early, strategic planning for the future of Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre to ensure it can meet both current and long-term community needs.

A structured approach incorporating technical assessment, service planning and early community consultation will position Council to deliver outcomes consistent with the high standard established at Ashfield and Leichhardt.

Director Lead:

Caroline McLeod, Acting Director Community

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 37**

Title: **Notice of Motion: Greenway Community Forum**

Author: Councillors Liz Atkins and Kerrie Fergusson

Motion

That Council:

1. **Note the need for a united and adaptive land management approach to the GreenWay which includes all landholders.**

2. **Acknowledge and thank the members of the GreenWay Community Forum for their contribution and dedication to the GreenWay development, and agree to cease the Greenway Community Forum and establish a new local democracy group to deal with matters related to the GreenWay, with draft terms of reference to be brought to the August Council meeting, and that the LDG be subject to the same expression of interest and selection process as the current LDGs;**

3. **Ask the Urban Ecology team to work with the newly formed local democracy group on ways to enhance the GreenWay ecological corridor and rebuild vegetation structure and density, including development of a Vegetation Management Strategy.**

4. **Agree to continue the GreenWay Art Prize past 2026 with a report to Council by the October 2026 meeting covering issues such as required budget, possible locations, potential for partnering with Canterbury-Bankstown Council, funding of the prizes and opportunities for sponsorship by local businesses.**

5. **Prioritise the development of a GreenWay Plan of Management, with work on the Plan of Management to commence in 2026, and consult the GreenWay Local Democracy Group as part of the process.**

Background

The GreenWay Community Forum was established to provide support and advice for the vision of the GreenWay as an ecological, biodiversity, cultural, recreational and active

transport corridor. It advocates on GreenWay matters, supports liaison and communication between Council and the community, and identifies and implements opportunities for community programs and partnerships. The GreenWay was opened on 14 December 2025.

On 12 February 2026 the Chair of the GreenWay Community Forum provided all councillors with a position paper endorsed by the Forum proposing the continuation of the Forum as an advisory body to Council which also facilitates and leads urban bushcare, education and other activities related to the GreenWay, and promotes community involvement and support. However, Council has an existing framework of local democracy groups which it is now appropriate to bring engagement on the GreenWay within.

The GreenWay Art Prize was established in 2010 to capture the essence of the GreenWay through visual art and to celebrate the vibrancy, creativity, and community spirit of the Inner West. The Art Prize offers a total of $15,000 across six awards, celebrating creativity in all forms, and is open to young people and adults. There is no entry fee to apply. The last GreenWay Art Prize opening event was held on 6 December 2025 with works on display until 13 December. The Prize is popular amongst local Inner West artists and in the past has also been supported by Canterbury-Bankstown Council. In 2024 it was held in conjunction with the Biennale of Sydney at White Bay Power Station.

Director Lead:

Simone Plummer, Director Planning

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: C0626(1) Item 38

Title: Notice of Motion: Consolidation of Council Administrative Functions and Rationalisation of Civic Sites

Author: Councillor Victor Macri

Motion

That Council:

1. **Notes that:**
   a) **Council currently operates across multiple civic and administrative locations, including (but not limited to):**
      i. **St Peter's Depot**
      ii. **Ashfield Service Centre / Civic offices**
      iii. **Leichhardt Service Centre / Civic offices**
      iv. **Petersham administrative facilities**
   b) **This multi-site structure reflects legacy arrangements from former councils and results in fragmented administration, duplication of functions, and inefficient use of resources.**

2. **Acknowledges that maintaining multiple civic administration sites imposes ongoing costs associated with:**
   a) **Building maintenance and lifecycle renewal**
   b) **Duplicated front-of-house services**
   c) **Internal inefficiencies and reduced staff coordination**

3. **Resolves to investigate the consolidation of Council's primary administrative and civic functions into a single main service centre, with a reduced number of strategically located customer service points.**

4. **Further resolves to direct the General Manager to prepare a Civic Consolidation and Property Rationalisation Strategy that:**
   a) **Assesses the consolidation of administrative functions currently located at ST Peter's, Ashfield, Leichhardt and Petersham sites**
   b) **Identifies a preferred principal civic location based on accessibility, site capacity, and long-term value**
   c) **Evaluates which existing civic buildings should be:**
      i. **Retained for community use**
      ii. **Repurposed for affordable housing**
      iii. **Or considered for divestment**

5. **Requests a report be provided to Council within 4 months that:**
   a) **Identifies a preferred consolidation model and site (including whether St Peter's depot or an alternative location is most suitable as Councils Offices**

b) Includes indicative capital costs vs. long-term operational savings
c) Identifies opportunities for asset divestment or redevelopment of surplus civic buildings in Ashfield, Leichhardt, Petersham or other sites
d) Outlines a staged transition plan, including interim consolidation steps
e) Assesses impacts on community access, with mitigation measures such as retained customer service points.

Director Lead:

Peter Shields, Acting Director Property and Major Projects

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 39**

Title: **Notice of Motion: Enlivening Underutilised Spaces**

Author: Councillor Izabella Antoniou

Motion

That Council:

1. **Convenes a roundtable to discuss ways local businesses with underutilised space could be connected with creatives and organisers who run low-cost, free initiatives, small events or pop-ups.**

2. **Invites AshBiz, Inner West Creative network, artists, creatives, and community organisers it has engaged through previous programs to participate.**

3. **Consults the roundtable on ways to enliven laneways, including publicly accessible but privately owned spaces.**

4. **Reports back to council with a pilot program and policy recommendations to incentivise and facilitate the use of underutilised space.**

Background

As space becomes a premium, small informal events have found it increasingly challenging to run. Local businesses have also noted anecdotally in Ashfield their interest to see the area enliven, increase new types of traffic and help create spaces where new types of regulars and activities can be supported.

Council has undergone reviews of their own spaces and implemented programs such as the successful Creative Town Halls initiative to address this. However, the current spaces at council's disposal aren't always suitable for all activities. Council is in a position where it can support the connection between groups, creatives and businesses to facilitate informal arrangements to help enliven underutilised spaces.

In September 2025 Inner West Council signed off on the Ashfield Special Entertainment Precinct Management Plan. As the special entertainment precincts are employed there is increased opportunity to expand the night-time economy to ensure a wide variety of activities, events and spaces are made available to support the diversity of the Inner West.

In 2025, Council committed to support a series of events on certain streets including Hercules Street Ashfield through the Plug and Play program.

Across the Inner West, there are countless groups making use of non-traditional spaces to congregate and create community connections. These Include bookclubs, pop-up one-off exhibitions and low impact events. Spaces like Little Big House in Summer Hill have proven the need and interest in a no-cost homely congregation space that people can host open, and regular events. Other examples include Casablanca in Marrickville, a curated vintage clothes shop that has allowed community members to host no-cost pop-up events. The model of connecting businesses, and land owners to creatives has also been successful across the UK initiatives like Artist Window, SET and the Creative Land Trust who have successfully created similar models that have reactivated high-streets.

In Australia, Renew Australia has been a key driver, and The City of Sydney Council has run a short-term empty properties program with its community and commercial spaces since 2014.

Council has the ability to connect businesses, and owners of underutilised spaces with those who can make use of the space.

This round table will be an opportunity to hear directly from business owners in Ashfield and surrounding areas, as well as creatives, and organisers to understand existing needs and opportunities for Council to support solutions and incentives brought by the community.

This round table will focus on Ashfield as a small scale pilot.

Director Lead:

Simone Plummer, Director Planning

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 40**

Title: **Notice of Motion: Our Local Legacy Plaque Program**

Author: Councillors Mat Howard and Jo Carlisle

Motion

That Council:

1. **Establish the "Our Local Legacy Plaques Program" to identify and acknowledge local not-for-profit organisations, clubs or social enterprises that have attained a significant milestone, being 50, 75, 100, 125 and 150 years of service.**

2. **That as part of the program, Council:**
    a) **Initiates a community nomination process, including for organisations that have previously reached a significant milestone;**
    b) **Produces a plaque design that recognises the achievement;**
    c) **Installs it at a local building or place of significance relevant to the organisation, ideally in a location visible to community, and establishes a process to negotiate the installation of plaques where premises are not owned by Council;**
    d) **Host a small event to unveil plaques, akin to those launching Perfect Match murals; and**
    e) **Creates an online resource for the Program, providing the public with further information about these organisations.**

3. **Provide a report to the September 2026 Council meeting detailing a process, timeline, potential costs and possible funding sources, plaque designs and other information.**

Background

The Inner West is home to local organisations that make a transformative impact on local residents and communities. Many have been in continuous operation for many decades and are part of the Inner West's proud legacy of people looking out for and supporting one another.

In this term of Council alone, several local organisations have marked significant milestones, including Reverse Garbage (50 years), The Ella Centre (50), Addi Road Community Centre (50), Marrickville Croquet Club (100), Leichhardt Bowling Club (100) and more.

A Council-coordinated and run plaque program could be a way to acknowledge not just the longevity of these organisations, but to reflect on the countless volunteer hours from local residents and the ongoing impact of these organisations on our local communities.

The establishment of this program would create greater visibility of long-running organisations, establish points of interest and beautify local streets, place focus on the ways that people use and connect through buildings and public spaces, and further demonstrate Council's commitment to supporting and fostering local organisations, clubs and social enterprises.

While there are other programs recognising heritage, such as the NSW Government's Blue Plaques Program, this would be unique in that it focuses on the continued legacy and ongoing work of local organisations. In that sense, it is not a heritage program.

Director Lead:

Simone Plummer, Director Planning

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 41**

Title: **Notice of Motion: Bike Racks**

Author: Councillors Mat Howard and Kerrie Fergusson

Motion

That Council:

1. **Note the new sculptural fish themed bike rack installed at the Mackey Park Canoe Ramp (Midjuburi Ward) and the planned rainbow themed bike rack at Pride Square, Newtown (Damun Ward);**

2. **Acknowledge that these bike racks add to the vibrancy of our public spaces and encourage more people to ride to key locations;**

3. **Install an additional sculptural bike rack in each of the remaining three wards of the council, funded through existing operational budgets or depending on the location of the bike racks, the Mainstreet Revitalisation Program.**

Background

Sculptural bike racks are a simple way to make everyday infrastructure more interesting, while helping encourage cycling and adding character to public spaces. Around Australia and overseas, councils have used creative bike rack designs to celebrate local history, culture and identity, turning a practical piece of street furniture into a small public artwork. The recent fish bike rack at Mackey Park and planned rainbow bike rack at Pride Square show how these installations can create a sense of place, spark conversation and make our streets and parks more vibrant and welcoming. Examples include:

- A giant lobster-shaped bike rack in Kingston, South Australia, inspired by the town's famous "Big Lobster".
- Fish-themed bike racks installed along waterfront precincts in Fremantle, Western Australia.
- Guitar-shaped bike racks in music districts in Nashville, Tennessee, USA.
- Bicycle racks shaped as swans, dragons and other local symbols in Copenhagen, Denmark, reflecting the city's cycling culture and public design focus.

Fish rack, Marrickville

Rainbow rack, Florida

Director Lead:

Peter Shields, Director Property and Major Projects

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 42**

Title: **Notice of Motion: Marrickville Art Alley**

Author: Councillor Mat Howard and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Chloe Smith

Motion

That Council:

1. **Investigate the establishment of an "art alley" at a location in the industrial zone in Marrickville.**

2. **Provide a report back to Council by November 2026 detailing the steps with more information about the process to establish an "art alley," including**
   a) **An outline of how an art alley might work in the Inner West context;**
   b) **Opportunities an "art alley" in Marrickville might offer;**
   c) **Principles along how it could be established and managed;**
   d) **A process by which it might be established, including timelines;**
   e) **Potential funding sources, including grants and developer contributions; and**
   f) **Potential streets that could be transformed into an "art alley," based on a criteria of what elements make a successful art alley in other jurisdictions.**

3. **Consider other locations in the Inner West Local Government Area where this concept could be implemented.**

Background

An art alley is a street containing a high proportion of buildings with public murals. Ideally, the street could also be closed on a periodic and temporary basis for events such as markets, small-scale concerts, and street parties.

Art streets are a fixture in many cities around the world including Melbourne (Hosier Lane), Toronto (Graffiti Alley), Berlin (Haus Schwarzenberg Alley), San Francisco (Balmy Alley) and Kuala Lumpur (Kwai Chai Hong) where they are key to promoting vibrancy, tourism, connectivity and creativity.

The streets in North Marrickville that lead off Victoria Road are substantively industrial and present a unique opportunity to develop a new landmark in the Inner West's cultural scene.

Designating a street running off Victoria Road would present an opportunity to:

- Better connect the thriving Enmore Road and Marrickville Road SEPP's, the Inner West Ale Trail, and local venues
- Provide economic opportunities for artists
- Contribute to the beautifying of a street in an evolving Marrickville neighbourhood, where several new venues, cafes, galleries, breweries, distilleries and maker-spaces are opening alongside traditional industrial spaces and long-established artist studios
- Attract visitors to further support the local economy and local jobs.

Potential streets might include Railway Parade, Shirlow Street, or Chapel Street (excluding residential areas).

The program could be devised as part of an expansion of the Perfect Match Program, or a program to incentivise public art.

Balmy Alley, San Francisco

Kwai Chai Hong, Kuala Lumpur

Graffiti Alley, Toronto

Director Lead:

Caroline McLeod, Acting Director Community

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 43**

Title: **Notice of Motion: Smidmore Street Pedestrian Safety**

Author: Councillor Mat Howard

Motion

That Council:

1. **Requests staff to review pedestrian safety on the shared zone on Smidmore Street, Marrickville .**

2. **Consults with the managers of Marrickville Metro Shopping Centre on ways to improve pedestrian safety at this location.**

3. **Provides a report to an upcoming meeting of the Local Traffic Forum detailing the findings of the review and possible improvements to make the zone safer for pedestrians, cyclists and all road users.**

Background

Residents report multiple near misses on the shared zone between the new and old buildings of Marrickville Metro Shopping Centre. They note that signage does not sufficiently indicate that the area is a shared zone.

Inner West Council previously approved a traffic management plan at this location, however, with increased foot traffic at the Centre, it would be prudent for council to investigate pedestrian improvements, including signage and line markings.

Director Lead:

Manod Wickramasinghe, Acting Director Engineering

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 44**

Title: **Notice of Motion: 25 Years of The Medically Supervised Injecting Centre**

Author: Councillor Mat Howard

Motion

That Council:

1. **Notes the significant milestone of 25 years since the establishment of the Uniting Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) in Kings Cross.**

2. **Congratulates the staff, peer workers, volunteers and client community of the Centre, including the many people from the Inner West, for their compassion, care and contribution to harm reduction and public health over the past quarter century.**

3. **Requests that the Mayor write to the Head of Uniting NSW.ACT conveying Council's congratulations and appreciation on behalf of the Inner West community.**

Background

Established in 2001 as Australia's first medically supervised injecting service, the Uniting Medically Supervised Injecting Centre has saved thousands of lives and become an internationally recognised model of evidence-based harm reduction.

For 25 years, the Centre has provided dignity, healthcare, referral pathways and compassionate support to people who use drugs, while improving community safety and reducing overdose deaths.

This milestone is an opportunity to recognise the extraordinary work of staff, peer workers and the broader community who have helped make the service a lasting success.

Throughout its history, Inner West residents have played a significant role in the establishment and operation of the Centre.

MSIC has saved countless lives and is a best-practice model of compassionate and evidence-based care.

Director Lead:

Sharon Bowman, Director Corporate

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 45**

Title: **Notice of Motion: Parking Review Trafalgar Lane, Annandale**

Author: Councillor Philippa Scott

Motion

That Council:

1. **Staff conduct a review of parking in Trafalgar Lane, Annandale, to identify any additional locations where short "No Parking" zones opposite garage entrances would improve vehicle access.**

2. **Notes that a number of such restrictions are already in place within the laneway and that this review would assess whether further locations meet the criteria for similar treatment.**

3. **Reports the review to the Local Transport Forum for consideration and recommendation to Council.**

Background

Trafalgar Lane, Annandale is a narrow two-way laneway serving a number of residential properties with rear garage access. A number of short "No Parking" sections have already been installed at various points along the laneway, usually opposite garage entrances, to facilitate vehicle access.

Residents have raised concerns that further locations along the laneway may benefit from similar treatment, where parked vehicles obstruct the ability to safely manoeuvre into and out of garages.

Council staff conducted a site inspection of the laneway in late 2025 in response to a resident request but no further action was taken.

Given the existing precedent of targeted, site-specific parking restrictions within the laneway, it is appropriate for Council to consider whether a more comprehensive review of access conditions is warranted. Council staff are asked to re-conduct a site inspection in Trafalgar Lane, and when possible locations have been identified, use existing Council notification processes to consult with affected residents before making a recommendation to the Local Transport Forum and thereafter to Council.

Director Lead:

Manod Wickramasinghe, Acting Director Engineering

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 46**

Title: **Notice of Motion: Stormwater Infrastructure, Young Street, Annandale**

Author: Councillor Philippa Scott

Motion

That Council:

1. **Receives and notes the concerns raised by residents of Young Street, Annandale, regarding the absence of stormwater infrastructure on the western side of Young Street between Albion Street and Reserve Street.**

2. **Requests the Director of Infrastructure to provide a report to the Flood Management Committee Council on the current status and prioritisation of stormwater works for this section of Young Street, with reference to the works identified under WC-FM2 in Council's Flood Risk Management Plan 2019.**

3. **Requests that the report address whether the prioritisation of works in this location can be reviewed, having regard to the known flood risk to residential properties and the progress of works elsewhere in the broader Young Street–Ferris Street corridor.**

Background

The western side of Young Street between Albion Street and Reserve Street, Annandale, is a 300-metre block identified in Council's own flood mapping as a flood-affected area, yet it has no stormwater infrastructure beyond a kerb and gutter.

In heavy rain, the footpath floods, water extends well into the roadway, and drainage pits in adjacent front gardens have been observed to flow in reverse as road water surges onto private property.

Council's Flood Risk Management Plan 2019 identifies a stormwater works program for this corridor (reference WC-FM2), proposing a new pipe network from Young Street/Parramatta Road through to Whites Creek via Albion, Ferris and Clarke Streets, at a capital cost of approximately $4.2 million.

Residents have noted that works have been completed along parts of the broader corridor, including at the Albion and Young Street intersection and along Ferris Street, but that Young Street itself remains unaddressed.

Council staff are asked to consider and report to the Flood Management Committee on the prioritisation of the works identified for Young St, and include an explanation and rationale for that prioritisation, and a timeline for the completion of works. The Flood Management Committee should include a recommendation following their consideration of this item to the next Council meeting.

Director Lead:

Manod Wickramasinghe, Acting Director Engineering

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 47**

Title: **Notice of Motion: Celebrating 50 Years of the Ella Centre in Haberfield and Committing to Future Council Support**

Author: Councillor Philippa Scott

Motion

That Council:

1. **Congratulates the Ella Centre, its committee, staff and volunteers, on 50 years of service to the Haberfield and broader Inner West community, recognising its enduring contribution to the lives of aged and disabled adults, their families, and many generations of local residents.**

2. **Writes to the Ella Centre via their Board Secretary Phil McCrea, to express its congratulations and gratitude for their contribution to the inner west community.**

3. **Notes that the Ella Centre has occupied the Mervyn Fletcher Centre on Dalhousie St, Haberfield, without a lease fee since the late 1990s, following a decision by the then Ashfield Council to waive rent in recognition of the community value of the services provided.**

4. **Requests the Director, Property and Major Capital Projects, review the options available to Council under Council's Land and Property Policy to support the Ella Centre's continued occupation of the Mervyn Fletcher Centre and at a no- or very low- cost rate.**

5. **Advise on the process and timeline for the Ella Centre to apply for an Accommodation Grant, and that Council officers provide the Ella Centre with clear guidance on that process as a matter of priority.**

6. **Requests that no lease requiring payment of market rent be executed until the Accommodation Grant process has been completed.**

7. **Report back to Council via briefing note.**

Background

The Ella Centre is a community disability services organisation that has operated from the Mervyn Fletcher Centre in Haberfield for approximately 30 years. The Centre provides support to high-needs clients and is, with over 90 employees, one of the largest employers in the Haberfield area. The Ella Centre operates independently of Uniting

Church structures, supported by a local community trust established in the 1970s, and is registered with the Australian Charity and Not for Profit Commission.

The Ella Centre has occupied the Mervyn Fletcher Centre without a lease fee since the late 1990s, following a decision by the then Ashfield Council to waive rent in recognition of the community value of the services provided.

Council officers have recently advised the Ella Centre that a new lease will be required at a market rate of $22,000 per annum, plus responsibility for utilities costs. The Ella Centre has indicated that this impost would place significant financial strain on the organisation. Council's Land and Property Policy includes the provision of Accommodation Grants in connection with community leases, and the Ella Centre has indicated its intention to apply for such a grant, though as yet, no formal process has yet been provided to them.

Council officers are asked to expeditiously provide this information to the Ella Centre to support their application for an accommodation grant in order that the Ella Centre can continue to provide its valuable services without significant financial impost.

Director Lead:

Peter Shields, Acting Director Property and Major Projects

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 48**

Title: **Notice of Motion: Naming the Richard Murden Reserve Netball Courts to Honour the Local Netball Community**

Author: Councillor Philippa Scott

Motion

That Council:

1. **Note that Council resolved in June 2024 that as part of the Richard Murden Reserve Plan of Management, Council investigate naming the courts after a prominent local netball player, coach, administrator or club volunteer.**

2. **Note that the newly resurfaced, landscaped and lit netball courts have now been opened and are being used for the winter season.**

3. **Engage with local clubs on the selection of a nominee for naming and report to Councillors via briefing note on the proposed nominee, the proposed design and budget for a suitable recognition plaque, any administrative process necessary for registering the new name, and arrange a community celebration to honour the new name to be held to coincide with the end of the winter competition in September 2026.**

4. **Also follow up on the commitment in the June 2024 Notice of Motion to open the small former canteen and storage block.**

Background

Netball is the most popular participation sport in Australia, and it's dominated by girls and women as players, coaches, club trainers and administrators, many of them working tirelessly for decades without recognition.

Two years ago, Council resolved that as a tribute to the many generations of netballers who have trained and competed on the courts at Richard Murden Reserve, and the clubs and their members who have supported womens' sport for decades, the courts should be named for a prominent local player, coach, volunteer or administrator, of which are many deserving honorees.

No progress has been made. Council staff are asked to commence a process to identify a local member of the netball community to honour and arrange to complete the naming and celebration by the end of the winter 2026 netball season.

Director Lead:

Peter Shields, Acting Director Property and Major Projects

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 49**

Title: **Notice of Motion: Congratulating Poetry in Action on 20 Years in the Inner West**

Author: Councillor Philippa Scott

Motion

That Council:

1. **Recognises and congratulates Poetry in Action on 20 years as an inner west creative organisation**
2. **Writes to founders Hazem Shammas and Bryce Youngman to express their congratulations and gratitude for their contribution to arts and culture in the Inner West.**

Background

Council recognises Poetry in Action on the occasion of their 20th anniversary as a creative organisation rooted in the Inner West.

Founded in 2006 by Hazem Shammas and Bryce Youngman, Poetry in Action has grown from a local initiative into one of Australia's leading touring theatre companies, bringing poetry and literature to life for young audiences across the country and around the world. From their beginnings in Lilyfield, they have expanded their reach to every Australian state and territory, and internationally.

Each year, Poetry in Action performs for more than 70,000 young people, unlocking the power of words through theatrical performance, workshops, and meaningful programs including their First Nations literacy work with students in the remote Papunya region of the Northern Territory.

Poetry in Action's 20th anniversary was recently recognised at NSW Parliament House, launching their inaugural National Ambassadors Program supporting mid-career poets to uplift the next generation of young Australians through artistic expression.

For two decades, Poetry in Action has demonstrated that art and language have the power to transform lives. Council congratulates the entire Poetry in Action team, past and present , on this remarkable milestone, and looks forward to the next chapter of their story.

Director Lead:

Caroline McLeod, Acting Director Community

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 50**

Title: **Notice of Motion: Whites Creek Valley Park Community Garden Fence**

Author: Councillors Philippa Scott and Kerrie Fergusson

Motion

That Council:

1. **Notes that residents and Friends of Whites Creek Valley Park have recently raised concerns about the metal fencing dividing the north and south sections of the Whites Creek Valley Park Community Garden, leaving an unusable strip of grassed land between the sections of the garden.**

2. **Notes the relevant parcel of land is controlled by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). The fence was installed by DPHI to maintain and mow the site safely. There had been regular dumping across the site between the garden plots as the old timber fence had deteriorated.**

3. **Notes that Inner West Council has requested, and is waiting for, transfer of the land from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure to Council, following which public consultation will be required on use of the site.**

4. **Encourages the Whites Creek Community Garden group to submit an application for use of the land and expansion of their Community Garden under the new Community Gardens Policy, which strengthens Council's support for community gardens, expands the options for their development, and encourages their growth.**

5. **Writes to DPHI urging that the transfer of land be expedited for the benefit of the inner west community.**

6. **Writes to Friends of Whites Creek Valley Park, the Whites Creek Valley Park Community Garden group, and residents of White St to advise on the above points.**

Background

Whites Creek Valley Park Community Garden is a well-established community garden located at the intersection of the Leichhardt and Balmain Wards, with a waiting list of residents keen to become members.

A strip of land sandwiched between the north and south sections of the community garden, has long been informally understood to be earmarked for the community garden's expansion following the demolition of an old cottage approximately eight years ago. However, the land remains under the control of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) and has not yet been transferred to Council.

As the original timber fencing on the site deteriorated over time, the strip of land became subject to regular dumping. DPHI subsequently installed metal fencing to allow the site to be maintained and mowed safely. This has had the unintended consequence of leaving an unusable grassed strip between the two sections of the garden, a source of ongoing frustration for community garden members and local residents.

Inner West Council's Legal and Property teams are actively working with DPHI on the transfer of the land. Once transferred, public consultation will be required before any formal determination of use can be made. Council's new Community Gardens Policy, which strengthens support for community gardens and expands options for their development, provides a clear pathway for Whites Creek Community Garden to submit an application to expand onto the site.

Councillors Scott and Fergusson have been working together on this issue following community representations, and are keen to see the transfer expedited so that this space can be put to productive community use without further delay.

Director Lead:

Simone Plummer, Director Planning

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 51**

Title: **Notice of Motion: Maintenance of Spindlers Park, Annandale**

Author: Councillor Philippa Scott

Motion

That Council:

1. **Notes the ongoing concerns raised by residents regarding the maintenance of Spindlers Park, including weed management on park verges, illegal dumping, and the progress of bushland restoration works.**

2. **Notes that following Councillor representations in late 2025, a program of improvement works was undertaken, including branch removal, more careful mowing, and litter signage, and acknowledges the work completed by Council staff to date.**

3. **Notes that residents would welcome clearer communication about what maintenance and restoration works are planned, and what a naturalised park of this type can reasonably be expected to look like over time.**

4. **Requests that the General Manager notify residents in surrounding streets of the current maintenance plan for Spindlers Park, including responsibilities for verge and bushland care, and weed management.**

Background

Spindlers Park (Smith Hogan Spindlers Park) is an ecologically significant reserve in the Leichhardt Ward, providing habitat for Tawny Frogmouths, Currawongs, native miners, Butcher Birds, parrots, possums, and native rats, and supporting annual cuckoo migration. As a naturalised park, it is managed differently from a traditional manicured park, and its character reflects that ecological purpose.

Residents have raised maintenance concerns over a number of years, including the accumulation of illegal dumping, the spread of invasive weeds on park verges, and the pace of bushland restoration. Following representations by Councillor Scott in late 2025, Council carried out an inspection and undertook a program of works including branch clearing, pathway clearing, weeding and mulching, and litter collection. Residents have acknowledged and appreciated these improvements.

Residents remain keen to see restoration works continue, and have offered on multiple occasions to help organise volunteers to support the effort. Clearer communication between Council and the community about the long-term vision for the park and realistic

expectations for a naturalised site would help ensure residents and staff are working toward the same goal.

In addition, a Sydney Water burst pipe in late October 2025 required excavation of a pathway in the park, which has since been fully reinstated.

Director Lead:

Manod Wickramasinghe, Acting Director Engineering

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 52**

Title: **Notice of Motion: Ausgrid Works in Waratah Street, Leichhardt**

Author: Councillor Philippa Scott

Motion

That Council:

1. **Notes with concern the impact of recently intensified operations at the Ausgrid substation at the southern end of Waratah Street, Leichhardt on local residents, including the removal of a significant tree without prior notice to the community, and the presence of heavy vehicles and contractor activity in a quiet residential cul-de-sac.**

2. **Writes to Ausgrid requesting:**
   a) **Explanation of the arrangements with High Demand Energy, including the length of any sub-lease, its purpose, and their hours of operation;**
   b) **Explanation of Ausgrid's determination that the demolition and replacement of the brick wall exterior of the substation is exempt development under the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021;***
   c) **Replacement of the removed tree with an appropriate species to restore amenity to the street;**
   d) **Rectification of any damage caused to the public domain as a result of their works; and**
   e) **A commitment from Ausgrid and its contractors to respect neighbours when noisy works are required and comply with local parking restrictions as work continues**

3. **Writes to residents of Waratah Street to advise them of the above actions taken on their behalf.**

Background

Residents of Waratah Street, Leichhardt contacted Council in May 2026 to raise concerns about Ausgrid's operations at the power substation at the end of their street, which appears to have been leased to a subcontractor, High Demand Energy, and intensified in use. A large conifer tree, planted decades ago by a long-time resident, was removed without prior notice to the community. The exterior brick wall has been demolished and replaced with concrete wall. Both activities have been reported as exempt development however there does not appear to be a record of how Ausgrid arrived at this determination.

Residents also report that Ausgrid contractors have repeatedly engaged in noisy works at night, and overstayed the two-hour parking limit in the street, affecting residents.

Council should formally write to Ausgrid seeking explanation on the arrangements they have come to with High Demand Energy. Council should have the Public Tree team engage on the question of replacement planting, seek a commitment from Ausgrid to rectify any damage caused, and commit that workers obey local parking restrictions. By way of assurance, Council should write to residents of the street advising of the advocacy it has undertaken.

A petition from 27 residents of Waratah Street is provided as *Attachment 1*.

Director Lead:

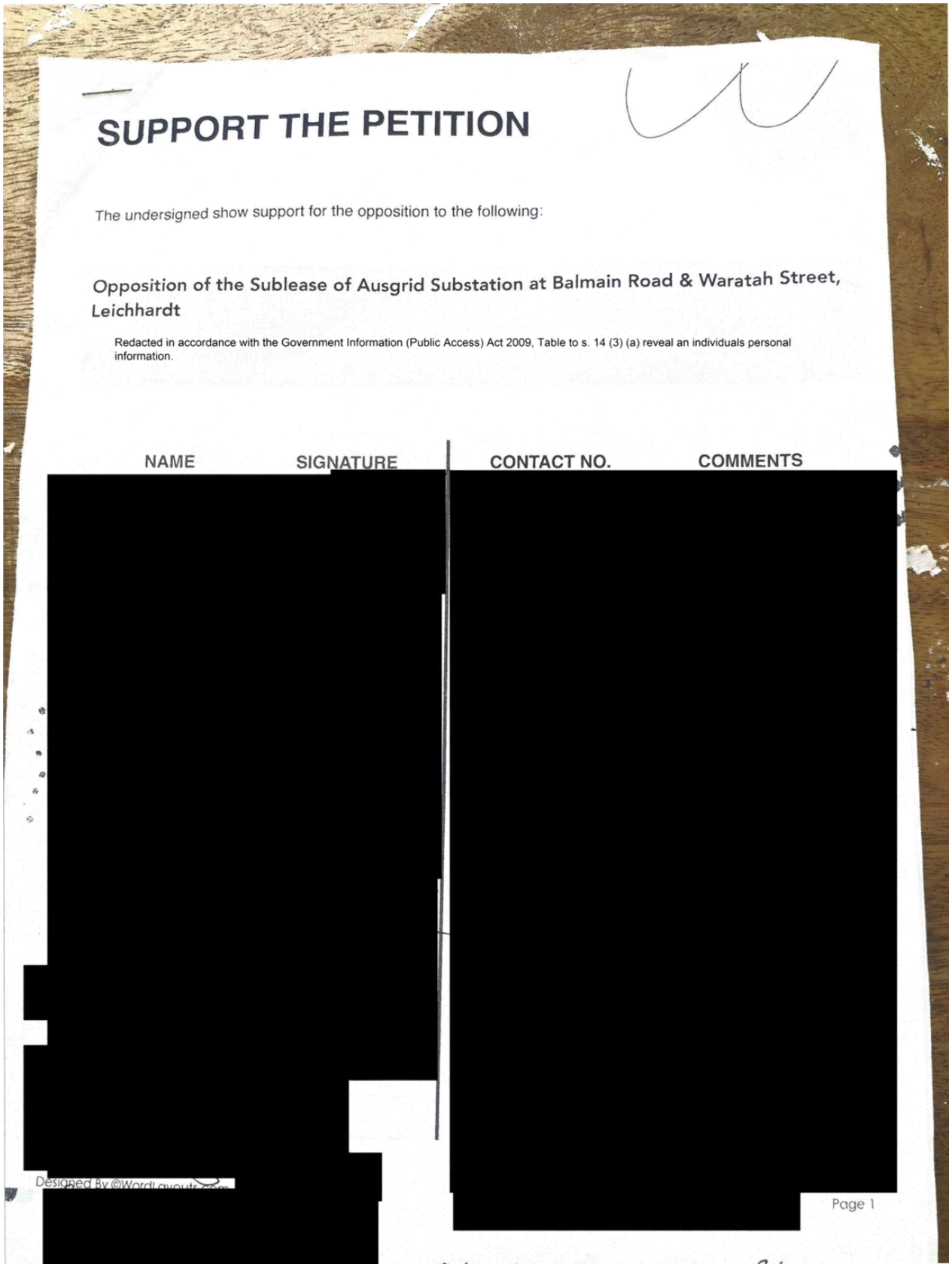
Manod Wickramasinghe, Acting Director Engineering

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

1.⇩ Petition



SUPPORT THE PETITION

The undersigned show support for the opposition to the following:

Opposition of the Sublease of Ausgrid Substation at Balmain Road & Waratah Street, Leichhardt

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

NAME	SIGNATURE	CONTACT NO.	COMMENTS
[redacted]			

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Item 52

SUPPORT THE PETITION

The undersigned show support for the opposition to the following:

Opposition of the Sublease of Ausgrid Substation at Balmain Road & Waratah Street, Leichhardt

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

NAME	SIGNATURE	CONTACT NO.	COMMENTS
[redacted]		[redacted]	

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Attachment 1

Item: **C0626(1) Item 53**

Title: **Notice of Motion: Johnson Park, Dulwich Hill, Constitution Road Access Gate Upgrade**

Author: Councillor Jessica D'Arienzo

Motion

That Council:

1. **Notes that the Constitution Road access gate at Johnson Park, Dulwich Hill that was installed as part of the recent upgrade to Johnson Park does not provide adequate access for prams, mobility aids, or general pedestrian use.**

2. **Investigate and implement an alternate access arrangement to address these accessibility issues as soon as practical and as funding permits.**

Background

Johnson Park in Dulwich Hill was recently upgraded as part of the GreenWay, delivering upgraded play equipment, amenities, pathways, pedestrian lighting, furniture, multiuse courts and native plantings.

The community has welcomed these improvements, however park users have raised concerns about a design issue that Council is asked to address.

A black driveway gate at the midpoint entry along Constitution Road, while intended to prevent vehicle access, obstructs the footpath and forces pedestrians onto dirt. Residents have raised concerns with this particularly difficult access point for those with prams, mobility aids or children on bikes and scooters.

Residents have raised this matter on a number of occasions and the community would welcome Council moving to resolve it promptly.

Director Lead:

Manod Wickramasinghe, Acting Director Engineering

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 54**

Title: **Notice of Motion: Traffic Study Queen, Armstrong, Harland and Hardy Streets Intersection, Ashfield**

Author: Councillor Jo Carlisle

Motion

That Council:

1. **Acknowledges the concerns raised by residents regarding the intersection of Queen, Armstrong, Hardy and Harland Streets in Ashfield, including the safety risks faced by pedestrians — particularly families with young children, elderly residents and school children — and motorists navigating this complex, multi-road convergence near Excelsior Jones Café and the surrounding shops.**

2. **Thanks local residents and community members for bringing these matters to Council's attention.**

3. **Refers the matter to the Local Transport Forum for formal consideration and requests that Council officers investigate and report back on potential traffic-calming and safety measures, including but not limited to:**
   a) **consideration of a roundabout or other intersection treatment;**
   b) **improved pedestrian crossings, sight-lines and refuge islands near the café, bus stop and shops;**
   c) **management of vehicle movements associated with the nearby automotive garage;**
   d) **improved traffic management during school pick-up and drop-off periods; and**
   e) **consultation with Transport for NSW, affected residents and businesses in the development of any proposal.**

Background

In April 2026, residents contacted Inner West Council to raise urgent safety concerns regarding the intersection of Queen Street, Hardy Street, Harland Street and Armstrong Street in Ashfield — a complex, multi-road convergence located near Excelsior Jones Café and Queen Street Bakery.

The concerns raised highlight a number of compounding safety risks at this location. The intersection carries consistently high traffic volumes throughout the day, with Queen Street and Armstrong Street serving as key routes to Ashfield's local shopping precinct and supermarkets. Large vehicles including buses and trucks pass through regularly, and a bus stop immediately adjacent to the café and bakery creates additional congestion

and reduces pedestrian visibility. Vehicle movements associated with a nearby automotive garage on Armstrong and Hardy Streets further contribute to unpredictable traffic conditions, with vehicles at times blocking the footpath and forcing pedestrians onto the road.

Pedestrian safety is of particular concern. Existing refuge islands are small and provide insufficient protection, especially for families with young children and prams. Despite the presence of speed humps, residents report that crossing in any direction feels unsafe, often requiring them to wait for extended periods before rushing across gaps in traffic. Residents have described situations where they have had to step back suddenly or hurry mid-crossing due to turning vehicles failing to see them.

The intersection also becomes significantly more congested during school pick-up and drop-off periods, with Trinity Grammar, Canterbury Boys High School and Yeo Park Infants School all contributing additional foot and vehicle traffic. Elderly residents, including those from Bupa Aged Care Ashbury on Hardy Street, have also been observed struggling to navigate the intersection safely.

Residents noted that the only point along this route where pedestrians feel safe crossing is the existing pedestrian crossing on Victoria Street, and that no equivalent safe crossing point exists at this intersection despite significant and consistent pedestrian activity throughout the day.

The matter was raised with Ashfield Ward Councillors, who referred it to the Acting Director of Engineering, confirming it would be subject to a traffic review. This motion seeks to formalise that process through Council and ensure the community is consulted as part of any assessment and response.

Director Lead:

Manod Wickramasinghe, Acting Director Engineering

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 55**

Title: **Notice of Motion: Traffic Study at Thomas and Edwin Streets Intersection, Croydon**

Author: Councillor Jo Carlisle

Motion

That Council:

1. **Acknowledges the concerns raised by residents regarding the intersection of Thomas and Edwin Streets in Croydon, including the safety risks faced by motorists and pedestrians at this busy intersection, which has seen two car crashes in recent months;**

2. **Thanks local residents and community members for bringing these matters to Council's attention; and**

3. **Refers the matter to the Local Transport Forum for formal consideration and requests that Council officers investigate and report back on potential traffic-calming and safety measures.**

Background

Council has received correspondence from residents of Croydon, raising urgent safety concerns regarding the intersection of Thomas and Edwin Streets. The resident reports that two car crashes have occurred at this location within the past six months, both caused by vehicles travelling downhill from The Strand at excessive speeds and striking cars entering the intersection.

Thomas Street is a key thoroughfare linking Croydon, Burwood and Ashfield, while Edwin Street serves as a popular drop-off route for commuters accessing Croydon Station. The intersection consequently experiences high volumes of both vehicle and pedestrian traffic throughout the day. Speeding along Thomas Street is reported to occur regularly at all hours.

While no injuries have resulted from the crashes witnessed to date, the resident has expressed serious concern that it is only a matter of time before a motorist or pedestrian is seriously hurt. This motion seeks to ensure the matter is formally investigated and that appropriate traffic-calming measures are considered as a priority.

Director Lead:

Manod Wickramasinghe, Acting Director Engineering

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 56**

Title: **Notice of Motion: Proposed Rozelle Bay Development**

Author: Councillor Ismet Tastan

Motion

That Council:

1. **Acknowledge the development of the Bays West / Rozelle Bay Precinct provides a significant opportunity to provide genuinely affordable housing to residents of Sydney.**

2. **Seek further information from Lendlease, Placemaking NSW and other relevant agencies regarding the developer led proposal should Stage 2 of the unsolicited proposal progress to Stage 3, with the view to provide an update to Council as soon as practical following the decision. This update should include:**
   a) **Any updated designs;**
   b) **Height of buildings and proposed number of stories;**
   c) **The number of proposed homes;**
   d) **The percentage that represents affordable homes and under what terms;**
   e) **What was previously planned for the area prior to the developer led proposal being submitted;**
   f) **What input IWC planning team will have on final design considerations and design excellence guidelines given this sits outside the Inner West DCP;**
   g) **Plans for public foreshore and open space (including m2); and**
   h) **Timeframes for development and key decision points – including opportunities for community consultation.**

Background

Lendlease have submitted a developer led proposal as part of the overall BaysWest redevelopment to develop the area at Rozelle Bay. While this is still in the early stages of development the community have expressed concerns given this sits outside the IWC DCP as it is a developer led proposal and have requested more details.

https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/massive-housing-plan-at-glebe-island-moves-to-stage-2/news-story/cab6eb28f23a48668566e5e91358b55f

https://www.nsw.gov.au/ministerial-releases/minns-government-to-deliver-thousands-of-homes-near-bays-metro-station-while-retaining-our-working-harbour

Director Lead:

Manod Wickramasinghe, Acting Director Engineering

Officer's Comments:

No further comments were required for this Notice of Motion.

Attachments

Nil.

Item: **C0626(1) Item 57**

Title: **Question on Notice: Addressing Resident Concerns About Crystal Car Wash, Haberfield**

Author: Councillor Philippa Scott

Council has been in litigation, or negotiation on compliance action, with Crystal Car Wash, Haberfield, on various matters relating to noise and unauthorised development, since 2021. Residents continue to be frustrated with the business operations of the car wash. Residents have written to Cr Scott and to the office of the Member for Summer Hill, Jo Haylen MP, for advice about the status of Council's legal and compliance actions, information about what has been resolved and what is ongoing.

Question

Please provide Councillors an update that can be shared with residents and the Members for Summer Hill and Grayndler that advise on the Council's compliance approach and ongoing actions in relation to Crystal Car Wash. Please also advise if this owner operates any other businesses in the inner west local government area.

Comment by the General Manager:

Councillors will be provided with a briefing note in June 2026 responding to the above question. The response will also be included in the Ordinary Council meeting agenda in August 2026.

Attachments

Nil.