

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Council Meeting

Monday, 22 April 2024

7:00 PM

Dragon Room

Civic Centre

Hurstville



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MAYORAL MINUTE

Item: MM004-24 Thanking Meryl Bishop for her Outstanding Service and Contribution to Georges River Council

Mayor: The Mayor, Councillor Elmir

BACKGROUND

Meryl's dedication to the planning profession was recognised through her initiation as a Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA). This Fellowship was a testament to her over 25 years of experience in planning and local government.

Meryl assumed the role of Director Environment and Planning at Georges River Council in October 2016, six months after the amalgamation of Kogarah and Hurstville Councils.

Major achievements include:

- Leading the development of the LSPS within a relatively short timeframe of 9-10 months, involving extensive community consultation and feedback. This statement provides a comprehensive vision for the next 20 years, guiding future development and infrastructure planning within the LGA.
- Spearheaded the effort to consolidate planning instruments from different regions (e.g., Kogarah and Hurstville) into a unified framework for Georges River. This consolidation streamlines planning processes, reduces complexity, and ensures consistency in development regulations and policies across the LGA.
- Involvement in urban design studies for key areas such as the Hurstville Town Centre. Mortdale Local Centre and Beverly Hills Local Centre has contributed to the creation of master plans that enhance the liveability, functionality, and aesthetics of these urban spaces. These studies address issues such as land use, built form, transportation, and public spaces to create vibrant and sustainable communities.

The impact Meryl has had on Georges River Council is not only through the work she has delivered, but also through the connections she has forged. We extend our gratitude to her for her dedication, leadership, and contribution to the community.

MOTION:

That Council acknowledge and thank Meryl Bishop, outgoing Director Planning & Environment, for her dedication and service to Georges River Council and the local community. We wish her every success in her future endeavours.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item: MM005-24 Congratulate St George Business Chamber and Autism Community Network on an amazing Gala Dinner**Mayor:** The Mayor, Councillor Elmir**BACKGROUND**

On Friday, 5 April 2024, the St George Business Chamber hosted its inaugural black-tie Gala Dinner in support of the Autism Community Network (ACN).

The evening was an immense success with 280 guests in attendance despite the adverse weather conditions. Several Federal and State representatives attended including, the Premier of New South Wales, The Honourable Chris Minns, MP; Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, The Honourable Linda Burney MP appearing on behalf of Prime Minister The Hon Anthony Albanese MP; Mr Mark Coure, the Member for Oatley; and The Hon David Coleman, Federal Member for Banks.

Congratulations to President of the St George Business Chamber, Tony Baddour, and his executive team for delivering an event that raised significant funds for the Autism Community Network. The event also highlighted the work of CEO, Vanessa Gauci, the ACN board and their network of community volunteers who provide support to individuals living with autism and their families.

The gala dinner was sponsored by the Benevolent Society Carer Gateway. Several local businesses also donated prizes for the silent auction and raffle.

MOTION:

That Council congratulate the St George Business Chamber and the Autism Community Network on a successful Gala Dinner.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item: MM006-24 Update on Kempt Field**Mayor:** The Mayor, Councillor Elmir**BACKGROUND**

The NSW Government has begun work to address longstanding subsidence and buried contamination at Kempt Field, a public reserve in Allawah, in Sydney's southern suburbs.

Formerly used as a waste landfill site until 1978, Kempt Field will be remediated with the NSW Government committing \$11.8 million to this project. The Planning Ministerial Corporation (PMC) and Waste Asset Management Corporation (WAMC) are working in collaboration with Georges River Council to reopen the public reserve once work is completed.

Kempt Field is owned by the NSW Government and is under the care, control and management of Georges River Council.

WAMC commenced investigations on the site in mid-March, with work ongoing to assess the scope of remediation work required as part of preparing a Remediation Action Plan.

Remediation work is expected to begin in August 2024.

Council looks forward to receiving a Remediation Action Plan from the NSW Government to understand the long-term plans for Kempt Field.

MOTION:

That Council thank the NSW Government for committing \$11.8 million towards the remediation of Kempt Field.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item: MM008-24 Condolence Motion - Bondi Junction Attack 13 April 2024**Mayor:** The Mayor, Councillor Elmir**BACKGROUND**

This Mayoral Minute serves to acknowledge the horrific events that unfolded in Bondi Junction on Saturday 13 April 2024 and at Christ the Good Shepherd Church in Wakeley on Monday 15 April 2024.

At Bondi Junction, the senseless act of violence tragically claimed six lives and injured many more and has left our community deeply shaken.

Council's deepest sympathies go out to the families and loved ones of those affected by this tragedy. Our thoughts are also with the emergency service personnel who responded with courage and professionalism in a critical situation.

Council also sends out its support to the Christ the Good Shepherd Church community in Wakeley following the events on Monday 15 April.

Both of these events have undoubtedly caused significant trauma for our community. Traumatic events can deeply affect an individual's mental health and wellbeing, and it's important to remind everyone of support services that are available during difficult times.

Council shared a support toolbox to all staff following the Bondi Junction event to enable staff and their families to find the most appropriate support option. Council also has an M-FIT Champions Network, a group of people within staff who have been trained in mental health first aid to assist and support co-workers during difficult times.

More broadly, we encourage all residents who are struggling to seek support from the following resources:

- NSW Mental Health Line: Specialist staff are available to speak to anyone affected by the attack. Call 1800 011 511
- Lifeline: Provides confidential 24-hour crisis support and suicide prevention. Call 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue: Offers confidential 24-hour counselling services. Call 1300 22 4636
- AccessEAP: Available to Council staff, Councillors and their families. Call 1800 818 728

Statement from NSW Faith Affairs Council:

Places of worship are places of peace and prayer. The people who gather there should never feel threatened or unsafe, no matter what religion they follow. As faith leaders representing the diverse religious communities of New South Wales, we stand united against all forms of hate and violence.

Our prayers are with the victims and we call on our communities to extend our message of care and compassion to all.

We have trust in our police and first responders and full confidence in their work. Police should never be attacked for keeping our communities safe. The scenes we witnessed after the attack are unacceptable to anyone, and especially to people of faith.

For people of faith, religion is never a justification for violence. It has been a very difficult week but we are a strong community in New South Wales. We call on everyone to act with kindness and respect for each other. Now is the time to show that we are a caring and united community.

MOTION:

- (a) That Council acknowledge the horrific events that unfolded at Bondi Junction on Saturday 13 April and send out our deepest sympathies to families who have been affected by this tragedy.
- (b) That Council write a letter to the Mayor of Waverley, Paula Masselos, on behalf of the Georges River community expressing our sympathies and acknowledging the resilience of the Waverley community to band together in response to the traumatic events.
- (c) That Council hold a minute's silence to honour the victims.
- (d) That Council acknowledge the incident at Christ the Good Shepherd Church in Wakeley on Monday 15 April and send our support to the church community who have been impacted.
- (e) That Council support the NSW Faith Affairs Council statement in response to the events at the Christ the Good Shepherd Church.

MM008-24

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item: MM009-24 Congratulations to Kogarah Lions Club on their 70th Anniversary

Mayor: The Mayor, Councillor Elmir

BACKGROUND

Officially chartered as a Lions Club in October 1953, the Kogarah Lions Club have worked tirelessly to support members of the Kogarah and Georges River community for 70 years. A celebration dinner was held on Saturday, 13 April 2024 to commemorate this special occasion.

Long standing members present at the celebration were Lion, Dick Rowe, aged 92 who has been a Lion for more than 60 years serving within several Clubs. Other long term members who were present include Lion, Bob Greenhill and Dr Prem Kumar.

Lions Clubs foster leadership and business skills in their members, and also provide networking opportunities and the chance to make lifelong friendships in the local area.

The Kogarah Lions Club has demonstrated unwavering commitment to serving the community in times of crisis and need, whether responding to natural disasters or personal hardships.

MOTION:

That Council acknowledge and congratulate the Lions Club on their dedicated service to the community of Georges River over the last 70 years.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item: MM010-24 IPWEA Awards**Mayor:** The Mayor, Councillor Elmir**BACKGROUND**

The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA) NSW and ACT Engineering Excellence Awards aspire to endorse and recognise excellence of Local Government and Public Works Projects through inspiration, innovation, collaboration, development and completion of projects and technical management. The Awards aim to showcase the outstanding projects local government and individuals have accomplished, which directly impact the lives of their communities.

At the recent IPWEA NSW and ACT State Conference held on 10th and 11th April 2024, Georges River Council's Asset and Infrastructure Directorate was recognised for engineering excellence, receiving Highly Commended Awards for New and Improved Techniques and Excellence in Road Safety.

These Awards recognise the outstanding achievements of Council Asset and Infrastructure team in two categories:

Category 2: New or Improved Techniques*Highly Commended Award - GRC Public Tree Assessment Management Study*

The City Operational Services team implemented an innovative approach to tree asset inventory and management. Over an 18-month period, the Coordinator City Recreation Alex Gardiner, Team Leader Tree Maintenance Kieren O'Neill and the Tree Management Team assessed, measured, documented and mapped the entire street tree population and trees within park and reserves (excluding bushlands) across the local government area into a purpose made tree management inventory system. The extensive information captured includes the allocation of an individual asset number, GIS location, health, species, age, height and risk profile for every tree across the local government area and informs the proactive maintenance schedule and future planting and replacement program for street and park trees.

Category 5: Excellence in Road Safety*Highly Commended Award - GRC School Safety Review*

The Strategic Placemaking team delivered a key road safety project that was aimed at identifying potential safety issues for vehicles and Pedestrians, identifying pick-up and drop-off area arrangements and associated issues, and developing measures to reduce issues, and where possible eliminate them. Led by the Manager Strategic Placemaking Hayley Barnes, Coordinator Traffic and Transport Henry Huynh and the Traffic and Transport Team, the project involved the undertaking a transport safety reviews, with a particular focus on operations during school pick-up and drop-off times in areas surrounding Kogarah High School, Kogarah Public School, St George Girls High School and St Patricks Catholic Primary School.

MOTION:

That Council congratulate the George River Council Assets and Infrastructure team for their achievements in attaining two highly commended awards in the 2024 IPWEA NSW & ACT Engineering Excellence Awards in Category 2: New or Improved Techniques and Category 5: Excellence in Road Safety.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item: MM011-24 Optimising Use of Premium Facilities for Community Use**Mayor:** The Mayor, Councillor Elmir**BACKGROUND**

Council has a large portfolio of community facilities. It is also unique in that it has a portfolio of Tier 1 facilities that sit within the premium facilities business unit.

The premium facilities portfolio includes the following:

- Netstrata Jubilee Stadium, Penshurst Park Synthetic Field, Olds Park 1, Hurstville Oval, Harold Fraser Oval, Hurstville Golf Course, Beverley Park Golf Course, Kyle Bay Bowling greens, San Souci Pool and Hurstville Aquatic Centre.

The primary objective of this motion is to maximise community benefit by ensuring access to premium sites during times when they are not in use by commercial hirers.

By doing so, we reinforce our commitment to the core purpose of providing community facilities, ensuring they serve the widest possible group of users. This initiative not only optimises the use of these valuable spaces but also reinforces our dedication to fostering a vibrant, inclusive community where all members can benefit from top-tier facilities.

This strategic approach ensures that our community resources are utilised efficiently and effectively, aligning with our vision of accessibility and community engagement. Through this motion, we aim to enhance community involvement and satisfaction, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to putting the community's needs at the forefront of our facility management practices. These changes include:

- Expanding the venue hire grant program budget and revising associated policies to allow non-profit organizations to access subsidies for events and activities at premium facilities.
- Introducing additional Fees and Charges tailored to make premium facilities available as hireable spaces, including for seasonal events and other occasions.
- Increasing community awareness by actively marketing these premium sites as available for hire.
- Integrating premium facilities into the Bookable Program and implementing keyless entry systems to ease access.
- Securing Council endorsement to fund any necessary structural modifications to ensure that these sites are accessible without requiring the rental of the entire facility at elevated rates.

Other similar locations that have taken this approach for their stadiums include Central Coast and City of Canada Bay councils

MOTION:

That the General Manager initiate a formal, comprehensive plan aimed at optimising community use and access to premium facilities. Updates on progress are to be reported to Council. Key elements of the plan should include:

- i. Review of current policies to ensure inclusion of all relevant sites and eligibility criteria for access.
- ii. Fees and charges that differentiate, commercial and community use
- iii. Budget to transparently report any increase subsidies

- iv. Budget for expansion of the bookable program / keyless entry
- v. Structural changes to make the relevant sites accessible including financial implications of doing so
- vi. Communications plan developed for promotion of hireable spaces

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item: MM007-24 Vale John Flowers

Mayor: The Mayor, Councillor Elmir

BACKGROUND

Former Rockdale MP and Mayor of Rockdale Council, Mr John Flowers, has passed away at the age of 70.

Mr Flowers held the seat of Rockdale for the Liberal Party from 2011 to 2015 and was a Councillor on Kogarah Council between 1999 until 2004 and then Rockdale Council from 2004, where he served as Deputy Mayor and then Mayor.

Mr Flowers contested the Labor-held seat of Rockdale in 2011 and was elected with 53.6 per cent of the two-party vote. He succeeded Frank Sartor who had held the seat for eight years before announcing his retirement from politics.

Mr Flowers was a teacher at Belmore Boys' High School for over 20 years.

MOTION:

That Council notes the passing of Mr John Flowers and extend our deepest sympathies to his family.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil