

# EXTRAORDINARY AGENDA

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## Council Meeting

Monday, 22 September 2025

6:00 PM

Dragon Room

Civic Centre

Hurstville



## **OATH OF OFFICE OR AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE**

All Georges River Councillors are reminded of their Oath of Office or Affirmation of Office made at the time of their swearing into the role of Councillor.

All Councillors are to undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Georges River Council area and are to act faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgement.

## **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

All Georges River Councillors are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflict of interest (perceived or otherwise) in a matter being considered by Council or at any meeting of Council.

## EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

#### OPENING

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Council acknowledges the Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation, who are the Traditional Custodians of all lands, waters and sky in the Georges River area. I pay my respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who live, work and meet on these lands.

#### NATIONAL ANTHEM

#### PRAYER

#### APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE

#### NOTICE OF WEBCASTING

#### DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

#### PUBLIC FORUM

#### CONDOLENCES

#### FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

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**FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE****Item:** CCL076-25 Election of Deputy Mayor**Author:** Executive Services Officer**Directorate:** Office of the General Manager**Matter Type:** Finance and Governance

CCL076-25

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- (a) That Council determine the method of voting for the election of Deputy Mayor.
- (b) That the General Manager, as Returning Officer, undertake the election of Deputy Mayor for a period of one (1) year until September 2026, by announcing the nominations and then conducting the election.
- (c) That letters be forwarded to the Office of Local Government and the CEO of LGNSW advising of the election of the Deputy Mayor.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. This report provides an overview of the role of the Deputy Mayor and the voting method for the election of the Deputy Mayor in accordance with Schedule 7 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

**BACKGROUND**

2. Council is now required to conduct an election for the position of Deputy Mayor in accordance with Section 231 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and Schedule 7 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.
3. The Deputy Mayor can be elected in accordance with Section 231 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*;
  - Section 231; Deputy Mayor*
  - (1) *The councillors may elect a person from among their number to be the deputy mayor.*
  - (2) *The person may be elected for the mayoral term or a shorter term.*
  - (3) *The deputy mayor may exercise any function of the mayor at the request of the mayor or if the mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise from exercising the function or if there is a casual vacancy in the office of mayor.*
  - (4) *The councillors may elect a person from among their number to act as deputy mayor if the deputy mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise from exercising a function under this section, or if no deputy mayor has been elected.*
4. It is proposed that the Deputy Mayor will be elected and hold office for a period of one (1) year until September 2026.
5. The following procedures are to be followed for the election process, in accordance with Schedule 7 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*:
  - (a) Announcement of nominations.
  - (b) Determination of method of voting (open voting by show of hands, ordinary ballot or preferential ballot).

(c) Conduct of the election.

6. Should Council determine that the method of voting will be via a secret or preferential ballot, the returning officer will adjourn the meeting and require Councillors to attend the Dragon Room to conduct the election in-person.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7. The Mayoral and Councillor fees are allocated in the 2025/26 Budget.
8. There are no additional fees payable to the Deputy Mayor.

#### **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

9. Strategic Risk 7: Ineffective Governance relates to the failure of Council's Governance and Compliance Frameworks to ensure compliance with relevant legislative statutory and policies and procedures and which are not being monitored across the organisation. The election of the Deputy Mayor in accordance with Section 231 of the NSW *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* upholds the principles of compliance.
10. No operational risks have been identified.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

11. Election of the Deputy Mayor is conducted in accordance with Section 231 of the NSW *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* which does not require community consultation.

#### **FILE REFERENCE**

D25/138477

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

**Item:** CCL077-25 Appointment of Councillor Representatives to Georges River Council Standing Committees

**Author:** Manager Office of the General Manager

**Directorate:** Office of the General Manager

**Matter Type:** Finance and Governance

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council elect the Chairpersons and determine the Councillor representatives of the following Standing Committees for the period until September 2026:

- (a) Assets and Infrastructure Committee
- (b) Community and Culture Committee
- (c) Environment and Planning Committee
- (d) Finance and Governance Committee

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. This report seeks Council's determination of Chairpersons and Councillor representatives to the following Standing Committees until September 2026:
  - Assets and Infrastructure Committee
  - Community and Culture Committee
  - Environment and Planning Committee
  - Finance and Governance Committee

**BACKGROUND**

2. On 4 October 2017, Council resolved to establish the aforementioned Standing Committees.
3. Terms of reference for the Standing Committees are currently in place which set out the role, responsibilities, and structure of each Standing Committee. This includes the provision for membership of a minimum of four (4) and a maximum of (10) Councillors (voting members) with a quorum being the majority of voting members.
4. Membership of each Standing Committee is reviewed annually and resolved by Council.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5. Within budget allocation.

**RISK IMPLICATIONS**

6. Strategic Risk 7 – Reputation; Strategic Risk 8 – Statutory and Regulatory requirement/Ineffective governance. There are two identified strategic risks from Council's 2023/24 Risk Statement, that are relevant to this report in regard to Council's ability to engage in sound and transparent decision making, and effective governance across the organisation.
7. The appointment of Councillor representation to Committees through the meeting process and subsequent inclusion of this information on Council's website is one of many strategies that have been implemented to ensure that these actions are achieved.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

8. Members of the community are able to attend and address Standing Committee meeting in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

## **FILE REFERENCE**

D25/190230

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

**CCL077-25**

**Item: CCL078-25 Appointment of Councillor Delegates to Advisory Committees, External Committees and Panels**

**Author:** Manager Office of the General Manager

**Directorate:** Office of the General Manager

**Matter Type:** Finance and Governance

CCL078-25

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council determine the Councillor delegates to the following advisory committees, external committees and panels:

- (i) Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC);
- (ii) Georges River Combined Councils Committee (GRCCC);
- (iii) NSW Public Libraries Association;
- (iv) Sydney South Planning Panel;
- (v) Local Transport Forum (*formerly known as the Traffic Advisory Committee (LTAC)*); and
- (vi) Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. This report serves to determine Councillor delegates to advisory committees, external committees, and panels.

**BACKGROUND**

2. The appointment of Councillor delegates to internal and external committees is undertaken annually.
3. The tables below detail the external committees and panels of which Georges River Council is a member, as well as advisory committees, and the number of delegates to be appointed.

**External Committees and Panels**

<b>Committee/Panel</b>	<b>Number of Councillors</b>	<b>Term of Appointment</b>
Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC)	Mayor and Deputy Mayor (plus 2 alternates)	Reviewed annually
Georges River Combined Councils Committee (GRCCC)	1	Appointed annually
NSW Public Libraries Association	1	Appointed annually
Sydney South Planning Panel	2 (plus up to 4 alternate council delegates)	Term not to exceed three years. Members are eligible for re-appointment. A total membership cannot exceed nine years.

Bushfire Management Committee	1 (plus one alternate)	Term of Council
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#### Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC)

4. SSROC is an incorporated association of 12 local councils which provides a forum through which member councils can interact, exchange ideas and work collaboratively to solve regional issues and contribute to the future sustainability of the region.
5. SSROC comprises of two councillors delegated from each member council, with the usual protocol being the Mayor and Deputy Mayor with two (2) alternate delegates.

#### Georges River Combined Councils Committee (GRCCC)

6. The GRCCC consists of nine (9) member local councils, as well as agencies and community representatives within the Georges River catchment. The Committee advocates for the protection, conservation, and enhancement of the health of the Georges River.
7. Council appoints one (1) Councillor representative on an annual basis. Council may choose to elect an alternate Councillor member.

#### NSW Public Libraries Association

8. The NSW Public Libraries Association is the peak body for public libraries in NSW, appointing one Councillor representative on an annual basis. Meetings are held quarterly, and location rotates across metropolitan Sydney libraries.
9. Council appoints one Councillor representative on an annual basis. The Chairperson is not determined by Council.

#### Sydney South Planning Panel

10. Sydney South Planning Panel is an independent body that strengthens decision making on regionally significant development applications and other planning matters including certain planning proposals and Aboriginal land planning.
11. Two council members are appointed by Council. At least one (1) member nominated by Council must have appropriate qualifications in one or more of the following areas: planning, architecture, heritage, the environment, urban design, land economics, traffic and transport, law, engineering, or tourism.
12. Under the Sydney District & Regional Planning Panels Operational Procedures, updated in November 2022, Councils are encouraged to appoint a minimum of 4 alternate members, both for probity reasons and to enable regular rotation.

#### Canterbury-Bankstown/Georges River Bushfire Management Committee

13. Bushfire Management Committees (BFMCs) are established under the provisions of the *Rural Fires Act 1997* (the Act) and the *Rural Fires Regulation 2022* (the Regulations).
14. BFMCs are subordinate to the Bushfire Coordinating Committee (BFCC) and are subject to its directions. BFMCs are not council committees, nor are they NSW RFS committees. They are responsible to the BFCC.
15. In accordance with the Regulations, and unless the BFCC determines otherwise, the BFCC must invite 1 senior representative of Council, e.g., the Mayor or a Councillor; and 1 person with responsibilities for the performance of the Council's functions in relation to the environment or bush fire management, i.e., a council employee who is appointed by the General Manager.
16. Council, historically, has appointed one Councillor to be a member, and one Councillor to be an alternate, for the term of Council. It is considered appropriate that Council

determine councillor representation at this time to be ready and in place once Council receives the formal invitation from the BFCC.

### **Advisory Committees**

<b>Committee/Panel</b>	<b>Number of Councillors</b>	<b>Term of Appointment</b>
Local Transport Forum ( <i>formerly known as the Traffic Advisory Committee (LTAC)</i> )	1 (Chairperson, and alternate)	Appointed annually
Floodplain Risk Management Committee	1 (Chairperson, or their alternate)	Term of Council
Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee	1 (Chairperson) 2 Councillors	Appointed annually
Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee	1 non-voting Councillor member	Term of Council

CCL078-25

#### **Traffic Advisory Committee**

17. The Georges River Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) is a technical review committee which is required to advise the Council on matters referred to it by Council. These matters must be related to prescribed traffic control devices and traffic control facilities for which Council has delegated authority from Transport for NSW.
18. In accordance with the Terms of Reference, voting members of the TAC consist of the Chairperson, who is a Councillor (and alternate elected by Council), one member from NSW Police, one member from Transport for NSW and the local State Members of Parliament or their nominee.

#### **Floodplain Risk Management Committee**

19. The Floodplain Risk Management Committee's (FRMC) purpose is to assist Council in reducing the risk to life and property from riverine and overland flooding across the Georges River Council area.
20. The FRMC operates as a technical advisory committee and consists of external members as well as one Councillor representative. The Councillor will act as Chairperson (or their alternative).
21. Council may be of a mind to determine that the Councillor representative, who is a voting member, be appointed annually to align with current practice for the Traffic Advisory Committee and the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee.

#### **Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee (GRCSAC)**

22. The GRCSAC serves to provide a forum to represent the views of local sporting bodies relating to sporting matters.
23. Voting members comprise one nominated Councillor to act as Chairperson and, 2 nominated Councillors, one to be elected as the alternate Chairperson. Councillor representation is appointed annually.

#### **The Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee**

24. The Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (the ARIC) is the independent advisory committee consisting of an independent chair and two independent members who have voting rights, and one non-voting councillor, as required under the *Local Government*

*(General) Regulation 2021* (the Regulation). The ARIC provides oversight, monitoring, reviewing and advice on the following aspects of Council's operations:

- Compliance
- Risk management
- Fraud control
- Financial management
- Governance
- Implementation of strategic plan, delivery program and strategies
- Service reviews
- Council's performance
- Collection of performance measurement data by the Council

The councillor member is to be appointed by the governing body at the first meeting of the council after the elections. The councillor member's term ends at the end of the council term.

Council must ensure that the Chairperson and other members of the ARIC, including the non-voting Councillor member, demonstrate that they meet the eligibility criteria for councillor members of committees as set out below and in accordance with the Guidelines and the ARIC Terms of Reference:

- an ability to read and understand financial statements and a capacity to understand the ethical requirements of government (including potential conflicts of interest);
- a good understanding of one or more of the following: risk management, performance management, human resources management, internal and external auditing, financial reporting, accounting, management control frameworks, internal financial controls, governance (including planning, reporting and oversight), or business operations;
- a capacity to form independent judgements and willingness to constructively challenge/question management practices and information;
- a professional, ethical approach to the exercise of their duties and the capacity to devote the necessary time and effort to the responsibilities of a councillor member of an audit, risk and improvement committee; and
- preparedness to undertake any training on the operation of audit, risk and improvement committees recommended by the Chairperson based on their assessment of the skills, knowledge, and experience of the councillor member.

The Mayor cannot be appointed as a councillor member of a council's ARIC.

Note: Councils are not required to appoint a councillor member to an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

In November 2023, the Office of Local Government (OLG) released the [Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit in NSW Local Government \(the Guidelines\)](#) to assist councils to comply with statutory requirements under the Local Government Act and Local Government Regulation. The Guidelines also seek to strengthen risk management and internal audit practices in NSW Councils by setting a minimum standard that reflects a 'best practice' approach. To further ensure that the ARIC has clear guidance on how it should serve the Council, Terms of Reference have been implemented that set out the ARIC's objectives, authority, composition and tenure, roles and responsibilities and reporting and administrative arrangements, in accordance with the Guidelines and the Regulation.

Councillors received more detailed information in the Induction pack in regard to the purpose, role, membership and function of the ARIC.

**Steering Committee**

<b>Committee/Panel</b>	<b>Number of Councillors</b>	<b>Term of Appointment</b>
Beverley Park Golf Club Steering Committee	The Mayor (Chairperson) Kogarah Bay Ward Councillors (x3)	Term of Council

**Beverley Park Golf Club Steering Committee**

- 25. The Beverley Park Golf Club Steering Committee (BPGSC) is a forum for discussion between Georges River council and Beverley Park Golf Club on issues relating to the operation of the Golf Course and Clubhouse.
- 26. In accordance with the BPGSC Terms of Reference, Councillor representation to the BPGSC consists of the Mayor, as Chairperson and the Kogarah Bay Ward Councillors. Members are appointed for the term of Council.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 27. Adoption of the recommendations outlined in this report will have no financial impact, as there is provision for the conduct of meetings allocated in the adopted 2024/25 Operational Plan.

**RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 28. Strategic Risk 7 – Reputation; Strategic Risk 8 – Statutory and Regulatory requirement/Ineffective governance. There are two identified strategic risks, from Council’s Strategic Risk Statement, that are relevant to this report in regard to Council’s ability to engage in sound and transparent decision making, and effective governance across the organisation.
- 29. The appointment of Councillor representation to Advisory Committees and external Committees and Panels, and subsequent inclusion of this information on Council’s website, is one of many strategies that have been implemented to ensure that these actions are achieved.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- 30. Members of the community may be able to attend and address advisory committees in accordance with the relevant Committee’s Terms of Reference.

**FILE REFERENCE**

D25/190227

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

CCL078-25

**OPEN COUNCIL**

**CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS**