

AGENDA

Council Meeting

Monday, 24 June 2024

7:00 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.

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

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Nil

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QUESTIONS WITH NO NOTICE

Nil

CONFIDENTIAL (CLOSED SESSION)

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CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Item: CCL036-24 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27 May 2024

Author: Executive Services Officer

Directorate: Office of the General Manager

Matter Type: Previous Minutes

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27 May 2024, be adopted.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [↓](#)1 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27 May 2024



MINUTES

Council Meeting

Monday, 27 May 2024

7:00 PM

Dragon Room

Civic Centre

Hurstville



UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

PRESENT

COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Mayor, Councillor Sam Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Elise Borg, Councillor Ashvini Ambihaipahar, Councillor Veronica Ficarra, Councillor Christina Jamieson, Councillor Nick Katris (on-line), Councillor Lou Konjarski, Councillor Kathryn Landsberry, Councillor Nancy Liu, Councillor Peter Mahoney, Councillor Natalie Mort, Councillor Nick Smerdely, Councillor Sam Stratikopoulos, Councillor Colleen Symington and Councillor Benjamin Wang.

COUNCIL STAFF

General Manager – David Tuxford, Director Assets and Infrastructure – Andrew Latta (on-line), Director Environment and Planning – Meryl Bishop, Director Community and Culture – Kristie Dodd, Director Business and Corporate Services – Danielle Parker, Chief Audit Executive – Steven Baker (on-line), Manager, Manager City Life - Margaret Le, Manager Premium Facilities - Luke Coleman – Manager - Office of the General Manager – Manager Cultural Engagement and Library Services – Justin Yeomans, Vicki McKinley, Executive Services Officer – Marisa Severino, Executive Services Officer – Nickie Paras (Minutes), Sue Matthew – Executive Assistant to the General Manager, General Counsel - James Fan, Executive Manager City Futures - Simon Massey, Team Leader – Mark Tadros and Technology Services Officer Earl Santos.

OPENING

The Mayor, Councillor Elmir, opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor, Councillor Elmir acknowledged 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

All those present stood for the singing of the National Anthem.

PRAYER

The Rabbi Mani Holtzman offered a prayer to the meeting.

APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies or requests for leave of absence.

REQUEST TO ATTEND VIA AUDIO VISUAL LINK

RESOLVED: Councillor Symington, Councillor Ficarra

That approval be granted for Councillor Katris to join the meeting via Audio Visual Link.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski,

Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

NOTICE OF WEBCASTING

The Mayor, Councillor Elmir advised staff and the public that the meeting is being recorded for minute-taking purposes and is also webcast live on Council's website, in accordance with section 5 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice. This recording will be made available on Council's Website.

CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

Council's Code of Meeting Practice prohibits the electronic recording of meetings without the express permission of Council.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Konjarski declared a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary interest in item **CCL028-24 (ASS015-24) – Report of the Assets and Infrastructure Committee** meeting held on 13 May 2024 for the reason that his son plays football for St George City who is the Association that tendered for the use of the facility mentioned in the report. Councillor Konjarski will remain in the meeting and take part in consideration and voting on this item.

Councillor Smerdely disclosed a Significant, Non-Pecuniary Interest in item **CCL029-24 (COM015-24) – Report of the Community and Culture Committee** meeting held on 13 May 2024 for the reason that his mother is a member of the board for Jubilee Community Services. Councillor Smerdely will remain in the meeting and take part in consideration and voting on this item

Special Interest Disclosure - Councillor Borg submitted a Special Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest in item **CCL030-24 (ENV019-24) – Report of the Environment and Planning Committee** meeting held on 13 May 2024 for the reason that she has an interest in this item it proposes to reduce the minimum lot size for dual occupancies from 650sqm to 600sqm in the R2 zone. My principal place of residence is 613sqm in an R2 zone. Councillor Borg will partake in any deliberations on this matter and will remain the meeting and participate in the consideration and voting on this item.

Special Interest Disclosure - Councillor Borg submitted a Special Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest in item **CCL030-24 (ENV019-24) – Report of the Environment and Planning Committee** meeting held on 13 May 2024 for the reason the item proposes to reduce the minimum lot size for dual occupancies from 650sqm to 600sqm in R2 zones. The subject property is 620sqm and is the principal place of residence of my direct relative. Councillor Borg will partake in any deliberations on this matter and will remain the meeting and participate in the consideration and voting on this item.

Councillor Ambhaipahar declared a Pecuniary Interest in item **CCL030-24 (ENV019-24) – Report of the Environment and Planning Committee** held on 13 May for the reason she is employed as the Regional Director - Operations Metro at St Vincent de Paul Society NSW (Society) and she oversees Vinnies Support Centres (VSC) and Vans operations in the metropolitan area. The Hurstville VSC is currently operating at 183C Forest Rd, Hurstville,

NSW, 2220 and the site is owned by the Society. Councillor Ambihaipahar will not partake in any deliberations on this matter and she will leave the meeting and not participate in the consideration and voting on this item.

Special Interest Disclosure - Councillor Jamieson submitted a Special Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest in item **CCL030-24 (ENV019-24) – Report of the Environment and Planning Committee** held on 13 May 2024 for the reason that she has an interest in R2 zone land area. Councillor Jamieson will partake in any deliberations on this matter and will remain the meeting and participate in the consideration and voting on this item.

Councillor Jamieson declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in item **CCL030-24 (ENV020-24) - Report of the Environment and Planning Committee** held on 13 May 2024 for the reason that her owner occupied property is within the Masterplan area. However, there is no pecuniary interest in the update. Councillor Jamieson will remain in the meeting and take part in consideration and voting on this item.

Special Interest Disclosure – Mayor, Councillor Elmir submitted a Special Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest in item **CCL030-24 (ENV019-24) – Report of the Environment and Planning Committee** held on 13 May 2024 for the reason that he has an interest in R2 zone land area. The Mayor, Councillor Elmir will partake in any deliberations on this matter and will remain the meeting and participate in the consideration and voting on this item.

Councillor Mahoney declared a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary interest in item **CCL028-24 (ASS011-24) – Report of the Assets and Infrastructure Committee** meeting held on 13 May 2024 for the reason that he is acquainted with one of the non-voting committee members who is a former work colleague.

Special Interest Disclosure – Councillor Mahoney submitted a Special Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest in item **CCL030-24 (ENV019-24) – Report of the Environment and Planning Committee** held on 13 May 2024 for the reason that his principal place of residence is located within the existing Foreshore Scenic Protection Area zoned R2, which has been identified as one of the components of the Additional and Diverse Housing Planning Proposal. Councillor Mahoney will partake in any deliberations on this matter and will remain in the meeting and participate in the consideration and voting on this item.

Special Interest Disclosure – Councillor Katris submitted a Special Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest in item **CCL030-24 (ENV019-24) – Report of the Environment and Planning Committee** held on 13 May 2024 for the reason he has an interest in the land. Councillor Katris will partake in any deliberations on this matter and will remain the meeting and participate in the consideration and voting on this item.

Councillor Konjarski declared a **Pecuniary Interest** in item **CCL030-24 (ENV019-24) – Report of the Environment and Planning Committee** held on 13 May 2024 for the reason he has an investment property in the area. Councillor Konjarski will not partake in any deliberations on this matter and she will leave the meeting and not participate in the consideration and voting on this item.

Councillor Liu declared a **Pecuniary Interest** in item **CCL030-24 (ENV019-24) – Report of the Environment and Planning Committee** held on 13 May 2024 for the reason she has an investment property in the area. Councillor Liu will not partake in any deliberations on this matter and she will leave the meeting and not participate in the consideration and voting on this item.

Special Interest Disclosure – Councillor Liu submitted a Special Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest in item **CCL030-24 (ENV019-24) – Report of the Environment and Planning Committee** held on 13 May 2024 for the reason she has an interest in the land, which is her primary residence. Councillor Liu will partake in any deliberations on this matter and will remain the meeting and participate in the consideration and voting on this item.

Special Interest Disclosure – Councillor Smerdely submitted a Special Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest in item **CCL030-24 (ENV019-24) – Report of the Environment and Planning Committee** held on 13 May 2024 for the reason it is his principal place of residence is within the area of discussion. Councillor Smerdely will partake in any deliberations on this matter and will remain the meeting and participate in the consideration and voting on this item.

Councillor Stratikopoulos declared a Pecuniary Interest in item **CCL030-24 (ENV019-24) – Report of the Environment and Planning Committee** held on 13 May 2024 for the reason it is his principal place of residence and investment property fall within the Foreshore Scenic Protection Area. Councillor Stratikopoulos will not partake in any deliberations on this matter and he will leave the meeting and not participate in the consideration and voting on this item.

Councillor Smerdely disclosed a Significant, Non-Pecuniary Interest in item **CCL029-24 (COM015-24) – Report of the Community and Culture Committee** meeting held on 13 May 2024 for the reason that his mother is a member of the board for Jubilee Community Services. Councillor Smerdely will remain in the meeting and take part in consideration and voting on this item

Councillor Smerdely submitted a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in item **CCL030-24 (ENV019-24) – Report of the Environment and Planning Committee** meeting held on 13 May 2024 for the reason a family member owns an investment property with proposed area. Councillor Smerdely will not partake in any deliberations on this matter and he will leave the meeting and not participate in the consideration and voting on this item.

Councillor Ficarra declared a Pecuniary Interest in item **CCL030-24 (ENV019-24) – Report of the Environment and Planning Committee** held on 13 May for the reason she has a close relative who owns a property where income is gathered from it within the Georges River LGA, and the value of the property may be affected by the impact of this item. Councillor Ficarra will not partake in any deliberations on this matter and she will leave the meeting and not participate in the consideration and voting on this item.

Councillor Mort declared a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary interest in item **CCL030-24 (ENV019-24) – Report of the Environment and Planning Committee** held on 13 May meeting held on 13 May for the reason her principal place of residence is in the R2 zone in the foreshore scenic protection area, FSPA. This report proposes to change the lot sides of for Dual Occupancies in R2 zones and proposes to permit multi dwellings in housing in the R2 zone. However the areas are exempt from these proposed to changes so there is no pecuniary impact to my R2 property. Councillor Mort will remain in the meeting and take part in consideration and voting on this item.

Councillor Wang declared a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary interest in item **CCL030-24 (ENV019-24) – Report of the Environment and Planning Committee** held on 13 May meeting held on 13 May for the reason his principal place of residence is in the R2 zone in the foreshore scenic protection area, FSPA. This report proposes to change the lot sides of for Dual Occupancies in R2 zones and proposes to permit multi dwellings in housing in the R2 zone. However the areas are exempt from these proposed to changes so there is no pecuniary impact

to my R2 property. Councillor Wang will remain in the meeting and take part in consideration and voting on this item.

Councillor Landsberry declared a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary interest in item **CCL028-24 (ASS015-24) – Report of the Assets and Infrastructure Committee** meeting held on 13 May for the reason that her son is a coach with St George City FC, which tendered for use of the facility named in the report. Councillor Landsberry will remain in the meeting and take part in consideration and voting on this item.

Special Interest Disclosure – Councillor Symington submitted a Special Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest in item **CCL030-24 (ENV019-24) – Report of the Environment and Planning Committee** held on 13 May for the reason she has an interest in the land (e.g. is the owner or has another interest arising out of a mortgage, lease, trust, option or contract, or otherwise). Councillor Symington will partake in any deliberations on this matter and will remain the meeting and participate in the consideration and voting on this item.

PUBLIC FORUM

1	Dr Fan Dongwang (In person)	NM043-24	Donation of Artwork created by Dr Fan Dongwang
2	Ginger Li (In person)	NM043-24	Donation of Artwork created by Dr Fan Dongwang
3	Kerrie Adra (In person)	NM045-24	Improving Traffic Movement and Safety
4	Liane Madden (In person)	NM050-24	Beautification of Penshurst
5	Nicky Parras (In person)	NM050-24	Beautification of Penshurst
6	Michael Tomalaris (In person)	NM050-24	Beautification of Penshurst
7	Sonia Baxant (Remote)	NM045-24	Improving Traffic Movement and Safety
8	Natalia Esdaile-Watts (In person)	NM046-24	Support for Gender-Based / Domestic and Family Violence
9	Simon Chan (In person)	NM043-24	Donation of Artwork created by Dr Fan Dongwang
10	Matt Allison (In person)	ENV018-24	Tree Management Policy
11	Steven Ferrington (In person)	QWN013-24	Traffic Safety Improvements relating to the "B: Streets" in Mortdale
12	Cathleen Wang (In person)	NM047-24	Waste Bin Collection Service

13	Tica Lee (In person)	NM046-24	Support for Gender-Based / Domestic and Family Violence
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CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

CCL027-24 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22 April 2024
(Report by Integrated Planning and Reporting Officer)

RESOLVED: Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Stratikopoulos

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22 April 2024, be adopted.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

MAYORAL MINUTE

MM012-24 Congratulations to Lugarno Lions Club on their 50th Anniversary
(Report by The Mayor, Councillor Elmir)

Note: It was noted that Councillor Wang left the Chambers at 08:07pm

RESOLVED: The Mayor, Councillor Elmir

That Council acknowledge and congratulate Lugarno Lions Club on their dedicated service to the community of Georges River of the last 50 years.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Standing Orders were suspended to allow the Mayor to present a Certificate of Congratulations to the Lugarno Lions Club on their 50th Anniversary. The time being 8:09pm.

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

Standing orders resumed, time being 8:13pm

MM013-24 Increasing Number of Yearly General Waste Pickups for Strata Apartments

(Report by The Mayor, Councillor Elmir)

RESOLVED: The Mayor, Councillor Elmir

That the General Manager prepares a report focussing on the bulky waste collection service:

- i. Outlining provisions of the Development Control Plan that cater for future waste management needs and cater to the bulky waste collection service.
- ii. Confirming mechanisms under the waste collection contract that cater to residents in multi-unit dwellings with bulky waste for collection.
- iii. Investigating options to provide a new flexible bulky waste collection service in multi-unit developments with high turnover and/or significant volumes of bulky waste either via an amendment to the Waste Collection Contract or by providing the service internally.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

MM014-24 Congratulations to Council staff for the delivery of the Blackshaw Gould Community Pavilion

(Report by The Mayor, Councillor Elmir)

RESOLVED: The Mayor, Councillor Elmir

That Council congratulate and thank all staff involved in delivering the Blackshaw Gould community Pavilion for our Georges River Community to enjoy and use for many years into the future.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos,

Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

MM015-24 Acknowledgement of the Great Service Provided to our Community by Superintendent Commander Rohan Cramsie
(Report by The Mayor, Councillor Elmir)

RESOLVED: The Mayor, Councillor Elmir

That Council acknowledges and extends its gratitude to Superintendent Commander Rohan Cramsie for his outstanding service and contribution provided to the Georges River local government area over many years. We extend our best wishes for his continued success in all his future endeavours.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

MM016-24 St George Candlelight Vigil 2024
(Report by The Mayor, Councillor Elmir)

RESOLVED: The Mayor, Councillor Elmir

That Council congratulates the St George Domestic Violence Committee and Council officers on the delivery of the St George Candlelight Vigil 2024.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

MM017-24 Walking and Yarning on Country
(Report by The Mayor, Councillor Elmir)

RESOLVED: The Mayor, Councillor Elmir

That Council thanks Aunty Barb Simms and Uncle Dean Kelly for sharing their knowledge and expertise of the Oatley Park foreshore, specifically the local landscape and native plants, with the community, to mark the eve of National Sorry Day and start National Reconciliation Week.

That Council thank the Lugarno Lions for providing lunch and the Council staff who organised this educational and important walk and yarn on country.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

MM018-24 Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal (Report by The Mayor, Councillor Elmir)

RESOLVED: The Mayor, Councillor Elmir

That Council thanks the Salvation Army, its volunteers and all Community Groups that have assisted for their tireless work in the community, specifically the 2024 Red Shield Appeal.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

MM019-24 Condolences to Chris Minns on the recent loss of his father (Report by The Mayor, Councillor Elmir)

RESOLVED: The Mayor, Councillor Elmir

That Council notes the passing of Mr John Minns and extends our deepest sympathies to his wife, Cara and family.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

MM020-24 Condolences on the passing of Tony Bleasdale, Mayor of Blacktown City Council

(Report by The Mayor, Councillor Elmir)

RESOLVED: The Mayor, Councillor Elmir

That Council write to Blacktown Council expressing our sympathies for the recent passing of Cr Tony Bleasdale, Mayor of Blacktown.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

CONDOLENCES

- Councillor Landsberry expressed condolences on the passing of Councillor Ambihaipahar's grandfather, Ramalingham Ambihaipahar.

Ramalingham Ambihaipahar, affectionately known as "Ambi," was a distinguished Tamil scholar and poet who made significant contributions to the development of the Tamil language in Australia and internationally. Renowned as one of Sri Lanka's most prominent and internationally acclaimed Tamil poets and educationists, Ambi held a revered place in the literary world. He was also a devoted husband to Manoharidevi and a loving father to his three children, Umadevi, Thirukumar, and Thayapari.

Born on 17 February 1929 in Jaffna, Sri Lanka, Ramalingham grew up in a large family. He assumed caregiving responsibilities for his siblings following the early passing of his parents. Raised in an environment that cherished education and culture, Ramalingham developed a profound interest in literature and a fervent commitment to socialism. His mother and father were instrumental in nurturing his passion for Tamil poetry, writing and mathematics.

In 1980, Ramalingham moved to Papua New Guinea, where his family soon joined him. They settled in Port Moresby, making it their home for the next 25 years.

In 2005 Ramalingham moved to Sydney, where he continued writing and spent cherished time with his grandchildren. Residing in Hurstville with his wife, he enjoyed walks to the local shops, taking his grandchildren out for meals, and watching cricket, particularly the Ashes, as well as NRL.

A man of routine, he found solace in his daily prayers and loved listening to Tamil radio. A fervent supporter of the Australian Labor Party, he relished engaging in robust political discussions with the family especially with his granddaughter, Ashvini.

Ramalingham passed away on 27 April 2024 and is survived by his wife Manoharidevi, his children and grandchildren.

- Councillor Borg would like to extend her deepest condolences to Councillor Jamieson on the passing of her father, Fotios Petrakis, affectionately known as Fred, who left us on the morning of 17 May 2024.

Fotios arrived in Australia from Athens in 1962 where he was married to Demetra who came from Cyprus the same year.

Fred is survived by his three daughters and four grandchildren. Fred worked at QANTAS for 25 years and was a quiet family man, unassuming and extraordinarily shy. He was a man of high morals and believed in doing the right thing. He has left a legacy of love and respect.

My heartfelt sympathies go out to Councillor Jamieson and her family during this difficult time.

Note: It was noted that Councillor Mort left the Chambers at 08:30pm

Note: It was noted that Councillor Mort returned to the Chambers at 08:31pm

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CCL028-24 Report of the Assets and Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 13 May 2024

(Report by Executive Services Officer)

RESOLVED: Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Smerdely

That the Assets and Infrastructure Committee recommendations for items ASS011-24 to ASS013-24 as detailed below, be adopted by Council.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

ASS011-24 REPORT OF THE GEORGES RIVER LOCAL TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 MAY 2024

(Report by Acting Manager Strategic Placemaking)

That the recommendations contained within the minutes of the Georges River Local Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting held on 7 May 2024 be adopted by Council.

ASS012-24 CROSS STREET, HURSTVILLE (WESTFIELD'S) ACCESS RAMP BALUSTRADE RECTIFICATION WORKS

(Report by Manager City Technical Services)

- (a) That Council note the works required on the Cross Street, Hurstville (Westfield's) access ramp balustrade.
- (b) That the budgeted expenditure of \$120,000 is approved, as detailed in this report.
- (c) That Council approve the General Manager to progress negotiations with Scentre Group into the ongoing management and maintenance of the Cross Street access ramp.

ASS013-24 HURSTVILLE ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE SAFETY INVESTIGATION AND RECTIFICATION DESIGN

(Report by Manager City Technical Services)

- (a) That Council note the importance of the Hurstville Entertainment Centre, as identified in the Georges River Council Open Space, Recreation and Community Facilities Strategy 2019-2036, as a multi-purpose community venue for hire.
- (b) That Council approve additional non-budgeted capital expenditure of \$176,000 be allocated to complete the Safety Investigation and Rectification Design of Hurstville Entertainment Centre Project.
- (c) That Council approve the transfer of \$176,000 from budgeted capital expenditure associated with the Major Building Renewal Program, as identified in the 2023/24 Capital Works Budget.

ASS014-24 T24/001 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION - PARKSIDE DRIVE RESERVE (CHARLES PIRIE FIELD) SPORTS LIGHTING UPGRADE
(Report by Senior Procurement and Contracts Business Partner)

RESOLVED: Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Liu

That the Assets and Infrastructure Committee recommendations for ASS014-24 and ASS015-24 as detailed below, be adopted by Council.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihapahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

- (a) That in accordance with Section 178(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Council accepts the Tender from Havencord Pty Ltd t/as Floodlighting Australia (ABN: 46 003 987 602) for T24/001 Design and Construction – Parkside Drive Reserve (Charles Pirie Field) Sports Lighting Upgrade, for the contract sum of \$230,200.00 (excluding GST).
- (b) That the General Manager be authorised to execute the Contract with the successful Contractor on behalf of Council.
- (c) That Council inform the unsuccessful Tenderers of the resolution.

ASS015-24 P24/001 OPERATION OF CANTEEN FACILITY AT PENSHURST SPORTS HUB
(Report by Senior Procurement and Contracts Business Partner)

Note: Councillor Konjarski disclosed a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary interest in item ASS015-24.

Note: Councillor Landsberry disclosed a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary interest in item ASS015-24.

RESOLVED: Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Liu

- (a) That in accordance with the Instrument of Delegation of Functions to General Manager dated 1 October 2022, Schedule 2 Conditions & Limitations, Leases, Licences & management agreements (4)(a)(xii), Council accepts the proposal from St George City Football Association Australia (ABN: 41 153 219 512) for P24/001 Lease and Operation of Canteen Facility at Penshurst Sports Hub, for the commercial offer of \$15,000.00 (ex GST) per annum.
- (b) That the General Manager be authorised to execute the Contract with the successful Contractor on behalf of Council.

CCL029-24 Report of the Community and Culture Committee meeting held on 13 May 2024
(Report by Executive Services Officer)

Note: Councillor Smerdely disclosed a Significant, Non-Pecuniary interest in item ASS015-24.

RESOLVED: Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Liu

That the Community and Culture Committee recommendations for items COM014-24 to COM015A-24 as detailed below, be adopted by Council.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihapahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

COM014-24 MINUTES OF THE SPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 4 APRIL 2024
(Report by Personal Assistant to Manager, City Life)

That the recommendations contained within the Minutes of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee Meeting held on 4 April 2024 be submitted to the Community and Culture Committee for consideration and to be adopted by Council.

COM015-24 GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANTS 2023-2024 ROUND 2
(Report by Grants Officer)

- (a) That the funding recommendations resulting from Georges River Council Community Grants 2023-2024 Round 2, as detailed in Attachment 1 to this report, be adopted.
- (b) That Council note that funds of \$523.00 not allocated in Community Grants 2023-2024 Round 2 be returned to general revenue as savings.

COM015A-24 LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL AND OLDS PARK SPORTS CLUB LIMITED
(Report by Coordinator, Programming and Operations)

- (a) That Council approve the General Manager to enter into a Lease agreement between Georges River Council and Olds Park Sports Club Limited, as outlined within this report with the following amendments:
- (b) The subsidy of 50% is granted for years 1 and 2 of the lease.
- (c) The subsidy of 50% for years 3, 4 and 5 is not guaranteed and must be applied for to Council each year.
- (d) The subsidy for years 3, 4 and 5 will be conditional upon Olds Park Sports Club presenting a business case to Council on how they will return to profit, and that all rents are up to date and paid.
- (e) That Council approve the Sub-Lease agreement between Olds Park Sports Club Limited to Meals on Wheels Australia for the term of the Lease as outlined within this report.

CCL030-24 Report of the Environment and Planning Committee meeting held on 13 May 2024

(Report by Manager Office of the General Manager)

RESOLVED: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Konjarski

That the Environment and Planning Committee recommendations for items ENV018-24 and ENV020-24 to ENV021-24 as detailed below, be adopted by Council.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihapahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

ENV018-24 OUTCOMES OF EXHIBITION - ADOPTION OF REVISED TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY AND AMENDMENT NO.6 TO THE GRDCP 2021
(Report by Principal Strategic Planner)

- (a) That Council note the submissions received during the public exhibition of the Draft Revised Tree Management Policy, the amendment to the Georges River Council 2023/24 Schedule of Fees and Charges and draft Amendment No. 6 to the Georges River Development Control Plan 2021 (GRDCP).
- (b) That Council amend the exhibited Draft Revised Tree Management Policy as outlined in **Table 5 of Attachment 8**.
- (c) That Council adopt the Tree Management Policy as amended and contained in **Attachment 2**, which includes an offset fee which will be levied through the execution of a deed of agreement, in response to submissions.
- (d) That Council give public notice of the decision to adopt the revised Tree Management Policy on its website in accordance with Section 166 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
- (e) That Council adopt the proposed changes to the Fees and Charges relating to Street Tree

Removal, Tree Management Inspections (private land) and Tree Removal, Replacement and Pruning as exhibited and include them in the FY24/25 Schedule of Fees and Charges.

- (f) That Council amend the exhibited Amendment No. 6 to the GRDCP as outlined in **Table 6 of Attachment 8**.
- (g) That Council adopt Amendment No. 6 of GRDCP as amended and contained in **Attachments 5-7** in response to submissions pursuant to Section 3.43 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and Clause 14 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021*.
- (h) That Council endorse the Acting Director Environment and Planning to make minor modifications to any numerical, typographical, interpretation and formatting errors, if required, in preparation for the commencement of Amendment No. 6 of the GRDCP.
- (i) That Council give public notice of the decision to adopt the amended GRDCP on its website within 28 days in accordance with Clause 14 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021*.
- (j) That Council notes the existing savings provision within the GRDCP and accordingly all applications submitted before the effective date of Amendment No. 6 of the GRDCP will be determined as if Amendment No. 6 had not commenced.
- (k) That the effective date for the revised Tree Management Policy and the amended GRDCP to be the same.
- (l) That all persons who made a submission be advised of Council's decision.
- (m) That the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) be given a copy of the amended GRDCP in accordance with Clause 20 the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021*.
- (n) That Council writes to the Hon. Chris Minns, Premier of NSW requesting that a guide for building amongst trees be incorporated into the pattern book which is currently being developed by the NSW Government Architect for low-rise and mid-rise (up to six storeys) buildings.
- (o) That Council writes to the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Jihad Dib MP requesting the NSW Rural Fire Services to implement a notification system for nearby residents when private landowners carry out vegetation clearing under the *10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code of Practice* on bushfire prone land.

ENV020-24 UPDATE ON MORTDALE AND BEVERLY HILLS LOCAL CENTRE MASTER PLANS

(Report by Manager Strategic Planning)

That the update on the Beverly Hills and Mortdale Local Centre Master Plans be received.

ENV021-24 REVISED EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS FOR THE GEORGES RIVER LGA
(Report by Principal Strategic Planner)

RESOLVED: Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Landsberry

- (a) That Council endorse the *Georges River Revised Employment Projections (June 2023)* as a strategic planning document that will inform the development of policies and planning

directions.

- (b) That Council place the *Georges River Revised Employment Projections (June 2023)* on Council's website.
- (c) That Council discontinue any further work on the draft Activating Our Centres Policy and that any future planning proposals in the LGA's commercial centres be assessed in accordance with Council's adopted strategic planning documents.

ENV019-24 PREPARATION OF ADDITIONAL AND DIVERSE HOUSING PLANNING PROPOSAL FOR THE GEORGES RIVER LGA
(Report by Principal Strategic Planner)

Note: Councillor Ambihaipahar declared a Pecuniary interest in the matter and will not partake in voting. Councillor Ambihaipahar left the meeting at 8:38pm

Note: Councillor Ficarra declared a Pecuniary interest in the matter and will not partake in voting. Councillor Ficarra left the meeting at 8:38pm

Note: Councillor Liu declared a Pecuniary interest in the matter and will not partake in voting. Councillor Liu left the meeting at 8:38pm

Note: Councillor Konjarski declared a Pecuniary interest in the matter and will not partake in voting. Councillor Konjarski left the meeting at 8:38pm

Note: Councillor Stratikopoulos declared a Pecuniary interest in the matter and will not partake in voting. Councillor Stratikopoulos left the meeting at 8:38pm

Note: Councillor Smerdely declared a Pecuniary interest in the matter and will not partake in voting. Councillor Smerdely left the meeting at 8:38pm

RESOLVED: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Konjarski

That the Environment and Planning Committee recommendations for items ENV019-24 as detailed below, be adopted by Council.

That Council endorses the preparation of the Additional and Diverse Housing Planning Proposal to amend the *Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021*, comprising of the following components:

- i. In the R2 zone, reduce the minimum lot size for dual occupancies from 650sqm to 600sqm with the exception of land located within the existing Foreshore Scenic Protection Area (FSPA), proposed FSPA and the proposed Unique Character Area (UCA),
- ii. In the R2 zone, increase the minimum subdivision lot size for dual occupancies from 300sqm to 325sqm for land located within the existing Heritage Conservation Areas (HCAs),
- iii. In the R2 zone, increase the minimum subdivision lot size for dual occupancies from 430sqm to 500sqm for land located within the existing FSPA, proposed FSPA and the proposed UCA,
- iv. In the R2 zone, introduce multi dwelling housing and terraces as permissible land uses with the exception of land located within the existing HCA's, existing FSPA, proposed FSPA and the proposed UCA,

- v. In the R2 zone, request continued prohibition of manor houses,
- vi. In the R2 zone, introduce minimum density control of 300sqm per dwelling for multi dwelling housing, terraces and manor houses (if prohibition of manor houses is not supported by the DPHI),
- vii. In the R2 zone, retain existing maximum FSR of 0.55:1 to 0.6:1 for multi dwelling housing and terraces,
- viii. In the R3 zone, reduce the minimum lot size for dual occupancies from 650sqm to 500sqm,
- ix. In the R3 zone, reduce the subdivision minimum lot size for dual occupancies from 300sqm to 250sqm,
- x. In the R3 zone, introduce residential flat buildings (RFBs) as a permissible land use to facilitate greater development take up,
- xi. In the R3 zone, introduce minimum lot size of 800sqm and minimum lot width of 24m for RFBs to ensure appropriate development outcomes,
- xii. In the R3 zone, increase the maximum building height from 9m to 10.5m to offer greater development yield and design flexibility,
- xiii. In the R3 zone, increase the maximum floor space ratio (FSR) from 0.7:1 to 0.8:1 to offer greater development yield and by extension greater development incentive,
- xiv. In the R3 zone, apply a bonus FSR of 0.2:1 (total 1:1 FSR) for multi dwelling housing to incentivise the provision of townhouses, and
- xv. Implement the recommendations of the *Hurstville City Centre Urban Design Strategy 2018 (HCCUDS)* in relation to land within the Hurstville City Centre and residential zoned land located in the Additional Capacity Investigation Areas.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Katris, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

Note: It was noted that Councillor Ambihaipahar returned to the Chambers at 8:40pm

Note: It was noted that Councillor Ficarra returned to the Chambers at 8:40pm

Note: It was noted that Councillor Konjarski returned to the Chambers at 8:40pm

Note: It was noted that Councillor Liu returned to the Chambers at 8:40pm

Note: It was noted that Councillor Smerdely returned to the Chambers at 8:40pm

Note: It was noted that Councillor Stratikopoulos returned to the Chambers at 8:40pm

CCL031-24 Report of the Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on 13 May 2024
(Report by Executive Services Officer)

RESOLVED: Councillor Jamieson, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg

That the Finance and Governance Committee recommendations for items FIN016-24 to FIN020-24 as detailed below, be adopted by Council.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

FIN016-24 INVESTMENT REPORT AS AT 31 MARCH 2024
(Report by Senior Financial Accountant - Reporting)

That the Investment Report as at 31 March 2024 be received and noted by Council.

FIN017-24 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2024
(Report by Senior Business Performance Accountant)

- (a) That Council receives and notes the contents of this report in relation to the Quarterly Budget Review for the period ending 31 March 2024.
- (b) That Council adopt the proposed amendments to the 2023/24 Budget as outlined in Attachment 1.

FIN018-24 QUARTERLY COMMERCIAL PROPERTY PORTFOLIO REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2024
(Report by Senior Property Officer)

That Council receive and note the contents of this report in relation to the Quarterly Commercial Property Portfolio, for the period ending 31 March 2024.

FIN019-24 PROPERTY MATTER - RAMSGATE CAR PARK, RAMSGATE
(Report by Head of Strategic Property)

- (a) That the report "Property Matter - Ramsgate Car Park, Ramsgate" be received and noted.
- (b) That the General Manager acknowledge the unsolicited offer and express that Council is declining the offer for the sale of the Ramsgate Car Park based on their being no strategic justification for disposal.

FIN020-24 PROPERTY MATTER - PURCHASE OF 23 COOK STREET, MORTDALE
(Report by Head of Strategic Property)

- (a) That Council purchase the residential property at 23 Cook Street, Mortdale, being Lots 20 and 21 in Deposited Plan 4817 on the terms outlined generally in this report and in confidential Attachment 1 to this report.

- (b) That Council authorise the General Manager to execute the Contract for Sale, Transfer Document, Lease Agreement and all other associated documentation to affect the purchase of Lots 20 and 21 in Deposited Plan 4817 located at 23 Cook Street, Mortdale.
- (c) That in accordance with Section 31 (2) of the Local Government Act 1993, the land be classified as Operational Land upon settlement.
- (d) That Council approve the budget for the acquisition as outlined in the associated attachments and the proposed funding source of the Strategic Centre Reserve.
- (e) That Council approve for the appropriate public notification to be undertaken for the property classification process and future community lease Expression of Interest (EOI) process.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

ORDER OF BUSINESS

RESOLVED: Councillor Borg

That, in accordance with Clause 8.5 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, Council alter the Order of Business of this meeting to allow for the following items to be considered prior to all other items on the agenda:

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

NM050-24 Penshurst Town Centre Beautification (Report by Councillor Jamieson)

RESOLVED: Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ambihaipahar

- (a) That the General Manager prepares a Public Domain Plan for streetscape and public safety enhancements for the Penshurst Town Centre that includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - i. Improvements to existing pedestrian infrastructure.
 - ii. Recognition of the suburb's heritage.
 - iii. New infrastructure to further promote public safety, such as pedestrian crossings, street fencing and lighting.
 - iv. Greenery as part of the streetscape.
 - v. New or improved passive and active open spaces.
 - vi. Improvements to the aesthetics of public buildings, gardens and spaces.
 - vii. Suitable street furniture improvements and additions
- (b) That the General Manager provides details of maintenance and capital works that will be

completed as part of the 2023/24 Delivery Program.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihapahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

CCL032-24 Applications Pursuant to Councillor Ward Discretionary Fund Policy - May 2024

(Report by Executive Services Officer)

RESOLVED: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Landsberry

That the following applications for funding, pursuant to the Councillor Ward Discretionary Fund Policy, be approved:

- (a) CWF 76/23-24 – **Cancelled Application** submitted by Councillor Wang on behalf of Garden Feast in the amount of \$400.
- (b) CWF77/23-24 – Application submitted by Councillor Jamieson on behalf of the Salvation Army (NSW) Property Trust in the amount of \$1500.
- (c) CWF78/23-24 – Application submitted by Councillor Mahoney on behalf of Penshurst RSL Kookaburras Junior Rugby League Football Club in the amount of \$1167.50.
- (d) CWF79/23-24 – Application submitted by Councillor Wang on behalf of Garden Feast in the amount of \$200.
- (e) CWF80/23-24 – Application submitted by Councillor Wang on behalf of World Dragon Fans Club Australia in the amount of \$200.
- (f) CWF81/23-24 – Application submitted by Councillor Liu on behalf of Ocean Dream Cultural Arts Centre of Australia in the amount of \$700.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihapahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

CCL033-24 Report on the Outstanding Council Resolutions (Period up to and including 31 March 2024)

(Report by Integrated Planning and Reporting Officer)

RESOLVED: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Mahoney

That the report be received and noted.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihapahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

CCL034-24 Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Capital Works Project - Budget Update (Report by Manager City Technical Services)

RESOLVED: Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Smerdely

- (a) That Council note the increase in required budget to proceed with the identified Pedestrian and Traffic Safety projects.
- (b) That Council approve the additional budgeted expenditure, as outlined in the confidential attachment.
- (c) That the additional budgeted expenditure is funded, as outlined in the confidential attachment.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihapahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

CCL035-24 Public Exhibition of the draft Georges River Council Community Lease and Licence Policy (Report by Coordinator, Programming and Operations)

Note: It was noted that Councillor Mahoney left the Chambers at 8:46pm

Note: It was noted that Councillor Mahoney returned to the Chambers at 02:03pm

RESOLVED: Councillor Liu, Councillor Konjarski

- (a) That Council approve the revised draft Georges River Council Community Lease and Licence Policy to be placed on public exhibition for a period of no less than 28 days; and
- (b) That a further report be submitted to Council on the feedback from any public submissions made during the exhibition period, together with any recommended changes to the Georges River Council Community Lease And Licence Policy prior to adoption.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NM043-24 Donation of Artwork created by Dr Fan Dongwang
(Report by Councillor Liu)

RESOLVED: Councillor Liu, Councillor Konjarski

- (a) That Council recognise the achievements of artist Dr Fan Dongwang.
- (b) That Council acknowledge the donation of artwork titled 'Dragon' by Dr Fan Dongwang's son, James Fan, to the Hurstville Museum & Gallery collection.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

NM044-24 Walking Dogs Off-leash within Parks
(Report by Councillor Wang)

Note: It was noted that Councillor Stratikopoulos left the Chambers at 08:59pm

Note: It was noted that Councillor Stratikopoulos returned to the Chambers at 09:06pm

RESOLVED: Councillor Wang, Councillor Katris

- (a) That Council notes the concerns and reports of residents walking dogs off-leash within parks at multiple locations in the Georges River Council LGA, including Woodville Park and Kempt Field.
- (b) That a review is undertaken to assess the existing regulatory dog signage at all parks and reserves throughout the LGA including off-leash areas.
- (c) That, where required, signage is installed to aid effective enforcement of on-leash requirements. All signage should comply with the relevant standards and guidelines.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

NM045-24 Improving Traffic Movement and Safety

(Report by Councillor Mahoney)

RESOLVED: Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Smerdely

- (a) That the General Manager investigates methods of improving traffic movement and safety, with a view to reducing the incidence of speeding and illegal parking in the vicinity of Oatley West Public School, focusing on Oatley Park Avenue, Short Street, Park Avenue, Dame Mary Gilmour Road and Bay Road, particularly during student drop-off and pick-up times.
- (b) That a report be submitted to the Georges River Council Traffic Advisory Committee detailing the recommendations of the investigation, if required.
- (c) That the General Manager writes to the Commander St George Police Area Command to request increased Police Patrols outside Oatley West Public School during school drop off and pick up times and that the data relating to the traffic offences in the vicinity be provided to the George River Council Traffic Advisory Committee in General Business.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihapahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

NM046-24 Support for Gender-Based / Domestic and Family Violence Movements

(Report by Councillor Liu)

RESOLVED: Councillor Liu, Councillor Mort

- (a) That based on the current national crisis of gender-based violence, the General Manager prepare a report including but not limited to:
 - i. What Council is currently doing to support domestic violence organisations and gender-based violence organisations in our local government area.
 - ii. Further initiatives Council could implement for greater support and awareness including but not limited to, greater financial support, initiating an emergency allocation fund, further capacity building and awareness for the community, by holding regular Anti Domestic Violence Information Seminars with Police from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities.
- (b) That Council show our support of the announcement made after National Cabinet on 1 May 2024 of a Federal Government 'Leaving Violence Program' by writing to:
 - i. MP Jodie Harrison, NSW Minister for Women NSW
 - ii. Dr Hannah Tonkin, NSW Women's Safety Commissioner
 - iii. Senator Katy Gallagher, Federal Minister for Women

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

NM047-24 Waste Bin Collection Services
(Report by Councillor Wang)

RESOLVED: Councillor Wang, Councillor Mort

That the General Manager compiles a report to investigate the recent instances of missing waste bin collection services and to take appropriate actions to ensure the service level is maintained. The report may encompass the following:

- i. Conduct an investigation into incidents of missing waste bin collections over the past two months, including an analysis of any trends or patterns observed, as well as an assessment of the potential causes contributing to these occurrences.
- ii. Evaluate the public hygiene risks associated with the missing waste collections to determine the impact on community health and sanitation.
- iii. Review the existing waste collection contract to ascertain whether the waste bin collection service level agreement has been adhered to by the current service provider and assess any penalties that may be applicable for non-compliance.
- iv. Explore additional measures that could be implemented to mitigate instances of missing waste bin collections, such as enhanced monitoring systems or improved communication channels between residents and waste collection services.
- v. Identify specific locations or areas that have been consistently neglected in terms of waste bin collection and prioritise these areas for heightened attention and remedial action.
- vi. Research the feasibility of extending the operation hours of the Waste hotline from five days to six days per week to provide residents with increased access to assistance and support regarding waste management issues.
- vii. Develop a transition plan to the new service provide in September 2024 to ensure a seamless transition and uninterrupted waste management services for the community.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

NM048-24 Traffic Study - Penshurst
(Report by Councillor Smerdely)

RESOLVED: Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Ambihaipahar

(a) That the General Manager conducts a traffic investigation to assess the existing traffic conditions at the intersections of:

- i. Penshurst Street, Penshurst Lane and Bridge Street, Penshurst;
- ii. Bridge Street and Connelly Street; and
- iii. Penshurst and Bridge Street

(b) That a report be submitted to the Georges River Council Traffic Advisory Committee detailing the recommendations of the investigation, if required.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

NM049-24 Replacement of Regulatory Sign in Parks
(Report by Councillor Liu)

RESOLVED: Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney

(a) That Council officers develop a program for proactive regulatory signage replacement in parks and reserves to inform a future budget bid.

(b) That Council officers promote the way in which our community can report a faded, damaged, or missing regulatory signs.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

NM051-24 Review of E - waste and other Community Drop Off Recycling Events
(Report by Councillor Konjarski)

RESOLVED: Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Liu

That the General Manager prepare a report reviewing the logistics and viability of operating various community drop off recycling events at Council's Mortdale and Carlton Depots following community concerns that there were unacceptable delays given the capacity of Carlton Depot to address service demand at the E-waste event on 5 May 2024.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

NM052-24 Increased Speed Enforcement Patrols
(Report by Councillor Mahoney)

RESOLVED: Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort

That the General Manager writes to the Commander, St George Police Area Command, to request:

(a) That increased speed enforcement patrols be implemented along:

- i. Forest Rd, Lugarno and also the suburbs of Connells Point and Kyle Bay
- ii. Stanley Street and Lorraine Street Peakhurst
- iii. Carlton Crescent and Carwar Avenue Carss Park

(b) That data relating to speeding offences in this area is provided to the Georges River Council Traffic Advisory Committee in General Business.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

QWN013-24 Traffic Safety Improvements relating to the "B Streets" in Mortdale
(Report by Councillor Jamieson)

Answer published in the business paper.

QWN014-24 Glenlee
(Report by Councillor Mahoney)

Answer published in the business paper.

QWN015-24 Mayoral Vehicle
(Report by Councillor Symington)

Answer published in the business paper.

QUESTIONS WITH NO NOTICE

QNN002-24 Questions asked at the Finance and Governance Committee Meeting - 13 May 2024

(Report by Director Business and Corporate Services)

Answer published in the business paper.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION

RESOLVED: Councillor Smerdely

At this stage of the meeting being 9:52pm the Mayor advised that the meeting would move into a Committee of the Whole to allow consideration of a matter in Closed Session in accordance with Section 10A of The Local Government Act 1993. Accordingly, members of the press and public are excluded from the closed session and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the closed session will be withheld.

This action was taken to allow discussion of the following item(s):

CCL020A-24 Review of the Performance of the General Manager

(Report by The Mayor, Councillor Elmir)

THAT in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 4 of the Local Government Act 1993, the matters dealt with in this report be considered in closed Council Meeting at which the press and public are excluded. In accordance with Section 10A(2) (a) it is considered the matter deals with personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors).

THAT in accordance with Section 10D it is considered that if the matter were discussed in an open Council Meeting, it would on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors).

The Mayor asked the General Manager if any representations had been received from the public that the item should not be discussed in closed session.

The General Manager replied that no representations had been received to the item in closed session.

The Mayor asked if there were any members of the public gallery who would like to speak on the reasons Council proposes to consider the items in Closed Session.

There were none.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihapahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

CLOSED CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

CCL020A-24 Review of the Performance of the General Manager (Report by The Mayor, Councillor Elmir)

RESOLVED: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Councillor Katris

That Council:

- (a) Receive and note the 2023/2024 General Manager Performance Review as approved by the Council's Performance Review Panel, noting the outcome of the review is that the General Managers performance "Exceeds Expectations";
- (b) Note that the Statutory and Other Officers' Remuneration Tribunal (SOORT) determined a nil percent increase in senior executive remuneration for last year and this year;
- (c) Endorse the General Manager's Performance Review Panel's recommendation of a performance-based increase of 3.5 percent based on the General Manager's performance being assessed as "Exceeds Expectations", as provided for under Clause 8.4 (a) of the General Manager's contract of employment states in part that:

Each year, the Council may approve an increase in the remuneration for the employee where the performance of the employee following the annual performance review is better than satisfactory. Such an increase will apply for a twelve-month period only unless the council otherwise determines that such a pay rise is to apply for the duration of the contract.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

OPEN SESSION

RESOLVED: Councillor Stratikopoulos

That the meeting revert to Open Session time being 10.28pm.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

OPEN SESSION

CONFIRMATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION

RESOLVED: Councillor Katris, Councillor Stratikopoulos

That the Committee of the Whole recommendations from the Closed Session in relation to **CCL020A-24 Review of the Performance of the General Manager** be received and noted as a resolution of Council without any alteration or amendment thereto.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

CONCLUSION

The Meeting was closed at 10:33pm

Chairperson

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

MAYORAL MINUTE

Item: MM021-24 Boundary Adjustment

Mayor: The Mayor, Councillor Elmir

BACKGROUND

This Motion proposes that the General Manager submit a proposal to the Minister for Local Government (**Minister**) to alter the boundary of the local government area (**LGA**) of Georges River Council by incorporated parts of the Bayside and Canterbury Bankstown LGAs. Specifically, the proposal would be to incorporate the following:

- The part of the Bayside LGA which previously comprised the former Rockdale LGA bounded by the geographical borders of the former Rockdale LGA being the Georges River, Cooks River, Wollie Creek and therefore excluding the Sydney Airport; and
- The part of the Canterbury Bankstown LGA comprising the land which is south of the M5 Motorway, west of King Georges Road and east of Salt Pan Creek.

The proposed amendment to the boundaries of the Georges River LGA are depicted in the map in Attachment 1 shown shaded in red and blue respectively.

Georges River Council was created by the amalgamation of the former Kogarah and Hurstville LGAs under the *Local Government (Council Amalgamations) Proclamation 2016*.

The manner in which the boundaries of a LGA can be altered are set out in the Local Government Act 1993 (**LG Act**). Under s 218E, a proposal to alter can be initiated by the Minister. Alternatively, a proposal may be made to the Minister by a council affected by the proposal.

On receiving a proposal, the Minister must refer it to the Boundaries Commission (**Commission**) or to the Chief Executive of the Department of Local Government (**Chief Executive**) for examination and report.

If a proposal is not supported by one or more of the councils, a report by the Chief Executive on the proposal (if the Minister did not refer it to the Commission at first) must be provided to the Commission for further review and comment.

Section 263 (3) of the LG Act sets out several factors that the Commission (or Chief Executive) is required to have regard to in examining any proposal for changes to LGA boundaries. The relevant factors here would be:

- financial advantages/disadvantages of any relevant proposal to the residents and ratepayers of the areas concerned;
- the community of interest and geographic cohesion;
- historical and traditional values and the impact of change;
- attitude of residents and ratepayers;
- requirements of the area concerned in relation to elected representation for residents and ratepayers at the local level;
- impact on ability of councils to provide adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities; and
- any impact on employment of council staff.

To assist it in determining the attitude of the residents and ratepayers, the Commission may conduct an opinion survey or poll of the residents and ratepayers and may request the Electoral Commissioner, a council or any other person or organisation to conduct any such opinion

survey or poll. Additionally, for the purpose of exercising their functions, the Commission may hold an inquiry but only if directed or approved by the Minister. If an inquiry is required, reasonable public notice must be given, and members of the public are allowed to attend.

The Minister will then recommend to the Governor whether to implement the proposal, either with or without modification provided the modifications do not constitute a new proposal.

There is no obligation for consultation or the preparation of a business case prior to the submission of a proposal for boundary adjustment to the Minister.

The submission of a proposal to the Minister, of itself, does not have any legal or financial implications. Ongoing financial implications, impact on services, and other relevant factors to the proposal will be explored by the Commission or Chief Executive in their report to the Minister.

However, it should be noted that, in a report by the Chief Executive to the Minister prior to the amalgamation of the former Rockdale and Botany LGAs, the report stated that:

“ [the airport creates] a distinct lack of geographic cohesion between the City of Botany Bay and Rockdale City ... there are no pedestrian access points or cycleways linking the proposed merged area. The road infrastructure and car centric gateway acts as a physical and social barrier for community interaction and the formation of communities of interest”

Further, the report referred to separation of historical and traditional values of the former Rockdale and Botany LGAs, with residents of the former Rockdale area more closely identifying with the St George region. In contrast, the residents of the former Botany area more closely identifying with the South Sydney region.

Given these connections between the former Rockdale LGA and the balance of the St George Region (being the LGA of Georges River Council), “the community of interest and geographic cohesion” factor weighs in favour of the proposal.

There are existing synergies with respect to the provision of services with Bayside and Georges River Councils having proceeded with a combined tender for waste collection and management services.

In relation to the incorporation of the part of the Canterbury Bankstown LGA, the present situation is that the boundary the Georges River and Canterbury Bankstown follows the M5 Motorway to the east but follows a number of lower order roads which has the effect of dividing small communities within the suburbs of Riverwood, Narwee and Beverly Hills. The use of local roads in dividing LGAs has the effect of creating isolated pockets of the community which are subject to different community services and planning. This isolation of areas within these suburbs is particularly evident in a small part of the Canterbury Bankstown LGA in Narwee that is south of the T8 Airport & South railway line and north of Broadarrow Road and also in the part of the Georges River LGA in Beverly Hills that is south of Broadarrow Road but north of the railway line.

By using a significant physical feature that the motorway represents in already dividing Riverwood, Narwee and Beverly Hills, the adoption of this significant feature to delineate the boundaries of the respective LGAs avoids the creation of isolated communities in the examples given above. Accordingly, the proposal reflected in resolution of this minute is a realignment of the boundary with Canterbury Bankstown in Riverwood, Narwee and Beverly Hills so that the small isolated area along those suburbs are part of a single LGA.

It should be noted that there have been a series of resolutions of Bayside Council to progress a potential de-amalgamation of Bayside Council, and a desktop business case has been prepared. At its last meeting on 22 May 2024, Bayside Council resolve to prepare a further report be presented to its Corporate Performance Committee in June outlining the process to de-amalgamation.

The reasons in support of this Mayoral Minute are further set out in with the reasons set out in the document in Attachment 2.

MOTION:

- (a) That the General Manager submit to the Minister for Local Government a proposed boundary adjustment pursuant to Section 218E of the *Local Government Act 1993* together with the reasons set out in Attachment 2.
- (b) That the General Manager write to the General Managers of Bayside and Canterbury Bankstown Councils advising of Council's proposals to the Minister for boundary adjustment.

MM021-24**ATTACHMENTS**

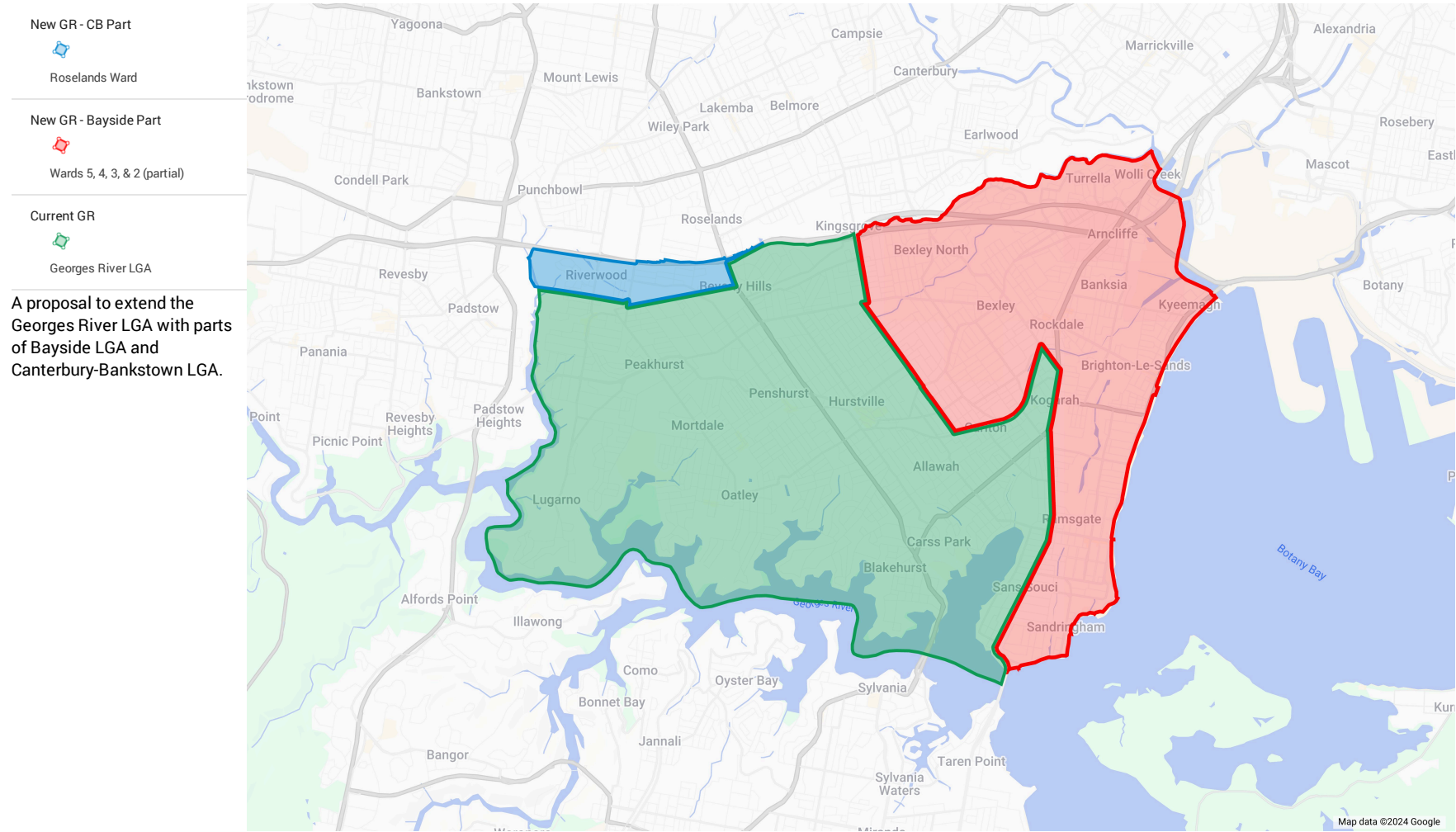
Attachment [↓1](#) Attachment 1 - Boundary Adjustment - Mayoral Minute - June 2024



Attachment [↓2](#) Attachment 2 - Boundary Adjustment - Mayoral Minute - June 2024



Proposed Georges River LGA (2024)





Attachment 2 – Mayoral Minute – LGA Boundary Change

The NSW Boundaries Commission has a comprehensive and independent process to review proposed adjustments to local government boundaries. If the proposed adjustment to Georges River (St George) LGA was referred to the NSW Boundaries Commission, Council would be supportive of the process and provide detailed input to the independent evaluation.

To outline the proposal in further detail and support consideration by Council, this appendix includes information on the following:

- Proposed Geographic Boundary
- Demographic Profile of proposed LGA
- Communities of Interest
- Elected Representation
- NSW State Government Funding options





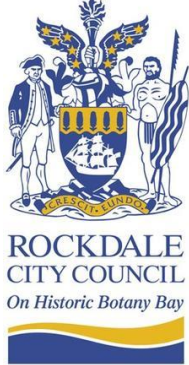

A subsequent review by the NSW Boundaries Commission would require review of additional factors, including, but not limited to, financial advantages or disadvantages, attitudes of residents and ratepayers (including opinions of diverse local communities), service delivery and facilities, and employment impacts on staff.

Historical Context

In 2016 the NSW Government commenced a series of amalgamations across New South Wales with the focus of amalgamating small LGAs into large and medium sized LGAs to ensure financial sustainability into the future.

As a result of these amalgamations, the Georges River LGA was created by amalgamating the former Hurstville City Council and Kogarah City Council LGAs, and the Bayside LGA was created by amalgamating the former Rockdale City Council and the City of Botany Bay LGAs.

Table 1: Historical context of Council amalgamations, 2016.

Amalgamated Councils	
	
Original Councils	
	
	

Proposed Geographic Boundary

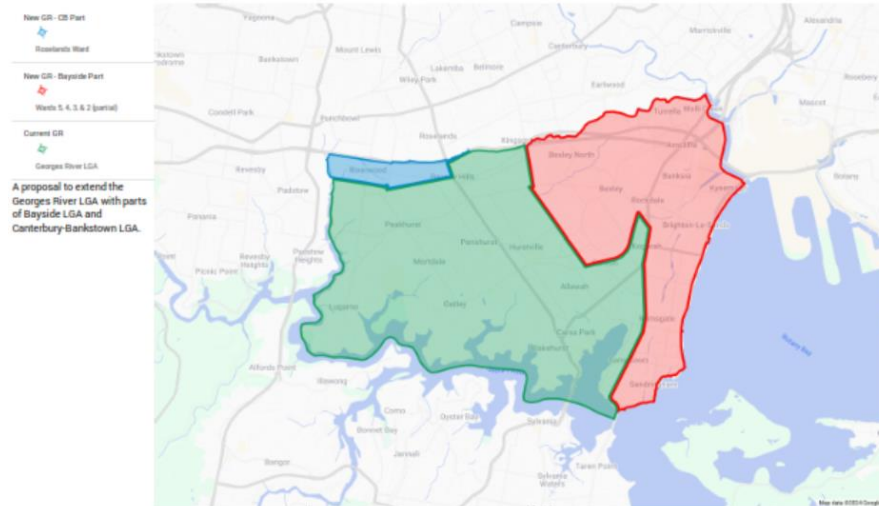
The proposed adjustment of the Georges River LGA has been triggered by the resolution of Bayside Council on 27 March 2024 to prepare a business case to consider the merits of de-amalgamating the Bayside LGA back into Rockdale City Council LGA and City of Botany Bay LGA.

An alternative option would be to expand the Georges River LGA to incorporate the Rockdale LGA, thereby capturing the entirety of the historic St George area. The proposed geographic boundary would be cohesive, with no natural barriers creating significant divisions or separations within the area.

The proposed Georges River (St George) LGA would be primarily bounded by the M5 to the north, Kingsford-Smith Airport (Cooks River) to the east, the Georges River to the south and Salt Pan Creek to the west. See the map in Figure 1.

Georges River Civic Centre Corner MacMahon and Dora Streets, Hurstville
Clive James Library and Service Centre Kogarah Town Square, Belgrave Street, Kogarah
Phone: 9330 6400 | **Email:** mail@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au | **Postal address:** PO Box 205, Hurstville NSW 1481

Figure 1: New Georges River (St George) LGA boundary



Demographic Profile

The characteristics of the local population between the current Georges River LGA and the proposed Georges River (St George) LGA are very similar.

Table 2: Demographic characteristics, Current vs Proposed LGA boundaries

Factor	Current Georges River LGA	Georges River (St George) LGA
Total Population (30 June 2023)	158,051	288,260
Population of Children (0-15 years; 30 June 2022)	24,166 or 15.77%	43,166 or 15.45%
Population of Working Age (15-64 years; 30 June 2022)	102,588 or 66.93%	189,109 or 67.70%
Population of Elderly (65+ years; 30 June 2022)	26,508 or 17.30%	47,049 or 16.84%
Population growth rate in 2022-23	3.12%	3.17%
Net overseas migration 2022-23	+6,299	+12,037
Net internal migration 2022-23	-1,894	-4,170
Average population growth rate over last 10 years	0.76%	0.94%
Population born overseas (%) – 2021 Census data	49.74%	51.55%
Non-English language spoken at home (%) – Census data	59.20%	59.68%

Georges River Civic Centre Corner MacMahon and Dora Streets, Hurstville
 Clive James Library and Service Centre Kogarah Town Square, Belgrave Street, Kogarah
 Phone: 9330 6400 | Email: mail@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au | Postal address: PO Box 205, Hurstville NSW 1481

Sources of Data:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics [ABS], [Regional Population 2022-23](#), published 26 March 2024.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics [ABS], [Regional Population by Age and Sex](#), published 28 September 2023.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics [ABS], [Census](#), published 28 June 2022.

Assumptions:

- The calculations of the proposed Georges River (St George) LGA aggregates the ABS Statistical Area 3's of Hurstville (Code 11903) and Kogarah-Rockdale (Code 11904). This is an approximate geography that provides the best estimate of the proposed area and enables analysis.

Economic Profile of proposed LGA

The characteristics of the local economy between the current Georges River LGA and the proposed Georges River (St George) LGA are very similar.

Table 3: Economic characteristics, Current vs Proposed LGA boundaries

Factor	Current Georges River LGA	Proposed Georges River (St George) LGA
Employed persons ('000s)	74,337	128,890
Unemployment rate (%)	5.2%	5.4%
Participation rate (%)	58.1%	58.2%
Largest employed sector (Name, %)	Health Care and Social Assistance, 28.4%	Health Care and Social Assistance, 28.4%
Fastest growing sector (Name, %)	Medical and Other Health Care Services	Medical and Other Health Care Services
Socio-economic status data		
<i>Index of Relative Socio-economic disadvantage</i>	1,011	1,004 (Bayside LGA)

Assumptions:

- The calculations of the proposed Georges River (St George) LGA aggregates the ABS Statistical Area 3's of Hurstville (Code 11903) and Kogarah-Rockdale (Code 11904). This is an approximate geography that provides the best estimate of the proposed area and enables analysis.

Sources of Data:

- .id Georges River Council, [Community Profile - SEIFA Index of Disadvantage for Georges River Council](#), published 27 April 2023
- .id Georges River Council, [Community Profile – Employment Status](#), published 2023.
- .id Georges River Council, Economic Profile, [Georges River Council Area, Employment by Industry \(Total\)](#), published 2023.
- .id Bayside Council, Economic Profile, [Bayside Council, Employment by Industry](#), published 2023.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2023). Local Government Area (LGA), Region summary: [Georges River](#).
- Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2023). Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2), Region summary: [Sans Souci - Ramsgate \(SA2\)](#), [Monterey - Brighton-le-Sands - Kyeemagh \(SA2\)](#), [Rockdale - Banksia \(SA2\)](#), [Arncliffe - Bardwell Valley \(SA2\)](#), [Wolli Creek \(SA2\)](#), [Kingsgrove \(South\) - Bardwell Park \(SA2\)](#), [Bexley - North \(SA2\)](#), [Bexley - South \(SA2\)](#).

Communities of Interest

The proposed LGA contains the entirety of the St George Area and will ensure geographic alignment with several local organisations including, but not limited to:

- NSW Police – St George District Area Command.
- St George Business Chamber.
- A large number of sporting and cultural organisations that operate under the 'St George' banner

These organisations would only be required to engage with one council under the proposed adjustment to the Georges River (St George) LGA boundary, instead of two councils.

Elected Representation

Currently both Georges River and Bayside Councils have 15 Councillors elected from 5 Wards in each LGA. It is proposed that the new Georges River (St George) LGA boundary would keep the number of elected Councillors at 15.

The 'Your Council' website, provides data as to the 'population per councillor' across all councils in NSW. Table 1 shows that data for Group Three Councils (Metropolitan Medium) and LGAs neighbouring Georges River LGA.



Table 4: Elected Representation data for selected Councils

Council	OLG Council group	Councillors	Group Average	Population	Population per Councillor
Bayside	3	15	13	176,061	11,737
Blacktown	3	15	13	399,711	26,647
Canada Bay	3	9	13	89,667	9,963
Canterbury-Bankstown	3	15	13	372,322	24,821
Cumberland	3	15	13	236,996	15,799
Fairfield	3	13	13	209,030	16,079
Georges River	3	15	13	152,703	10,180
Inner West	3	15	13	183,772	12,251
Ku-ring-gai	3	10	13	124,659	12,465
Liverpool	3	11	13	234,373	21,306
North Sydney	3	10	13	69,460	6,946
Northern Beaches	3	15	13	264,481	17,632
Parramatta	3	15	13	258,315	17,221
Randwick	3	15	13	135,275	9,018
Ryde	3	12	13	129,773	10,814
Sutherland	3	15	13	230,903	15,393
Waverley	3	11	13	69,388	6,308
Willoughby	3	13	13	76,034	5,848
Proposed Georges River (St George) LGA	3	15	13	258,339	17,222

By analysing the 'Population per Councillor' values in the above table, we can determine that the average number of Population per Councillor for Councils classified as OLG Group 3 is 13,180 people per Councillor.

Based on the estimated population of the proposed Georges River (St George) LGA, the Council will have a Population per Councillor of 17,222, making it the fifth highest in OLG Group 3 whilst being above the average.

NSW State Government Funding options

On 25 January 2020, the State of NSW had its first confirmed case of COVID-19. Several public health measures were introduced by the NSW Government as part of the pandemic response. A public health measure implemented from 23 August 2021 was a curfew in selected 'LGA's of concern', imposing movements restrictions on residents within those LGA's. Georges River and Bayside LGAs were two of the 12 'areas of concern'.

During this period, many businesses within the LGAs that had been designated as areas of concern incurred economic hardship brought about by the movement restrictions and impacts on customers. Further businesses that relied on staff from other LGAs were impacted by work-from-home requirements, with many businesses, such as trades, being unable to engage in remote working arrangements.

The restrictions on the areas of concern remained until 11 October at which time restrictions were eased. The economic impact during this time was devastating on local economics, with many local businesses having ceased operation or having volatile circumstances that would cause their eventual cessation.

In September 2021, the NSW Government announced the WestInvest program, a \$5 billion fund aim of building 'new and improved facilities and local infrastructure to help communities hit hard by COVID-19', communities such as the Georges River and Bayside LGAs. However, when the WestInvest program was implemented, despite Georges River and Bayside LGAs having been designated as areas of concern, which had been hit hard by COVID-19, they were excluded from the WestInvest program.

At the time, both Georges River and Bayside LGAs made public statements expressing dissatisfaction regarding the WestInvest program design and called on the NSW Government to allow them to be eligible. Despite these calls, both LGA's remained ineligible to receive funds from the WestInvest program. However, several of the 15 LGAs that were made eligible for WestInvest had not been designated areas of concern during the pandemic, including Penrith, The Hills, and Blue Mountains.

On 28 February 2024, the NSW Auditor General delivered a report on the 'Design and administration of the WestInvest program'. The audit found that 'the design of the WestInvest funding program lacked integrity because it was not informed by robust research or analysis to justify the commitment of public money to a program of this scale'. Of particular note are the findings about the criteria for LGAs to be eligible for funding through the program. The report noted that:

the decisions about which LGAs were eligible for funding through WestInvest were not explained publicly or documented internally. NSW Treasury advised these decisions were made by the then Treasurer's office.

NSW Auditor-General



Through the duration of the WestInvest program, \$1.3 billion in grants were provided to 15 LGAs. This represents grants totalling \$86.67 million being awarded to each Council. The financial impacts resulting from the designation as an area of concern and then subsequent exclusion from the WestInvest program continue to resonate to this day and negatively impact both Councils and ratepayers.

Without access to WestInvest funds, Council has had to rely on its general consolidated revenue to continue to invest in capital works and kick-start its local economy post COVID-19 lockdowns. This has resulted in a more onerous burden on Council that would have otherwise been mitigated through grants made available through the WestInvest program, particularly when compared to other designated areas of concern that were included in the WestInvest program.

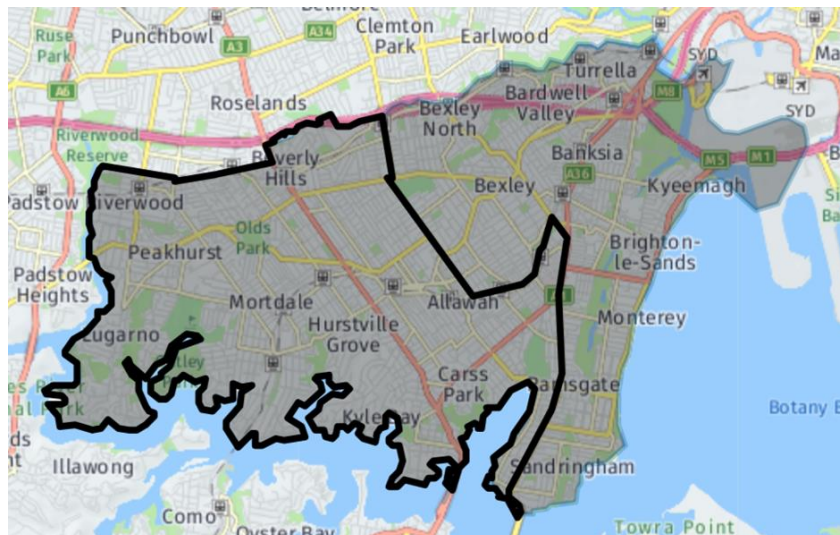
Whilst we acknowledge that since the inception and implementation of the WestInvest program there has been a change of Government, nonetheless, the ratepayers of Georges River and Bayside LGAs have not been adequately or equitably compensated by the NSW Government.

Given that the proposed LGA boundary adjustment consists of both the Georges River LGA and parts of Bayside LGA, the full funding of the costs to implement the new Georges River (St George) LGA and bring it to full operation as soon as possible, should be fully funded by the NSW Government.

This would equitably compensate the ratepayers of Georges River and Bayside LGAs by creating the circumstance to realize long-term financial benefits through economies of scale by creating a larger Georges River (St George) LGA that has increased financial capability to cultivate a stronger local economy, with no additional financial burden on the ratepayers.

St George District Region

- St George refers to a region of Sydney. In present day the region consists of the local government area of Georges River Council, and part of Bayside Council that was formerly Rockdale City Council prior to 2016.
- It is bound by the Cooks River in the north, Botany Bay in the east, Georges River in the South and along the Salt Pan and Wolli Creeks in the west.ⁱ
- It is made of the southern part of the cadastral Parish of St George of Cumberland County, from which it derives its name.



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The Parish of St George

In 1835, the Letters patent for erecting the County of Cumberland and dividing the same into Hundreds and Parishes was published in the New South Wales Government Gazetteⁱⁱ.

“our Royal will and pleasure, we have ordained and directed that a certain part or portion of Land in our Colony of New South Wales, should be admeasured and laid out as a separate and distinct County, within the said Colony, and that the same should be known and called by the name of the COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, and that the said County should be divided and sub-divided into distinct and separate Hundreds and Parishes”

The County of Cumberland was divided into thirteen Hundreds; Sydney, Parramatta, Liverpool, Woronora, Southend, Campbelltown, Bringelly, Evan, Richmond, Windsor, Hardinge, Dundas, Packenham.

The Hundred of Sydney was divided into nine separate parishes named; the parish of Saint Phillip, Saint James, Saint Lawrence, Saint Andrew, the parish of Alexandira, Botany, Petersham, the parish of Saint George and the parish of Concord.

And we do further will and ordain, that the said nine distinct and separate parishes, into which the said hundred of Sydney is hereby divided shall be, and the same are hereby declared to be named respectively, as follows: that it to say, the parish of Saint Philip, the parish of Saint James, the parish of Saint Lawrence, the parish of Saint Andrew, the parish of Alexandria, the parish of Botany, the parish of Petersham, the parish of Saint George, and the parish of Concord;—And that all the said several parishes shall be, and the same are hereby declared to be respectively bounded as follows: that is to say, the parish of Saint Philip; bounded on the north-west by Port Jack-

The Parish of Saint George is bounded on the north by Cook's River, from Botany Bay to the centre of the road at the north corner of Joeseeph Broadbent's forty acres; on the west by the centre of the above-mentioned road, which forms the north western boundaries of Joeseeph Broadbent's forty acres, William Goodwin's fifty acres, and John Nichols' one hundred acres to the head of Salt-Pan Creek, at the west corner of John Nichols' one hundred acres, and by that Creek to its confluence with George's River; on the south by George's River to Botany Bay; on the east by Botany Bay to Cook's River.

Parish of Saint George, bounded on the north by Cook's River, from Botany Bay to the centre of the road at the north corner of Joseph Broadbent's forty acres ; on the west by the centre of the above-mentioned road, which forms the north western boundaries of Joseph Broadbent's forty acres, William Goodwin's fifty acres, and John Nichols' one hundred acres to the head of Salt-pan Creek, at the west corner of John Nichols' one hundred acres, and by that Creek to its confluence with George's River ; on the south by George's River to Botany Bay ; on the east by Botany Bay to Cook's River.

Early land grants of St George Parish were given to William Packer, Josh Thorp, James Oatley, Hannah Laycock, F.W. Unwin, Reuben and David Hannam, Patrick Moore, J. Beehag, John Porter and the larger grants given to James Chandler and John and Robert Townson.



Figure 1 Parish of Saint George, County of Cumberland [1830-40(?)]

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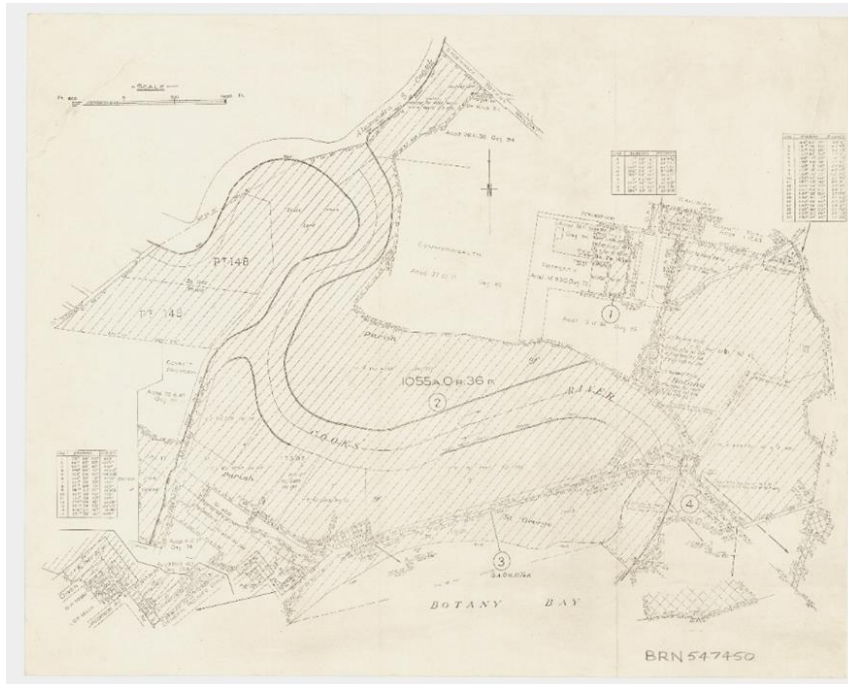



Figure 2 Map of the Cooks River, New South Wales, showing the parishes of Botany and St. George [1947(?)]



View Record

St George

Designation	PARISH
Status	Official Assigned
Gazettal Date	11-03-1977
LGA(s)	GEORGES RIVER
LGA(s) at Gazettal	CANTERBURY
GDA2020 Lat	33°56'54.3"S
GDA2020 Long	151°06'04.2"E
1:25,000 Map Name	BOTANY BAY
1:100,000 Map	SYDNEY 9130
Parish	ST GEORGE
County	CUMBERLAND

Description
A lands administrative division.

If you have any information about this feature's history, origin, meaning or pronunciation, which does not appear here, please submit your comments and information by selecting the 'Add place name information' button below.

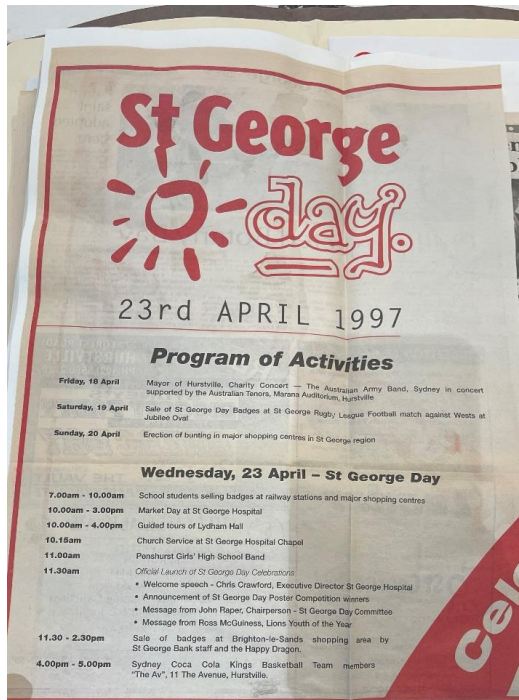
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Saint George

Traditionally St George's Day is celebrated annually on 23 April, recognised as England's national day to mark the death of the Patron Saint of England, who is thought to have died around AD 303, becoming an early Christian martyr. According to legend, St George was a soldier in the Roman army who killed a dragon and saved a princess.

The local St George region, encompassing Georges River, has long held ties with the symbolism of the dragon through cultural and sporting associations.

St George Day



The St George Region in Sydney celebrated St George Day as an annual community festival in the late 1990s – early 2000s, promoted as a chance for residents and businesses to celebrate the naming day for the region and to reflect on the past and contemplate the futureⁱⁱⁱ. Hurstville, Kogarah and Rockdale Councils joined St George Hospital for the St George Day celebrations held on Wednesday 23 April 1997 to “engender community spirit and pride among those people who live or work or have lived or worked in the region”

In 2019, Councillor Tegg submitted a NOM regarding the feasibility of a Festival to Mark St George's Day (NM113-19). The festival was unsuccessful.

Longstanding Community and Sporting Organisations sharing the St George Name

- St George District Cricket Club
- St George Illawarra Dragons
- St George District Athletics Club
- St George Little Athletics
- St George Cycling Club
- St George District Baseball Club
- St George Budapest Soccer Club, *now*, St George FC
- St George Football Association, *or*, Football St George
- St George Leagues Club
- St George Motor Boat Club
- St George Sailing Club
- St George Historical Society
- St George Community Transport
- St George Masonic Club

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Georges River Council Branding



Our brand mark consists of a distinctive dragon in striking red, teal and grey. The red dragon references the legend of Saint George, representing Council's connection with the wider St George area and its aim to be a positive leader for change.

Branding guidelines: [GRC Brand Guidelines ONLINE.pdf](#)

St George Electoral District

St George was an electoral district of the Legislative Assembly in the Australian state of New South Wales, named after the St George district. It was originally created in 1894. In 1920, with the introduction of proportional representation, St George was expanded to a five-member district, absorbing the electoral districts of Canterbury and Hurstville. Proportional representation was abolished in 1927, and St George was divided into the single member electorates of St George, Canterbury, Hurstville, Oatley and Rockdale. St George was abolished in 1930, being partly replaced by Arncliffe.

St George Electoral Division

The Division of St George was an Australian Electoral Division in the state of New South Wales. It covered the suburbs of Hurstville, Rockdale and Arncliffe.

Named after the district of St George, it was proclaimed at the redistribution of 11 May 1949. For most of its existence, it was a marginal seat that frequently changed hands between the Labor Party and the Liberal Party.

At the redistribution of 31 January 1992, it was abolished and replaced by the Division of Watson, named after Hon. Chris Watson, the first Labor Prime Minister of Australia.

St George County Council

The Council was proclaimed on 26 October 1920, constituting the Municipalities of Rockdale, Kogarah, Hurstville and Bexley as a County District for Local Government purposes, under the name of St George District. It delegated the Council the powers relating to the supply of electricity and the supply and installation of electrical fittings and appliances.^{iv} It was the first of its kind formed in New South Wales.

Electricity was officially switched on 9 March 1923. By the end of 1923 mains and services had been erected to serve 10,000 consumers, with 2,249 consumers connected.^v

On 1 January 1980, Brisbane Water, Mackellar and St. George County Councils were amalgamated with The Sydney County Council for electricity supply.





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Historical Support for a united St George Council

Prior to the Local Government Amalgamations of 2016, the St George area consisted of 3 Councils, these being the Rockdale, Kogarah, and Hurstville City Councils. In response to the NSW Government's amalgamation of Councils, Rockdale and Kogarah Councils supported the merger of all 3 St George Councils into a unified Local Government Area. Hurstville City Council supported the proposed merger of Hurstville and Kogarah Councils into Georges River Council.

Pictured: Rockdale and Kogarah Councillors uniting to support a St George Council.

Source: St George Sutherland Shire Leader



Left to right: Steve Kamper MP, Councillor Michael Nagi, Councillor Michelle Stevens, Councillor Chris Minns (now Premier of NSW), The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane, Councillor Andrew Tsounis, Councillor Nick Varvaris Member for Barton, Councillor Paul Sedrak, Mayor of Kogarah Stephen Agius, Councillor Sam Stratikopoulos, Councillor Annie Tang, Councillor Joe Awada, Mayor of Rockdale Bill Saravinovski (now Mayor of Bayside), Councillor James Macdonald, and Councillor Nick Katris.

Eventually, the NSW Government would merge Hurstville and Kogarah Councils to create Georges River Council and merge Rockdale and City of Botany Councils to create Bayside Council. These mergers by the NSW Government, in essence, gave effect to the preference of Hurstville City Council as opposed to the alternative preference of Rockdale and Kogarah Councils.

The current proposal before the Council to adjust the boundaries of Georges River Council to incorporate the western half of Bayside Council not only unites the St George region into a single Council but almost mirrors the proposals supported by Rockdale and Kogarah Councils in 2016.

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Language Assistance 语言援助 مساعدة لغوية Помощь со языком 131 450

Support by former Rockdale City Council

In February 2016, in response to the proposal to amalgamate the City of Botany Bay and Rockdale City Council into Bayside Council, Rockdale City Council responded to the NSW Government stating that community consultation conducted by the Council in 2015 found that 65% of residents responded favourably to a Council merger of some kind with community support weighted heavily towards the combining of Rockdale City, Kogarah City, and Hurstville City Councils.

The Council's response concluded that:

"It should be noted however that responses from Rockdale City's residents demonstrated strong support for the formation of a new St George Council, combining Rockdale City, Kogarah City and Hurstville City Councils. Council supported this proposal as a valid and first preference alternative to the current proposal. "

Page 42, Response to Merger Proposal

Rockdale City Council supported the merging of Rockdale, Kogarah and Hurstville Councils to create a united St George Council as its first-preference alternative to creating Bayside Council.

The area proposed to be incorporated into Georges River Council in the boundary adjustment is the area that was previously Rockdale City Council (excluding parts of the Kingsford-Smith Airport).

Given that community sentiment was heavily in favour of merging into a Council with the rest of the St George region rather than with the City of Botany, the current boundary adjustment gives effect to the Rockdale community's preference.

Opposition by former Hurstville City Council

On 16 March 2016, Hurstville City Council passed resolution 14/1483 supporting the amalgamation of Hurstville City Council and Kogarah City Council to the exclusion of Rockdale City Council and the formation of the St George Area Council:

"THAT Council write to the Minister Mr Paul Toole, the Premier Mr M Baird and the Boundary Commission Delegate that we support the Government's position on amalgamating Kogarah with Hurstville."

Moved by: Cllr C Hindi, Seconded by: Cllr R Kastanias

Support by former Kogarah City Council

On 7 March 2016, Kogarah City Council passed resolution 14/2016, supporting the amalgamation of the Kogarah, Hurstville and Rockdale Local Government Areas:

"That pursuant to Section 218E of the Local Government Act 1993, Kogarah City Council make a proposal to the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Paul Toole MP, for the amalgamation of the Kogarah, Hurstville and Rockdale (excluding the airport) Local Government Areas."

Moved by: Cllr Varvaris, Seconded by: Cllr Platt

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- ⁱ The Land Between Two Rivers by Beverley Earnshaw, pg. 1
ⁱⁱ New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW : 1832 - 1900), Wednesday 27 May 1835 (No.168 (SUPPLEMENT)), page 331-344
ⁱⁱⁱ Merle Looks to a pearl of a day, The Leader, 15/04/1997
^{iv} The Story of the St George County Council and Electricity
^v The First Fifty Years – St George County Council

Item: MM022-24 Council recognised for outstanding excellence at the Australasian Reporting Awards and the NSW Local Government Excellence Awards

Mayor: The Mayor, Councillor Elmir

BACKGROUND

On 23 May 2024 Council officers attended an awards presentation ceremony for the 2024 Australasian Reporting Awards (ARA), where for the fourth consecutive year, Council was successful in achieving a Gold Award for our Annual Report.

Additionally, we were one of three finalists for the Best in Sector in Public Administration Local category for the Report of the Year Award.

The ARA Awards are open to all organisations in Australia, New Zealand, and countries in the Asia-Pacific Region that prepare an annual report.

To receive a Gold Award a report must:

- achieve overall excellence in annual reporting;
- provide high quality coverage of all aspects of the ARA Criteria;
- provide full disclosures of key aspects of the core business;
- address current legislative and regulatory requirements; and
- be a model for other reports to follow.

This Gold Award recognises the significant effort by staff in producing an annual report of high quality in both content and design.

Georges River Council also celebrated significant achievements at the NSW Local Government Excellence Awards on 6 June 2024. Council was featured as finalists nine times in eight categories. This resulted in one win for Council's Customer Experience Strategy and Customer Experience Charter, in addition to two highly commended awards for the Performance Excellence Program, and the "Safety Smart" - WHS Leadership Program for Operational Leaders.

The People and Culture, Customer Experience, Community Capacity Building, Governance and Risk, and Strategic Placemaking teams were also nominated as finalists, demonstrating exceptional commitment to innovation, excellence, and community service.

Nominees undergo a rigorous assessment and evaluation process by their peers, independent judges, and distinguished industry leaders. Winners and finalists gain recognition for their work, which is highlighted to the community, key stakeholders, and media.

Congratulations to all Council teams who were finalists and winners. These accolades are a testament to the hard work, commitment, and excellence of our staff in delivering high-quality service to the community. I am proud to say, at Georges River Council, we aim to deliver for our community, and these awards recognise the exceptional year the Council staff have had.

MOTION:

That Council congratulate Council officers for their efforts in achieving awards at the Australasian Reporting Awards and the NSW Local Government Excellence Awards.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item: MM023-24 Condolences on the passing of Shirley Connolly, OAM**Mayor:** The Mayor, Councillor Elmir**BACKGROUND**

It was with great sadness that we learned of the recent passing of Ms Shirley Connolly, OAM, mother of the previous Georges River Council General Manager, Gail Connolly PSM. Shirley was the driving force behind Campbelltown District Netball Association for over 40 years and has been recognised for her efforts at a state level.

As a founding member of the Campbelltown Sports Foundation, she contributed to the establishment of the South West Sydney Academy of Sport. Shirley was the driving force behind the growth of netball in the region for five decades as both a coach and administrator and was instrumental in advocating for the expansion and enhancement of the netball courts and facilities at Coronation Park in Minto. During this period, she coached many East Campbelltown club teams and District Netball Association (CDNA) representative teams.

As a child, Shirley didn't have the opportunity to play sport and although she never played netball, she fell in love with the game, after having her five daughters play. Shirley recognised the importance of girls playing team sport and saw firsthand the value and rewards of being part of a team. While many people lose that connection and move on to bigger and better things when they become involved at association level, Shirley made sure she maintained that grass roots connection.

Shirley was a shining example of how a single volunteer can drive positive change within the community and provide opportunities for others to participate in sport and was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for her outstanding contribution to netball in the MacArthur region and more broadly in New South Wales.

Member of Parliament for Macquarie Fields, Anoulack Chanthivong, is calling on Campbelltown City Council to rename the netball complex at Coronation Park, Minto Park in honour of Shirley Connolly OAM as a permanent tribute to her dedication to the sport and provide an enduring legacy for her valuable contributions to netball in Campbelltown and the Macarthur District. It would also ensure that her contributions to the local netball community live on in the hearts and minds of future generations of netballers in Campbelltown and Macarthur.

Shirley's dedication and passion will be deeply missed.

MOTION:

- (a) That Council extend sympathies to Shirley's family, especially her five daughters and nine grandchildren.
- (b) That Council provides support for the naming of the netball complex at Coronation Park, Minto in honour of Shirley Connolly OAM.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item: CCL037-24 Report of the Assets and Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 11 June 2024

Author: Executive Services Officer

Directorate: Office of the General Manager

Matter Type: Committee Reports

CCL037-24

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Assets and Infrastructure Committee recommendations for items ASS016-24 to ASS018-24 as detailed below, be adopted by Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following Committee recommendations for items ASS016-24 to ASS018-24 are submitted to Council for determination.

The recommendations were made by the Assets and Infrastructure Committee at its meeting on 11 June 2024.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

ASS016-24 T23/016 MINOR BUILDING TRADES AND ANCILLARY SERVICES
(Report by Senior Procurement and Contracts Business Partner)

- (a) That in accordance with Section 178(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Council accepts the Tenders that are recommended for T23/016 Minor Building Trades and Ancillary Services, as outlined in the confidential Attachment 1.
- (b) That the General Manager be authorised to execute the Contract with the successful Contractor on behalf of Council.
- (c) That Council inform the unsuccessful Tenderers of the resolution.

ASS018-24 REPORT OF THE GEORGES RIVER LOCAL TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 2024
(Report by Coordinator Traffic and Transport)

That the recommendations contained within the minutes of the Georges River Local Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting held on 4 June 2024 be adopted by Council.

FILE REFERENCE

D24/155516

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [↓](#)1 Minutes of the Assets and Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 11 June 2024



MINUTES

Assets and Infrastructure Committee

Tuesday, 11 June 2024

7:00 PM

Waratah Room

Georges River Civic Centre

Hurstville



UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

PRESENT

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councillor Lou Konjarski (Chairperson), Councillor Veronica Ficarra, Councillor, Councillor Nancy Liu, Councillor Natalie Mort, Councillor Nick Smerdely, Councillor Sam Stratikopoulos and Councillor Colleen Symington.

COUNCIL STAFF

Director Assets and Infrastructure - Andrew Latta, Executive Assistant to the Director, Assets and infrastructure – Rachelle McGrath (minutes) Personal Assistant to Manager City Operational Services – Mitchel Spinola, Executive Services Officer – Nickie Paras and Earl Santos - IMT Support Officer.

OPENING

The Chairperson, Councillor Konjarski opened the meeting at 7.00pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson, Councillor Konjarski acknowledged 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.

APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies or requests for leave of absence.

REQUEST TO ATTEND VIA AUDIO VISUAL LINK

MOTION: Councillor Symington, Councillor Smerdely

That approval be granted for Councillor Ficarra to attend the meeting via Audio Visual Link.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Chairperson Konjarski, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

NOTICE OF WEBCASTING

The Chairperson, Councillor Konjarski advised staff and the public that the meeting is being recorded for minute-taking purposes and is also webcast live on Council's website, in accordance with section 5 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice. This recording will be made available on Council's Website.

CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

Council's Code of Meeting Practice prohibits the electronic recording of meetings without the express permission of Council.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Symington disclosed a Pecuniary Interest for Item Number **ASS018-24** for the reason that she resides close to the traffic study area. As this is a Pecuniary disclosure, Councillor Symington will not remain in the meeting and not participate in the discussion and voting on this item.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no registered speakers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

ASS017-24 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Assets and Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2024
(Report by Executive Services Officer)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Liu

That the Minutes of the Assets and Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2024, be confirmed.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Chairperson Konjarski, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ASS016-24 T23/016 Minor Building Trades and Ancillary Services
(Report by Senior Procurement and Contracts Business Partner)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Symington, Councillor Liu

- (a) That in accordance with Section 178(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Council accepts the Tenders that are recommended for T23/016 Minor Building Trades and Ancillary Services, as outlined in the confidential Attachment 1.
- (b) That the General Manager be authorised to execute the Contract with the successful Contractor on behalf of Council.
- (c) That Council inform the unsuccessful Tenderers of the resolution.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Chairperson Konjarski, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

ASS018-24 Report of the Georges River Local Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting held on 4 June 2024
(Report by Coordinator Traffic and Transport)

Note: Councillor Symington declared a Pecuniary interest in the matter and will not partake in

voting. Councillor Symington left the meeting at 7:03pm.

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos

That the recommendations contained within the minutes of the Georges River Local Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting held on 4 June 2024 be adopted by Council.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Chairperson Konjarski, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

CONCLUSION

The Meeting was closed at 7.04PM.

Chairperson

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

Item: CCL038-24 Report of the Community and Culture Committee meeting held on 11 June 2024

Author: Executive Services Officer

Directorate: Office of the General Manager

Matter Type: Committee Reports

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Community and Culture Committee recommendations for items COM017-24 to COM019-24 as detailed below, be adopted by Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following Committee recommendations for items COM017-24 to COM019-24 are submitted to Council for determination.

The recommendations were made by the Community and Culture Committee at its meeting on 11 June 2024.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**COM017-24 DRAFT LOCAL APPROVALS POLICY - USE OF PUBLIC LAND FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

(Report by Research and Social Policy Officer)

- (a) That the Draft Local Approvals Policy - Use of Public Land (the Policy) be placed on public exhibition for a period of no less than 28 days.
- (b) That submissions received during the public exhibition period be reported back to Council, together with recommended amendments for Council's endorsement.

COM018-24 REVIEW OF THE GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL SPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(Report by Research and Social Policy Officer)

- (a) That Council complete the trial of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee.
- (b) That Council endorse the establishment of a Sports Advisory Committee as an official Committee of Council, commencing November 2024.
- (c) That Council note the reviewed and updated Terms of Reference for the Sports Advisory Committee, to be endorsed by the Sports Advisory Committee at its first meeting.
- (d) That Council elect three Councillors to the Sports Advisory Committee in line with nominations of all other Committees of Council in October 2024. Noting, that Council representatives are for the duration of a Council term.
- (e) That Council note operational improvements to the Sports Advisory Committee.

COM019-24 EVENT GRANT TO SUPPORT 3BRIDGES NAIDOC 2024 EVENT
(Report by Coordinator Events and Sponsorship)


That Council approve the Event Grant of \$8,455 (\$6,790 financial and \$1,665 in-kind value) to

support the '3Bridges NAIDOC 2024' event to be held on 10 July 2024 at Carss Bush Park.

FILE REFERENCE

D24/155517

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [↓](#)1  Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee meeting held on 11 June 2024

CCL038-24

MINUTES

Community and Culture Committee

Tuesday, 11 June 2024

6:00 PM

Dragon Room

Georges River Civic Centre

Hurstville

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES



GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

PRESENT

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councillor Nancy Liu (Chairperson), Councillor Ashvini Ambihaipahar, Councillor Lou Konjarski, Councillor Kathryn Landsberry, Councillor Natalie Mort, Councillor Nick Smerdely, Councillor Sam Stratikopoulos, and Councillor Benjamin Wang.

COUNCIL STAFF

General Manager – David Tuxford, Director, Director Community and Culture - Kristie Dodd, Acting Manager City Life – Naomi Bryant, Acting Manager Community and Early Learning Services - Alexis Drevikovsky, Research and Policy Officer – Madeline Bull, Manager Office of the General Manager - Vicki McKinley, Team Leader Technology Business Support - Mark Tadros, IT Services Desk Technician – Louie Gu, Executive Services Officer - Marisa Severino and Executive Assistant to the Director Community and Culture – Billie Johnson (Minutes).

OPENING

The Chairperson, Councillor Liu, opened the meeting at 6.00pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson, Councillor Liu acknowledged the Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation, who are the Traditional Custodians of all lands, waters and sky in the Georges River area. She paid her 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.

APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies or requests for leave of absence.

REQUEST TO ATTEND VIA AUDIO VISUAL LINK

There were no requests to attend via Audio Visual Link.

NOTICE OF WEBCASTING

The Chairperson, Councillor Liu advised staff and the public that the meeting is being recorded for minute-taking purposes and is also webcast live on Council's website, in accordance with section 5 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice. This recording will be made available on Council's Website.

CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

Council's Code of Meeting Practice prohibits the electronic recording of meetings without the express permission of Council.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest made.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no registered speakers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

COM016-24 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2024

(Report by Executive Services Officer)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Smerdely

That the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2024, be confirmed.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Councillor Liu, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COM017-24 Draft Local Approvals Policy - Use of Public Land for Public Exhibition

(Report by Research and Social Policy Officer)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Stratikopoulos

- (a) That the Draft Local Approvals Policy - Use of Public Land (the Policy) be placed on public exhibition for a period of no less than 28 days.
- (b) That submissions received during the public exhibition period be reported back to Council, together with recommended amendments for Council's endorsement.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Councillor Liu, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

COM018-24 Review of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee

(Report by Research and Social Policy Officer)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Mort, Councillor Landsberry

- (a) That Council complete the trial of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee.
- (b) That Council endorse the establishment of a Sports Advisory Committee as an official Committee of Council, commencing November 2024.
- (c) That Council note the reviewed and updated Terms of Reference for the Sports Advisory Committee, to be endorsed by the Sports Advisory Committee at its first meeting.
- (d) That Council elect three Councillors to the Sports Advisory Committee in line with nominations of all other Committees of Council in October 2024. Noting, that Council representatives are for the duration of a Council term.
- (e) That Council note operational improvements to the Sports Advisory Committee.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Councillor Liu, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

COM019-24 Event Grant to Support 3Bridges NAIDOC 2024 Event
(Report by Coordinator Events and Sponsorship)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Konjarski

That Council approve the Event Grant of \$8,455 (\$6,790 financial and \$1,665 in-kind value) to support the '3Bridges NAIDOC 2024' event to be held on 10 July 2024 at Carss Bush Park.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Councillor Liu, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Konjarski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Councillor Smerdely, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

CONCLUSION

The Meeting was closed at 6.16pm

Chairperson

Item: CCL039-24 Report of the Environment and Planning Committee meeting held on 11 June 2024

Author: Executive Services Officer

Directorate: Office of the General Manager

Matter Type: Committee Reports

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Environment and Planning Committee recommendations for item ENV023-24 as detailed below, be adopted by Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following Committee recommendations for item ENV023-24 are submitted to Council for determination.

The recommendations were made by the Environment and Planning Committee at its meeting on 11 June 2024.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS


ENV023-24 DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING Q3 METRICS REPORT
(Report by Manager Development and Building)

That Council receive and note the Development and Building Section Functions and Services Metrics Report for the reporting period being January to March 2024.

FILE REFERENCE

D24/155530

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [↓](#) 1  Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee meeting held on 11 June 2024

MINUTES

Environment and Planning Committee

Tuesday, 11 June 2024

7:00 PM

Waratah Room

Georges River Civic Centre,

Hurstville



GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

PRESENT

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg Councillor Ashvini Ambihaipahar, Councillor Christina Jamieson, Councillor Nick Katris, Councillor Kathryn Landsberry, and Councillor Benjamin Wang.

COUNCIL STAFF

Acting Director Environment and Planning – Andrew Spooner, Manager Development & Building – Mr Liam Frayne, Manager Office of the General Manager – Vicki McKinley, Executive Managers City Futures – Simon Massey, Legal Counsel – James Fan, Executive Assistant to the Director, Environment and Planning - Leanne Allen (Minutes), Executive Services Officer –Marisa Severino and Team Leader Technical Services Mark Tadros.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

MOTION: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Councillor Landsberry

That as the Environment and Planning Committee Chairperson, Councillor Mahoney is an apology for tonight's meeting, a vote be taken of the Councillors present, appointed to the Environment and Planning Committee, to elect a Chairperson for this meeting.

That Councillor Borg assume the position of Chairperson for the Environment and Planning Committee meeting of 11 June 2024.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Katris, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

OPENING

The Acting Chairperson, Councillor Borg, opened the meeting at 7pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson, Councillor Borg acknowledged 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.

REQUEST TO ATTEND VIA AUDIO VISUAL LINK

There were no requests to attend via Audio Visual Link.

APOLOGIES

MOTION: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Jamieson

That an apology be accepted for Councillor Mahoney

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Katris, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

NOTICE OF WEBCASTING

The Chairperson, Councillor Borg advised staff and the public that the meeting is being recorded for minute-taking purposes and is also webcast live on Council's website, in accordance with section 5 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice. This recording will be made available on Council's Website.

CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

Council's Code of Meeting Practice prohibits the electronic recording of meetings without the express permission of Council.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest made.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no registered speakers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

ENV022-24 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2024

(Report by Executive Services Officer)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Katris, Councillor Landsberry

That the Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2024, be confirmed.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Katris, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ENV023-24 Development and Building Q3 Metrics Report (Report by Manager Development and Building)

Note: It was noted that The Mayor, Councillor Elmir left the Chambers at 07:19pm and did not return to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Katris, Councillor Landsberry

That Council receive and note the Development and Building Section Functions and Services Metrics Report for the reporting period being January to March 2024.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Katris, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Wang

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

CONCLUSION

The Meeting was closed at 7.25pm.

Chairperson

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

Item: CCL040-24 Report of the Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on 11 June 2024

Author: Executive Services Officer

Directorate: Office of the General Manager

Matter Type: Committee Reports

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Finance and Governance Committee recommendations for items FIN022-24 to FIN021A-24 as detailed below, be adopted by Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following Committee recommendations for items FIN022-24 to FIN021A-24 are submitted to Council for determination.

The recommendations were made by the Finance and Governance Committee at its meeting on 11 June 2024.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

FIN022-24 PROPERTY MATTER - PROPOSED RECLASSIFICATION AND SALE OF PART MOORE PARK, BEVERLEY PARK
(Report by Senior Property Officer)

That this report be deferred to the next Council meeting scheduled for 24 June 2024, as a separate report.

FIN023-24 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2024-2028
(Report by Chief Audit Executive)

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee endorsed Internal Audit Plan 2024-2028 be received, noted and endorsed by the Council.

FIN024-24 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2024 (CONFIRMED) AND 23 MAY 2024 (UNCONFIRMED)
(Report by Chief Audit Executive)

- (a) That the confirmed Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 28 February 2024 be received and noted by Council.
- (b) That the unconfirmed Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 23 May 2024 be received and noted by Council.

FIN025-24 INVESTMENT REPORT AS AT 30 APRIL 2024
(Report by Senior Financial Accountant - Reporting)

That the Investment Report as at 30 April 2024 be received and noted by Council.

FIN021A-24 PROPERTY MATTER - 6 DORA STREET, HURSTVILLE
(Report by Senior Property Officer)

That the General Manager be authorised to enter, negotiate and/or amend lease terms for the property at 6 Dora Street, Hurstville as detailed in this report.

FILE REFERENCE

D24/155552

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [↓](#)1  Minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on 11 June 2024

MINUTES

Finance and Governance Committee

Tuesday, 11 June 2024

6:00 PM

Waratah Room

Georges River Civic Centre

Hurstville

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES



GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

PRESENT

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Councillor Elmir, Councillor Christina Jamieson (Chairperson), Councillor Elise Borg, Councillor Veronica Ficarra (online), Councillor Nick Katris and Councillor Colleen Symington.

COUNCIL STAFF

Director Business and Corporate Services - Danielle Parker, Acting Chief Finance Officer – Scott Henwood, Head of Strategic Property - Bernard Morabito, Senior Property Officer – Kristen O’Grady, Chief Audit Executive Steven Baker, Executive Services Officer – Nickie Paras, Acting Executive Assistant - Barb Presti, (Minutes) Technology Business Support Officer - Earl Santos

OPENING

The Chairperson, Councillor Cr Jamieson, opened the meeting at 6.02.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson, Councillor Cr Jamieson acknowledged 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.

REQUEST TO ATTEND VIA AUDIO VISUAL LINK

MOTION: Councillor Symington, Councillor Katris

That approval be granted for Councillor Ficarra to attend the meeting via Audio Visual Link.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MOTION: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson

That an apology be accepted for Councillor Mahoney and a leave of absence granted.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

NOTICE OF WEBCASTING

The Chairperson, Councillor Councillor Jamieson advised staff and the public that the meeting is being recorded for minute-taking purposes and is also webcast live on Council's website, in accordance with section 5 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice. This recording will be made available on Council's Website.

CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

Council's Code of Meeting Practice prohibits the electronic recording of meetings without the express permission of Council.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest made.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no registered speakers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

FIN021-24 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2024
(Report by Executive Services Officer)

RECOMMENDATION: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Symington

That the Minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2024, be confirmed.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROCEDURAL MOTION

ORDER OF BUSINESS

MOTION: Councillor Katris, Councillor Symington

That in accordance with Clause 8.5 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, Council alter the Order of Business of this meeting to allow for the following item to be considered in the Confidential Closed Session of the Agenda:

FIN022-24 Property Matter - Proposed Reclassification and Sale of Part Moore Park, Beverley Park

THAT in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 4 of the Local Government Act 1993, the matters dealt with in this report be considered in closed Council Meeting at which the press and public are excluded. In accordance with Section 10A(2) (c) it is considered the matter information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

FIN023-24 Internal Audit Plan 2024-2028 (Report by Chief Audit Executive)

RECOMMENDATION: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Symington

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee endorsed Internal Audit Plan 2024-2028 be received, noted and endorsed by the Council.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

FIN024-24 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee - Minutes of Meeting held on 28 February 2024 (Confirmed) and 23 May 2024 (Unconfirmed) (Report by Chief Audit Executive)

RECOMMENDATION: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Katris

- (a) That the confirmed Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 28 February 2024 be received and noted by Council.
- (b) That the unconfirmed Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 23 May 2024 be received and noted by Council.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

FIN025-24 Investment Report as at 30 April 2024 (Report by Senior Financial Accountant - Reporting)

RECOMMENDATION: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Symington

That the Investment Report as at 30 April 2024 be received and noted by Council.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was

CARRIED.

PROCEDURAL MOTION MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Katris

At this stage of the meeting being 6.11pm the Chair, Councillor Jamieson advised that the meeting would move into Closed Session to allow consideration of matters in Closed Session in accordance with Section 10A of The Local Government Act 1993. Accordingly, members of the press and public are excluded from the closed session and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the closed session will be withheld.

This action was taken to allow discussion of the following item(s):

FIN021A-24 Property Matter - 6 Dora Street, Hurstville

(Report by Senior Property Officer)

THAT in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 4 of the Local Government Act 1993, the matters dealt with in this report be considered in closed Council Meeting at which the press and public are excluded. In accordance with Section 10A(2) (c) it is considered the matter information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

THAT in accordance with Section 10D it is considered that if the matter were discussed in an open Council Meeting, it would on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

FIN022-24 Property Matter - Proposed Reclassification and Sale of Part Moore Park, Beverley Park

(Report by Senior Property Officer)

THAT in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 4 of the Local Government Act 1993, the matters dealt with in this report be considered in closed Council Meeting at which the press and public are excluded. In accordance with Section 10A(2) (c) it is considered the matter information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

THAT in accordance with Section 10D it is considered that if the matter were discussed in an open Council Meeting, it would on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

Councillor Jamieson asked the Director Business and Corporate Services if any representations had been received from the public that the item should not be discussed in closed session.

The Director replied that no representations had been received to the item in closed session.

Councillor Jamieson asked if there were any members of the public gallery who would like to speak on the reasons Council proposes to consider the items in closed session.

Note: Councillor Ashvini Ambhaipahar joined the meeting gallery at 6.18pm.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

CLOSED CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

FIN022-24 Property Matter - Proposed Reclassification and Sale of Part Moore Park, Beverley Park
(Report by Senior Property Officer)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Katris, Councillor Symington

That this report be deferred to the next Council meeting scheduled for 24 June 2024, as a separate report.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

FIN021A-24 Property Matter - 6 Dora Street, Hurstville
(Report by Senior Property Officer)

RECOMMENDATION: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Katris

That the General Manager be authorised to enter, negotiate and/or amend lease terms for the property at 6 Dora Street, Hurstville as detailed in this report.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

OPEN SESSION

MOTION: Mayor, Councillor Elmir

That the meeting revert to Open Session, the time being 6.38pm.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

OPEN SESSION

CONFIRMATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Katris

That the recommendations from the Closed Session be confirmed as recommendations of the Committee without any alteration or amendment thereto.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Mayor, Councillor Elmir, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ficarra, Councillor Katris, Councillor Symington

On being PUT to the meeting, voting on this Motion was UNANIMOUS. The Motion was CARRIED.

CONCLUSION

The Meeting was closed at 6.42pm.

Chairperson

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

Item: CCL041-24 Georges River Local Planning Panel Third Term - Appointment of Panel Members

Author: Manager Development and Building

Directorate: Environment and Planning

Matter Type: Environment and Planning

CCL041-24

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council considers the recommendations and matters detailed in the attached report and supporting documentation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. In March 2018, the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 ('EPAA') was amended to mandate Local Planning Panels ('LPP') in Wollongong and the Greater Sydney Region.
2. LPP's are empowered by the EPAA and subsequent Ministerial Directions to undertake specific functions to determine specific development application types and consider and make recommendations to Relevant Planning Authorities including the elected Council and the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in relation to Planning Proposals.
3. The second term of the Georges River LPP Member appointments, are set to expire on 30 June 2024 and Council is required to:
 - (a) Endorse the Minister approved independent chairperson and alternates.
 - (b) Appoint independent persons as expert panel members from a pool of experts approved by the Minister; and
 - (c) Appoint local community members.
4. The timing of this report is a consequence of the release of the nominated Chairs and Expert Panel members pool by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure on 27 May 2024.
5. Council is to appoint independent persons as expert panel members from a pool of experts approved by the Minister. To assist Council in selecting the experts, staff have provided a shortlist of nominations for consideration.
6. Council is to note that if a Council fails to constitute a local planning panel by 30 June 2024, the Minister may constitute the panel for Council.
7. It is also noted that a delay in the appointment of a new Panel will prevent Council determining applications that are legally required to be determined by the Local Planning Panel for as long as it takes for a Panel to be constituted. This will have significant reputational, financial, and operational risks for Council.

FILE REFERENCE

D24/150832

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Attachment 1 - Confidential - Report - Appointment of Panel Members 17-6-24 - *published in separate document* (Confidential)

- Attachment 2 Attachment 2 - Confidential - Local Planning Panel - Minister Approved LPP Chairpersons - Third Term Appointments - *published in separate document* (Confidential)
- Attachment 3 Attachment 3 - Confidential - Local Planning Panel - Shortlisted Expert Panel Member Nominations - Third Term Appointments - *published in separate document* (Confidential)
- Attachment 4 Attachment 4 - Confidential - Local Planning Panel - Minister Approved Pool of Expert Panel Members - Third Term - *published in separate document* (Confidential)
- Attachment 5 Attachment 5 - Confidential - Final shortlist of Experts (17) - *published in separate document* (Confidential)
- Attachment 6 Attachment 6 - Confidential - LPP - Chair Resumes - *published in separate document* (Confidential)
- Attachment 7 Attachment 7 - Confidential - Local Planning Panel - Shortlisted Experts Resume - Third Term Appointments - *published in separate document* (Confidential)

FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE**Item:** CCL042-24 **Tabling of Disclosure of Interest Returns****Author:** Governance and Risk Specialist**Directorate:** Business and Corporate Services**Matter Type:** Finance and Governance

CCL042-24

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives and notes the report regarding the tabling of Disclosure of Interest Returns for Councillors and designated persons.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to table three Disclosure of Interest Returns for Councillors and designated persons.

BACKGROUND

2. A Councillor or designated person must make and lodge a Return with the General Manager, in accordance with section 4.21 of Council's Code of Conduct (the Code), within 3 months after:
 - (a) Becoming a Councillor or designated person, and
 - (b) 30 June of each year, and
 - (c) the Councillor or designated person becoming aware of an interest they are required to disclose under Schedule 1 of the adopted Code of Conduct that has not been previously disclosed in a return lodged under paragraphs (a) or (b).
3. The completed Return of the following Councillor has been submitted and is hereby tabled, in accordance with Section 4.21(c) of Council's Code of Conduct:
 - Councillor Ficarra
4. Additionally, the following staff have submitted Returns, hereby tabled, in accordance with section 4.21(a) of the Code:
 - Manager Community and Early Learning Services
 - Acting Manager Strategic Placemaking
5. Under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (the GIPA Act) and *Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018* (the GIPA Regulation), Returns are considered 'open access' information and must be made publicly available on the Council website.
6. To ensure compliance with the GIPA Act and GIPA Regulation, Council has undertaken the public interest test and will publish the completed Returns on its website. The Returns will be published with redactions of the person's residential street address.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. No budget impact for this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

8. It is a legislative requirement that Disclosure of Interest in written Returns be lodged with the General Manager and the Returns must then be tabled at a meeting of Council, pursuant to the *Local Government act 1993* and the Georges River Council Code of Conduct.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

9. Community engagement is not required as a result of this report.

FILE REFERENCE

D24/128889

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item: CCL043-24 Working Together for a Better Future - 2022 - 2026 Delivery Program 2024/25 Operational Plan and Updated Resourcing Strategy

Author: Chief Financial Officer, Senior Business Performance Accountant and Integrated Planning and Reporting Officer

Directorate: Business and Corporate Services

Matter Type: Finance and Governance

CCL043-24

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council note that following the public exhibition period for the:
 - (i) Delivery Program 2022 - 2026; and
 - (ii) Draft 2024/25 Operational Plan including the budget, revenue policy and Schedule of Fees and Charges; and
 - (iii) Draft Resourcing Strategy encompassing Workforce Management Plan, Digital Resource Management Plan, Asset Management Plan and the Long-Term Financial Plan; and
 - (iv) Draft Infrastructure Asset Management Policy
- (b) That in accordance with Sections 403, 404 and 405 of the Local Government Act 1993 the following documents be adopted:
 - (i) Delivery Program 2022 - 2026
 - (ii) 2024/25 Operational Plan including the budget, revenue policy and Schedule of Fees and Charges subject to the capital rephasing referenced in this report.
 - (iii) Resourcing Strategy encompassing the Workforce Management Plan, Digital Resource Management Plan, Asset Management Plan and the Long-Term Financial Plan.
- (c) That subject to the approval of (b) above, the 2024/25 Schedule of Fees and Charges, become effective as at 1 July 2024.
- (d) That subject to approval of (b) above, the Councillor Ward Discretionary Fund, only be made available to incoming Councillors elected after the September 2024 elections.
- (e) That the Draft Infrastructure Asset Management Policy be adopted.
- (f) That the General Manager be delegated authority to make minor editorial changes, enhancements and resolved budgetary amendments prior to publishing these documents on Council's website and providing a copy of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan to the Office of Local Government.
- (g) That a revised Long Term Financial Plan and other relevant supporting documents are updated based on the final 2024/25 Adopted Budget.
- (h) That Council acknowledge the variation from Council's approved Long Term Financial Plan and commits to exploring the following productivity and efficiency initiatives over the current and future budget periods:
 - (i) Explore additional revenue streams through user fees.
 - (ii) Assess and adjust the acceptable condition levels for assets.
 - (iii) Explore the decommission or retiring of assets, properties, or services that are underutilised or serving a limited cohort of the community.

- (iv) Consider redevelopment of suitable assets to generate additional revenue sources.
 - (v) Seek efficiencies via service reviews.
 - (vi) Annually review and define the levels of subsidies for relevant operations.
 - (vii) Advocate for adjustments in statutory charges to align with the actual costs of services.
 - (viii) Advocate for more transparency in revenue collection methods related to cost shifting.
 - (ix) Evaluate employee costs and staffing levels via service reviews.
 - (x) Explore alternate levies to support the development of activities such as environmental initiatives.
- (i) That Council note the Long-Term Financial Plan as an essential decision-making tool that is to be updated in line with decisions that may impact and affect the sustainability and ongoing service provisions of Council.
 - (j) That the 2024/25 Operational Plan is updated with the applicable commentary/status to reflect any budget deferrals, that will therefore then impact the delivery of the action in 2024/25.
 - (k) Council endorse 2024/25 Budget Strategy as per the Independent Pricing and regulatory Tribunal Special Rate Variation approval and the Long-Term Financial Plan.
 - (l) That, in accordance with Sections 496, 496A, 534 and 535 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council makes rates and charges for every parcel of rateable land within the Georges River Council Local Government Area for the year commencing 1 July 2024 as detailed in the 2024/25 Operational Plan, Revenue Policy and Fees and Charges.
 - (m) As per the Instrument of Approval under section 508A and section 548(3)(a), Council applies the Special Variation for Georges River Council for 2024/25 of 5.8% to its general income.
 - (n) That in accordance with Sections 493, 494 and 535 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council make and levy the 2024/25 Residential Rate based on the latest valuations (Base Date 1 July 2022) and any supplementary valuations applicable as at 1 July 2024. As such, the Georges River Council Residential Rate will be 0.0012376 and apply to all properties categorised as Residential, subject to the minimum rate.
 - (o) That in accordance with Section 493, 494 and 535 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council make and levy the 2024/25 Business General Rate based on the latest valuations (Base Date 1 July 2022) and any supplementary valuations applicable as at 1 July 2024. As such, the Georges River Council Business General Rate will be 0.0028006 and apply to all properties categorised as Business, except for the following subcategories and subject to the minimum rates:
 - (i) Business Industrial Rate will be 0.003444;
 - (ii) Business Local Rate will be 0.0037579;
 - (iii) Business Major Shopping Complex Rate will be 0.0118410;
 - (iv) Business Strategic Centres (Hurstville and Kogarah CBDs) rate will be 0.0038908;
 - (p) That in accordance with Section 548 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council make and levy the 2024/25 annual ordinary residential minimum rate on each separate assessment to be \$1,057.00.
 - (q) That in accordance with Section 548 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council make and

levy the 2024/25 annual ordinary Business – other than Strategic Centres and Major Shopping Complex minimum rate on each separate assessment to be \$1,203.80.

- (r) That in accordance with Section 548 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council make and levy the 2024/25 annual ordinary Business Strategic Centres (Hurstville and Kogarah CBD) and Major Shopping Complex minimum rate on each separate assessment to be \$1,641.60.
- (s) That interest charged on overdue rates and charges for the year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 be the maximum rate set by the Minister for Local Government, calculated on a daily basis.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report requests Council's consideration and adoption of its draft Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) documents, being the:
 - (a) Delivery Program 2022 - 2026; and
 - (b) 2024/25 Operational Plan including the budget, revenue policy and Schedule of Fees and Charges; and
 - (c) Resourcing Strategy encompassing the Workforce Management Plan, Digital Resource Management Plan, Asset Management Plan and the Long-Term Financial Plan.

as amended, following adoption by Council.
2. Attachment 3 to this report provides an overview of the submissions received and officer responses, copies of which have been provided to Councillors via the Councillor Hub.
3. This report requests Council's consideration and adoption of the Draft Infrastructure Asset Management Policy.

BACKGROUND

4. Local councils in NSW undertake their planning and reporting activities in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.
5. Attachment 1 contains the draft 2024/25 Operational Plan including the 2022 – 2026 Delivery Program, the Budget and Fees and Charges.
6. Attachment 2 is the draft Resourcing Strategy which includes updates to the Workforce Management Plan, Digital Resource Management Plan, Asset Management Plan and the Long-Term Financial Plan.
7. Attachment 4 is the Draft Infrastructure Asset Management Policy.

PUBLIC EXHIBITION

8. Public exhibition of the Draft Delivery Program 2022 - 2026, Operational Plan 2024/25, updated Resourcing Strategy, and Draft Infrastructure Asset Management Policy ran from 24 April 2024 to 22 May 2024 (29 days). Notification of the public exhibition, including invitations to provide comment, occurred as follows:

Information and copies of the draft of Delivery Program 2022-2026, Operational Plan 2024/25, Resourcing Strategy, and Draft Infrastructure Asset Management Policy were placed on Council's website under the "Have Your Say" page from 24 April 2024 to 22 May 2024

- Social media posts – 17 May 2024. (Facebook: 12,788 followers and Instagram: 4,394 followers)

- Your Say Georges River newsletter – 2 May and 16 May 3,639 and 3,645 recipients respectively). The page received 375 visitors during the period and 49 submissions made through the form on the page.
- Community eNews (distributed up to 20,000 contacts) – 3 May and 17 May 2024 in Your Say section of newsletter.
- The Your Say page attracted 34 submissions from the public.
- A further 10 responses were received by the public by direct email or letter.

Council received 68 submissions on the Delivery Program and Budget, with 112 individual items raised and responded to.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) forms part of the Resourcing Strategy and is essential for informing decision-making during the preparation and finalisation of the Community Strategic Plan and the development of the Delivery Program.
10. As per the relevant legislation, financial decision making is to give due consideration to promoting the financial sustainability of the Council through:
 - The progressive elimination of operating deficits.
 - The establishment of a clear revenue path for all rates linked to specific expenditure proposals.
 - Ensuring that any proposed increase in services, projects and/or assets is within the financial means of Council including a proposed special rate variation.
 - Ensuring the adequate funding of infrastructure maintenance and renewal.
 - The use of borrowing is appropriate and financially responsible.
 - The fair and equitable distribution of the rate burden across all rate payers.
11. The 2024/25 Budget has been developed based on the 2024/25 Budget Strategy and the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) approval for a Special Rate Variation.
12. A requirement of our approved Special Rate Variation from IPART is to identify \$12 million in permanent cost containment and efficiencies over the period of 2022/23 to 2024/25, however due to high levels of inflation, increases to employee costs under the current award, and other unforeseen events such as inclement weather and the global pandemic, these permanent cost reductions and efficiencies have proved difficult to achieve.
13. The 2024/25 Budget will be the third year Council is forecast to achieve a surplus and difficult prioritisation of valued services, projects and programs will be essential in achieving financial sustainability and compliance with Council's legislative obligations.
14. After several years with constraints to Council's cash contribution to funding capital projects, the 2024/25 draft budget includes increased Council contribution to critical asset classes, such as roads, footpaths, and buildings.
15. This increase in Council's contribution is attributed to adopted budget surplus in the previous year's spanning 2022/23 and 2023/24. Other capital projects have been prioritised to focus on grant and contribution funded projects along with high priority critical asset renewal programs.
16. To achieve the \$2.1 million surplus target, the budget has been prepared on the following strategy:

- Objective of achieving an operating surplus with future years projection as per the adopted LTFP.
- Application of the approved Special Rate Variation of 5.8%.
- Cost reduction strategy applied to both employee costs and materials and services, with an aim of \$4 million.
- Service levels have been capped to align with constrained resources and achieve the operating surplus adopted in the LTFP.
- Award increase is 3.5% (\$1.8 million), plus Superannuation increase 0.5% to 11.5% (\$300,000 annually) and Award Bonus Scheme of \$1,000 (\$500,000).
- The employee costs reduction strategy has been amended to be based on a natural vacancy rate of 6.5% and a 16-week recruitment trend, rather than enforced holds.
- Two-week Christmas shutdown that includes the provision of three grant days.
- A CPI increase of 3.0% has been applied across a broad range of materials, services, and expenses in line with published ABS forecast assumptions.
- Income projections are based on business as usual.
- Subsidies are proposed to be applied to Council's premium and community facilities.
- Investment interest income has been projected to be maintained at current levels for the next 12 months based on the current rate of return and cash levels.
- Domestic waste charges have increased, with a cost recovery strategy being applied.
- The mandatory (legislated) pensioner rebate has been maintained at \$1 million.
- Depreciation is forecast to increase by \$2.9 million due to construction of new assets, immaterial disposal of assets, asset condition deterioration and the rising cost of replacement.
- Eligible Fees and Charges have been set at a 5% increase to ensure cost recovery of the material cost increases.
- Council's rates default level has been assumed to stay within benchmark parameters of less than 5%.
- The Councillor Discretionary Ward fund of \$75,000 has been included as part of the budget strategy.
- Insurance premiums have been set to increase based on natural disaster, cost of replacement, new assets, heightened risk environment, etc.
- Community and sporting group rental subsidies remain unchanged (\$1.5 million in forgone income).
- Subsidies around the Venue hire program remains unchanged (\$430,000 in forgone income).
- Childcare fees have been set to comply with the Childcare Policy of cost neutral operating budget.

- Strategic land acquisitions for open space have not been included in the budget due to uncertainty around when these will occur. If there is an opportunity for acquisitions, the relevant budget approval will be requested in a separate report to Council.
- Budget bids have been selected and prioritised based on legislative, strategic and safety drivers with \$4.5 million in additional operational projects, bids or other costs deferred/removed/reduced in 2024/25.
- The multi-year Capital Program Budget has increased from the recently revised budget of \$96.9 million, which covers 2022/23 to 2024/25, to a \$104.5 million budget to occur from 2024/25 to 2026/27. Any capital works budgeted to occur in 2023/24, that do not get completed, will be added to the \$104.5 million program as part of the carryover process in 2024/25.
- The multi-year Capital Program Budget has been reviewed and rephased since the public exhibition period. The updated program is more evenly distributed across the 3 years and has been collated considering capacity to deliver (assumed full complement of staff) and Council’s Long Term Financial Sustainability. The rephasing of the Capital Program has resulted in a \$104.5m budget, allocated across the three years as follows:

Year	Capital Program Budget - On Exhibition \$'000	Capital Program Budget - Rephased \$'000
2024/25	54,095	42,046
2025/26	29,374	35,134
2026/27	23,925	27,349
Total	107,394	104,529

17. Based on this approach, the adopted surplus of \$2.1 million remains on track to deliver future year surpluses in the medium term. The later years of the Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) indicate a deficit position will occur (shown as Model 1 in the Resourcing Strategy) and will need to be addressed in the coming years.
18. Full details of Council’s 10-year LTFP, which includes the budget result, are outlined in the Resourcing Strategy.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

19. Financial sustainability is identified as the number one strategic risk facing Georges River Council and this is also common across the NSW sector. Factors impeding financial sustainability include:
 - Cost shifting moving from other governments with no increased funding to local government.
 - Insufficient rate revenue or growth to support the delivery of services.
 - Renewing aging infrastructure.
 - Maintaining new infrastructure.
 - Impact of climate change on community infrastructure.
20. Section 8b of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) outlines council’s financial management obligations:
 - Council spending should be responsible and sustainable, aligning general revenue and expenses.

- Councils should invest in responsible and sustainable infrastructure for the benefit of the local community.
 - Councils should have effective financial and asset management, including sound policies and processes for the following:
 - performance management and reporting,
 - asset maintenance and enhancement,
 - funding decisions,
 - risk management practices.
 - Councils should have regard to achieving intergenerational equity, including ensuring the following:
 - policy decisions are made after considering their financial effects on future generations; and
 - the current generation funds the cost of its services.
21. Any proposed changes to the budget must ensure:
- Any increase to expenditure be offset by a corresponding decrease to expenditure or an increase to income in the budget.
 - Any reduction in income or fees be offset by a corresponding decrease to expenditure or an alternative increase to income in the budget.
 - Any changes must be cost neutral.
 - Depreciation forecast and policies remain aligned to Section 8B of the Act.
22. Councillors have been appraised in recent years of Council's financial outlook over the 10-year period of the Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP). Whilst the 2024/25 Budget goes some way in addressing this position, there remains a forecasted operating deficit in the long-term outlook that will require monitoring and remediation. This deviation to a deficit in the 10-year forecast is materially attributed to the Emergency Service Levy (ESL) increase; Award increases being higher than the historic average and much higher than expected recent increases in the CPI index. These factors vary considerably from the assumed increases in prior years LTFP forecasts.
23. Based on the deviation from Council's approved Long Term Financial Plan a number of productivity and efficiency initiatives proposed to be explored over the current and future budget periods have been recommend as follow:
- Explore additional revenue streams through user fees
 - Assess and adjust the acceptable condition levels for assets
 - Decommission or retire assets, properties, or services that are underutilised or serving a limited cohort of the community
 - Consider redevelopment of suitable assets to generate additional revenue sources
 - Seek efficiencies via service reviews
 - Annually review and define the levels of subsidies for relevant operations

- Advocate for adjustments in statutory charges to align with the actual costs of services
 - Advocate for more transparency in revenue collection methods related to cost shifting
 - Evaluate employee costs and staffing levels via service reviews
 - Explore alternate levies to support the development of activities such as environmental initiatives.
24. Failure to address the unsustainable financial position places Council in contravention of section 8B of the Local Government Act 1993 and will compel Council to cut and/or reduce services to ease the unfavourable gap between income and expenditure.
25. At its July 2020, May 2021 and 2 March 2023 meetings, the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) made recommendations to Council. In summary the comments outlined:
- *That the financial position of Council should continue to be taken very seriously and before reaching any resolution take very close and careful consideration of the potential financial consequences*
 - *Council continues to apply measures that address the financial risks, particularly regarding increasing revenues and reducing expenditure.*
 - *That Council is still at high risk in terms of both long-term and short-term (cash flow/unrestricted cash) financial sustainability.*
 - *This position should continue to be taken very seriously when Council is addressing issues and undertaking decisions that will have a financial impact on the operations of Council.*
 - *With the financial position of Council being high risk, the ARIC would counsel great care and prudence in approaching decisions that impact negatively on this position (such as increased expenditure or reductions in income), and before reaching any resolution take very close and careful consideration of the potential financial consequences.*
 - *Commends Council on its strength and commitment in ensuring improvement to the financial position and sustainability as per its obligations under the Local Government Act 1993, and further encourages Council to maintain a strong position on addressing financial sustainability to underpin and consolidate the significant progress achieved by management since the merger in harmonising Council's processes, systems, risk management, governance and service delivery.*
 - *Council continues to apply measures that address the key financial sustainability risks, particularly in regard to increasing revenues and reducing expenditure, to secure Council's immediate and long term future.*





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

26. Community engagement was conducted, which is listed under the sub-heading of 'Public Exhibition' in the body of this report. The results are documented in Attachment 3.

FILE REFERENCE

D24/138726

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1  Attachment 1 - Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2024-25 (Draft)
- Attachment 2  Attachment 2 - 2024-25 Resourcing Strategy (Draft) - *published in separate document*
- Attachment 3  Attachment 3 - Itemised Submissions and Response Register - Delivery Program Operational Plan Resourcing Strategy 2024-25 - *published in separate document*
- Attachment 4  Attachment 4 - Georges River Council Draft Infrastructure Asset Management Policy - *published in separate document*

CCL043-24

NOTICES OF MOTION**Item: NM053-24 Traffic Congestion in Hurstville CBD****Councillor:** Councillor Liu**MOTION:**

- (a) That Council notes the concerns and issue of heavy traffic congestion throughout the Hurstville CBD on weekends, particularly around Westfield Hurstville.
- (b) That the General Manager write to Westfield Hurstville to communicate the congestion issues and confirm that appropriate traffic management plans and systems are in place for vehicles accessing the Westfield Hurstville Shopping Centre.
- (c) That a communication plan is developed and implemented to inform the local community of the appropriate areas for drop-off and pick-up along Ormonde Parade in the Hurstville CBD.
- (d) That Council officers submit an operational budget bid for consideration in the 2025/26 draft budget to undertake a traffic study in Hurstville CBD.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENT:

This Motion is consistent with Georges River Council's Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032 Pillar 1: Our Community, Goal 1.3 *Our community is safe and healthy*. It is also aligned with Council's existing Road Safety Program which collaborates with community groups and schools to improve pedestrian and road safety around school zones and other High Pedestrian Activity Areas.

As a major retail hub in the Local Government Area (LGA), Westfield Hurstville attracts a high volume of visitors from both local residents and from surrounding suburbs and LGAs across Sydney. While some visitors opt for public and active transportation, a substantial portion choose to drive their own vehicles and utilise Westfield's parking facilities, resulting in traffic congestion in the surrounding streets, especially on weekends. The concentration of other businesses, retail stores and restaurants in the Hurstville CBD further contributes to the influx of visitors and vehicles to the area on weekends.

Westfield Hurstville is required to develop and implement traffic management systems and plans to efficiently manage vehicle congestion associated with use of its facility, particularly during peak periods like Christmas and public holidays. Council officials will engage with Westfield Hurstville to discuss and evaluate their current strategies and plans.

Council officers will also work on developing a communication plan to inform the local community of appropriate areas for drop-off and pick-up along Ormonde Parade in the Hurstville CBD to reduce the associated traffic congestion issues. The plan will include signage in the area and a public notice on Council's website to distribute the information to the community.

A comprehensive study was completed in 2023 that assessed the establishment of a High Pedestrian Activity Area (HPAA) in the Hurstville CBD to improve vehicle and pedestrian safety. The next stage of this project is to undertake detailed design of the various safety measures identified in the study. In conjunction with this design process, Council officers intend to engage a suitably qualified consultant to undertake a traffic study to assess the existing traffic congestion issues in Hurstville, the impacts that the implementation of the HPAA will have on congestion, and potential solutions to address the issues.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding has not been allocated in Councils draft 2024/25 operational budget. Council officers will prepare and submit an operational budget bid for the 2025/26 financial year to allocate sufficient funding for a traffic study to be undertaken in the Hurstville CBD.

FILE REFERENCE

D24/123166

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item: NM054-24 Partnership with Service NSW Business Bureau**Councillor:** Councillor Wang**MOTION:**

- (a) That Council note the strong and productive working relationship that has been established with the Service NSW Business Bureau.
- (b) That Council congratulate the Service NSW Business Bureau Concierge and Georges River Council City Futures team for a successful business walk around Hurstville CBD. The business walk established new connections and showcased the breadth of Service NSW business resources available to local businesses. Several follow-up activities have been provided to local businesses by Service NSW.
- (c) That Council continue to promote the Service NSW Business Concierge services to local business people on all appropriate channels, including the Business Unite newsletter.
- (d) That Council, in partnership with Service NSW Business Bureau, the St George Business Chamber and Realise Business, deliver a business event during Small Business Month (October) to promote the breadth of business support options available to local businesses.

NM054-24

DIRECTOR'S COMMENT:

This Motion is:

- Consistent with Pillar 3: Our Economy in Georges River Council Community Strategic Plan
- Delivers on Goal 3.1 – Local jobs and local businesses are supported to grow.

Georges River Council is due to renew its Economic Development Strategy. This will be developed in 2025 under the direction of the newly elected Council and supported by our Economic Leadership Group, which includes key business and industry leaders from across the LGA. As part of this Strategy, we will look to continue to grow our partnership with the Service NSW Business Bureau to ensure comprehensive support is available for our local business community. The proposed event in Small Business Month aligns with our existing plans and will ensure Georges River Council has an active contribution.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial/budget impact for this recommendation.

FILE REFERENCE

D24/148892

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item: NM055-24 Exemption from Low and Medium Rise Housing Reforms**Councillor:** Councillor Katris**MOTION:**

Further to Council's Resolution, dated 25 March 2024 (CCL017-24) and the correspondence dated 23 April 2024 from the Mayor to The Hon. Paul Scully MP requesting that Council be exempted from the Low and Medium Rise Housing Reforms due to our stated commitments to providing additional and Diverse Housing and subject to not having any response from the Minister:

That the General Manager write to the Minister requesting information on the following:

- i. Has there been any further progress on the review been carried out on our requests for the abovementioned exemption?
- ii. If so, could we please be informed of the outcome as to whether we will be offered an exemption?
- iii. If we are going to be offered an exemption, then what conditions will be imposed on us in order to move forward with the requirements for the exemption to be fully legally ratified?
- iv. If we are not granted an exemption from the Low and Medium Rise Housing Reforms, then could we be informed as to whether we will be required to function under the statutory requirements of Low and Medium Rise Housing State Environmental Planning Policy or any other Similar Statutory Environmental Instrument?
- v. Should the Minister intend on legislating for the implementation of a Low and Medium Rise Housing State Environmental Planning Policy or any other Similar Statutory Environmental Instrument could we be informed of when it would it is intended to be adopted and when will it become active?

DIRECTOR'S COMMENT:

Council has not received a response to the Council Resolution (CCL017-24) dated 25 March 2024 and the correspondence dated 23 April 2024 from the Mayor to The Hon. Paul Scully MP requesting that Council be exempted from the Low and Medium Rise Housing Reforms due to our stated commitments to providing additional and Diverse Housing.

Council officers have prepared Planning Proposal No. 2024/0004 - Additional and Diverse Housing Planning Proposal based on the Councils resolution of 25 March 2024 which will be considered by the Georges River Local Planning Panel on 20 June 2024.

In response to the above, the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure has confirmed that the implementation of the Low and Mid-rise Housing proposal will be through an amendment of the existing State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial/budget impact for this recommendation.

FILE REFERENCE

D24/152009

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item: NM056-24 Review of Attacking Dog Penalties and Owner Identification Processes**Councillor:** Councillor Katris**MOTION:**

In view of ongoing reports of serious dog attacks across NSW and the difficulties faced by regulatory authorities to identify offenders:

That the General Manager write to The Hon. Ron Hoenig MP Minister for Local Government requesting the NSW Government to:

- i. Review the *Companion Animals Act 1998* - Section 16 Offences – to increase penalties in situations where a dog is allowed to attack people and other animals.
- ii. Introduce a mandatory ‘permit to acquire’ scheme linked to a valid MyService NSW Account, for the acquisition and disposal of any companion animal, to minimise the number of unidentified animals abandoned in council pounds.

DIRECTOR’S COMMENT:

This Motion is consistent with Council’s Community Strategic Plan 2022 -2032 - Pillar 1: Our community, in particular:

- a. *The community is safe and healthy.*

While significant Court imposed penalties of up \$77,000 and/or up to five years’ imprisonment currently exist where a dog is allowed to attack, the ‘on the spot’ fine of \$1,320 is not having the desired deterrent effect given that serious attacks are continuing to occur. Increasing the ‘on the spot’ fine, as has recently occurred for environmental offences under the *Protection of the Environment Operation Act 1997*, may assist in providing the necessary deterrent.

Currently a person is not required to provide any form of identification when purchasing a companion animal and instead the identification process relies on that person submitting the information to councils or online via the Companion Animals Register (CAR). This process provides opportunities for information errors to occur due to the number of manual processes needed to identify an animal including recording microchip numbers, addresses, other key identification criteria or the information not being submitted in full.

The introduction of a ‘permit to acquire scheme’, that emulates the scheme operating under the *Firearms Act 1996*, would require a person to obtain an online permit to acquire through a valid MyServices NSW Account before being able to acquire an animal. Animals could not be bought or sold without a person being in possession of a valid permit with penalties applicable for animals sold without a permit.

It is acknowledged that any permit scheme would not be completely fool proof, however, it would increase the accuracy of identification linked to an animal with each permit directly corresponding to a person’s MyServices NSW Account, and the ownership history in CAR, for that animal. This additional process would ensure that the purchaser details were recorded accurately and would assist regulatory authorities in identifying the owner of a dog in cases of a serious dog attack or reuniting the animal with their owner should an animal be impounded.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no financial/budget impact for this recommendation.

FILE REFERENCE

D24/152156

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

NM056-24

Item: NM057-24 Congratulations to the Australia Chinese New Arts Society**Councillor:** Councillor Wang**MOTION:**

- (a) That Council congratulate the Australia Chinese New Arts Society on the release of the fourth volume of their “Too Blue to be True” book series which was launched by the NSW Premier Chris Minns MP and the NSW Minister for Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism and Sport Steve Kamper MP on 6 June 2024 at NSW Parliament House.
- (b) That Council acknowledge that the publication of the book was part-funded by a Georges River Council Community Grant in 2021-22.
- (c) That Council acknowledge the ongoing promotion of cross-cultural understanding done by the Australia Chinese New Arts Society through the publication of their series of bi-lingual books about the experiences of Chinese-Australian migrants.

DIRECTOR’S COMMENT:

This Motion is consistent with Pillar 1 of the Community Strategic Plan:

- Goal 1.1 Our community is socially and culturally connected, and we strive for social equity.
 - Strategy 1.1.3 Develop, support and promote programs, services and activities that foster social support, participation and wellbeing for our diverse community regardless of age, gender, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation or cultural or religious background.
- Goal 1.4 Georges River area heritage and history is protected.
 - Encourage and promote heritage and history through collections, programs, heritage trails and protection policies.

In accordance with the purpose of the Georges River Council Grants and Donations Policy, to support projects that build the social, cultural, environmental, and economic life of the area, the Australia Chinese New Arts Society was awarded a Georges River Council Community Grant in 2021-22 (Round 1) for book publication costs including design, printing and translation.

The Australia Chinese New Arts Society is based in the Georges River Area and their bi-lingual books in the “Too Blue to be True” series contain migration stories and the lived experiences of Chinese Australians.

In accordance with Council resolution NM080-19, the 2019 volume of “Too Blue to be True” was evaluated and included in the Georges River Library collection in recognition of the publication’s relevance to the history and culture of the Georges River community.

Council officers will contact Australia Chinese New Arts Society to evaluate the other published volumes in the “Too Blue to be True” series for inclusion in the Georges River Library collection in accordance with the Library Collection Development Policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial/budget impact for this recommendation.

FILE REFERENCE

D24/152452

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item: NM058-24 Actions to be Taken by Council in Connection with Previous and Current Allocations and Usage of Playing Fields to Football St George

Councillor: Councillor Katris

MOTION:

That, in view of the many recent issues that have been raised by the various Presidents of individual Football Clubs, along with the Chair and the Board of Football St George, Council resolves the following:

- i. That Council acknowledge the long-standing history and contribution (including financial contributions) of Football St George clubs to the local community through their previous and current use of Council's sports grounds for amateur football.
- ii. That Council enter into discussions with Football St George and its member clubs in order to review sports ground usage and to implement a situation that may expediate and effectively establish the sharing of grounds and facilities with other codes based on no displacement and restrictions to access are to occur to the current sports field usage by any of the Football St George clubs unless agreed upon with the relevant club presidents and the board of Football St George.
- iii. That when the infrastructure works at Todd Park are completed, Council reinstates the previous level of access to Harold Fraser Oval of Football St George and its member clubs that previously existed prior to being asked to share the oval with another code. This is in view of the fact that Football St George were asked to share the oval on the basis that it was a temporary measure until the infrastructure was completed in Todd Park in 2024.
- iv. That Council is to facilitate review, in consultation with Football St George, into any increase in participation in community football and is to assist Football St George and its Member Clubs in obtaining access to additional sporting grounds and facilities as required where possible.
- v. Where Football St George and its member Clubs are requested to share a Sports Ground which may result in a Football Club being partly or wholly displaced, Council will provide the same level of access to a similar suitable sporting grounds to the extent that they are displaced. This is to assist clubs such as Hurstville Glory that has been displaced on a few occasions.
- vi. As part of showing good faith in issue of sharing Sports Ground Facilities, Football St George must work with Council in identifying potential sharing of grounds.
- vii. Council is to establish a communications protocol to ensure that all existing Clubs are informed and directly consulted, through Football St George before any decisions are made regarding the sharing of grounds.
- viii. Council is to actively engage with all stakeholders, in order to discuss and resolve any conflicts related to ground usage.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

Football St George (FSG) is the governing body for football within the St George area. The organisation oversees the development, promotion, and administration of the sport, ensuring that football remains a vibrant and integral part of the local community. FSG delivers valuable services including, but not limited to, competition management, development programs, coach and referee education, community engagement, facilities management, and advocacy and support for member clubs.

NM058-24

Currently, Football St George manages 23 member clubs and has access to approximately 88.5% of the fields in Georges River Council during the winter sporting season (April – August 2024). Additionally, nine other codes utilize Council fields during the winter season, including Rugby League, Rugby Union, Touch Rugby League, Touch Football, Oztag, AFL, Athletics, Cricket, and personal trainers.

This Notice of Motion is not aligned with existing recommendations in Council Strategies, specifically the Community Infrastructure Needs Assessment Area Acquisition Strategy (CINAAAS). Field allocations are assessed on a seasonal basis to ensure that relevant and up-to-date factors are considered. Council values the pride all codes demonstrate towards their home grounds and is committed to providing equitable access to all field users while fostering opportunities for grassroots sports. Due to the diverse range of assets, providing like-for-like facilities is often not feasible when a field is unavailable due to maintenance or other purposes.

The CINAAAS states that, according to applied benchmarks, the number of existing fields in the local government area meets current population needs. Therefore, Council's primary focus is on maximizing the use of existing fields to support the growing demands of each sporting code, particularly the growth of female sports. This is predominantly achievable through the shared use of assets.

Council staff are currently reviewing the approach to sports field bookings in consultation with neighbouring Councils and in line with Council Strategies. The overarching goals of this operational process review are to:

- Enhance the customer experience,
- Develop clear information channels for quick notifications
- Reduce manual resourcing
- Increase field hire options by including two and three-night options to reduce blanket booking of fields
- Update fees and charges to reflect each field's classification
- Identify locations for shared-use facilities
- Explore management options for Council's synthetic fields
- Review existing criteria used to determine priority access to Council fields

Council is implementing a new online booking system for the Summer 2024/25 sporting season called 'Bookable'. It is expected that 'Bookable' will improve field allocation and ease of use for end users by:

- Enhancing record-keeping
- Providing clearer visibility of applicants' requirements and their ability to meet allocation criteria
- Accelerating notifications to organisations regarding field allocations
- Improving communication from Council about decision making

- Allowing hirers to check additional availability and manage their bookings online

Any proposed changes to these operational processes will be consulted with the newly endorsed Sports Advisory Committee. Council will call for expressions of interest from new representatives of all sporting codes to join the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee in the coming months. The purpose of this committee as per the Terms of Reference is to disseminate information and consider relevant matters pertaining to sport and open space. This consultative and information-sharing approach ensures equitable information collation to make holistic recommendations to Council on managing its sporting assets.

Council staff work closely with Football St George and all sports associations and clubs and welcome the opportunity to streamline systems and processes for transparent information sharing, with the overall aim to deliver Council strategies and foster grassroots sports in the local government area.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Should Council resolve to support this Motion, the financial implications will be provided in a future report.

FILE REFERENCE

D24/153131

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item: NM059-24 Complying Development Certificates**Councillor:** Councillor Katris**MOTION:**

That in view of the numerous complaints being received by Council officers and Councillors regarding the issue of Complying Development Certificates (CDC), the General Manager write to the Minister for Planning, The Hon Paul Scully and the Minister for Better Regulations and Fair Trading, the Hon Anoulack Chanthivong requesting a review of legislation regarding CDCs for the following purposes:

- i. to amend section 134 (3) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2021*, to allow a 21 day notification period to neighbours and councils, as opposed to the 14 days currently stated.
- ii. to amend section 134 (3) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2021* to require each CDC application to also be notified on the NSW Planning Portal.
- iii. to amend section 134 (4) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2021* to include the submission of a sufficiently detailed site plan and sufficiently detailed elevation plans in the notice to neighbours and councils.
- iv. to include provisions for an independent technical review of a CDC application by the Building Commission NSW where alleged departures from the prescriptive and/ or numerical requirements of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008* have been identified and documented by an appropriately accredited professional within the 21 day notification period.
- v. to allow the relevant Officer, employed by Building Commission NSW, to issue notices to the Private Certifier, involved with the CDC, to rectify the departures from prescriptive and/ or numerical requirements of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008*.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENT:

This Motion is consistent with the current 'Certification Campaign to Lobby for Change' which was first adopted by Council at its meeting on 22 August 2022.

The community have regularly expressed a number of concerns regarding the Complying Development Certificate process. These include the effectiveness of the current requirements around notification and actions that can be taken to address CDC's that have been issued, despite concerns regarding departures from the prescriptive and/ or numerical requirements of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008*.

Whilst it is acknowledged that the CDC notification period does not provide for submissions to be made, the current 14 day timeframe is not considered as sufficient duration to provide effective communication time for adjoining neighbours who may wish to discuss the proposal with the owner/builder/certifier to seek clarifications.

The expansion of the method of notification to include the NSW Planning Portal will not only provide greater transparency in the process but allow an additional avenue for adjoining residents to receive and view the notification materials.

One of the major concerns raised from residents is that the current notification requirements do not include the provision of elevations of the development, only a description of the development and a site plan of the land is required to be provided. Providing a sufficiently

detailed site plan and sufficiently detailed elevation plans as part of the notice information will provide a greater understanding of what is being proposed and any potential impacts that may need to be discussed/clarified with the owner/builder/certifier.

Currently there is only a three-month period during which the validity of a CDC can be challenged in the Court and whilst Council has previously written to the NSW Government to request the extension of this time to 12 months, an alternate approach would be a technical review of a CDC by the Building Commission NSW. A further reason to extend the notification period would be to allow an adjoining neighbour who may be concerned about the technical accuracy of the CDC to engage a suitably qualified professional to review the plans and provide comment to the Building Commission NSW.

Where a technical breach that has an impact upon an adjoining premises is identified, the Building Commission NSW could not only consider action against the certifier but should also be given the ability to issue a notice to rectify the plans and/or building if partly constructed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial/budget impact for this recommendation.

FILE REFERENCE

D24/153513

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Item: QWN016-24 Hurstville Precinct Playspace Development Project

Author: Councillor Wang

Directorate: Office of the General Manager

Matter Type: Questions with Notice

COUNCILLOR QUESTION

Can Council officers provide an update on the Hurstville Precinct Playspace Development project? I have received strong feedback against the inclusion of a new 'senior' playspace at Woodville Park, however a strong desire to install a 'senior' playspace at Kempt Field.

What is the capacity for a senior playspace being installed at Kempt Field following the NSW Government site remediation?

OFFICER RESPONSE

Due to significant site subsidence and contamination, sections of Kempt Field have been closed to the community since December 2022. To negate any long-term impacts to the community resulting in the closure of the playspace at Kempt Field, budget was allocated in the 2023/24 financial year to design three (3) playgrounds within the Hurstville Precinct, with construction included in the Draft 2024/25 Capital Works Budget.

Community consultation was undertaken in March 2024 to enable the community to contribute to the future playground upgrades and provide comment on concept designs for the nominated locations of Woodville Park, Croot Park and Empress Reserve.

The feedback received as part of this community consultation was a request for the removal of the 'senior' playspace, defined as a playground for children between 5-13 years of age, at Woodville Park. This change has since been made, with the revised designs available through Council's Your Say platform for reference.

The construction of the three playgrounds is programmed for completion within the 2024/25 FY, with further community notification to occur prior to commencement.

Whilst the existing Kempt Field playground does include 'senior play' elements, this playground will be removed as part of the site remediation works to be undertaken by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (landowners). The Department are in the process of developing a Remediation Action Plan to address ground gas emissions, contaminated land and subsidence issues that have been identified across the site. The Remediation Action Plan will determine the long-term management of the site and usability by the community, including capacity for any future infrastructure, including a 'senior' playspace.

Answer published in the business paper.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item: QWN017-24 **Parking Issues - MacMahon Street and Hurstville Plaza**
Author: Councillor Wang
Directorate: Office of the General Manager
Matter Type: Questions with Notice

COUNCILLOR QUESTION

1. For the taxi rank/loading zone between 235 and 243 Forest Road, the current loading period of 6:00 am to 8:00 am is inconvenient since most shops don't open until 9:00 am or 10:00 am. Is it possible to extend the loading zone hours to better accommodate business needs?
2. There is a long bus zone between 306 and 314 Forest Road. Could part of this zone be converted into a loading zone or short-term parking? Some points to consider:
 - 2.1 There is no actual bus stop in this bus zone. Shop owners have mentioned that buses sometimes park there to rest. Is this space truly necessary as a bus zone?
 - 2.2 There are several bus zones nearby, including one near 338 Forest Road, a large bus interchange between 338 and 322 Forest Road, and another bus stop zone at the Westfield shopping centre. With two-thirds of the road between MacMahon Street and the bus interchange dedicated to bus lanes, do we really need so many bus zones? Shouldn't the business centre take priority over the transportation centre? Can the bus lanes be condensed?
 - 2.3 What are the statistics for fines incurred for illegal drop-off/pickup/unloading in this area? If the number is too high, could it indicate a flaw in our traffic design that fails to consider common sense needs like shopping drop-offs and pickups?
3. Based on feedback from local business owners and the St George Business Chamber, parking shortages are the top concern for Hurstville's businesses. Can the council create a traffic report to address these parking issues with a focus on supporting local businesses?

COUNCILLOR BACKGROUND

The Hurstville CBD, particularly the area between MacMahon Street and Hurstville Plaza along Forest Road, is bustling with businesses. However, it has zero short-term parking and has very limited loading zones, with only six loading positions available between 6:00 am and 8:00 am. What are the council's plans to improve business loading and customer pickup/drop-off? Here are some specific questions and concerns: 1) For the taxi rank/loading zone between 235 and 243 Forest Road, the current loading period of 6:00 am to 8:00 am is inconvenient since most shops don't open until 9:00 am or 10:00 am. Is it possible to extend the loading zone hours to better accommodate business needs? 2) There is a long bus zone between 306 and 314 Forest Road. Could part of this zone be converted into a loading zone or short-term parking? Some points to consider:

OFFICER RESPONSE

1. A report (TAC128-23) was submitted to the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) in November 2023 regarding proposed changes to the existing 'Taxi Zone' along Forest Road, Hurstville to accommodate a 'Loading Zone'.

Based on requests from adjacent business owners, the report recommended that 10m of existing 'Taxi Zone' on the southern side of Forest Road be converted to a timed 'Loading Zone, 6.00am to 8.00am' to assist with safe loading and unloading of deliveries during the morning peak period. The report also recommended for this area to remain a 'Taxi Zone' at all other times of the day. The report was approved at the November 2023 Council Meeting.

Council officers undertook community consultation regarding this proposal prior to submitting the report to the TAC. This included consultation with both St George Cabs and

adjacent business owners. At the time, Council officers did not receive any objections or feedback that indicated an issue with the proposed 'Loading Zone' time of 6.00am to 8.00am.

The existing 'Taxi Zone' on the southern side of Forest Road is heavily utilised throughout the day. There is a high demand for taxi services in this area due to being located within the centre of Hurstville CBD and the proximity to major public transportations services. Extending the timing of the 'Loading Zone' will adversely affect the local community who utilise these taxi services.

Based on the information above, it is not recommended to modify the existing 'Loading Zone' at this time.

2. Hurstville serves as a crucial bus interchange connecting Georges River Council residents to various parts of Sydney. To manage the numerous bus services commencing and terminating at Hurstville, bus layovers, lanes and zones are strategically dispersed across different locations. This ensures efficient operation and timely driver exchanges throughout the day.

Council officers will undertake an investigation and contact bus operators to clarify the purpose of the bus zone between 306 and 314 Forest Rd. Any proposals to relocate or remove bus zones are subject to approval from the bus company and Transport for NSW (TfNSW).

Should any changes be recommended, community consultation will be undertaken prior to a report being submitted to a future Traffic Advisory Committee for consideration.

3. Facilitating additional parking in the centre of a busy CBD, such as Hurstville, poses significant challenges and limitations. Important considerations include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Space constraints – due to the limited available space in an already highly developed area, finding new parking solutions can be difficult without displacing important existing infrastructure such as bus, taxi and loading zones.
 - Traffic congestion – the Hurstville CBD is already prone to heavy traffic congestion due to the demand for services and infrastructure in the area such as Westfield and other local businesses. Additional parking spaces could worsen congestion without effective traffic management plans and strategies in place.
 - Alternate modes of transport – a significant train station as well as a major bus interchange are both located within Hurstville CBD. Where possible, these services and other modes of transport should be encouraged to contribute to a more sustainable and efficient urban environment, rather than the addition of parking spaces that attract individual vehicles.

Given these challenges, addressing the demand for parking requires a wholistic assessment of parking in the Hurstville CBD to determine the feasible measures that could potentially be implemented. There is no current funding identified in Council's 2024/25 Draft Operational Budget to undertake this work.

Answer published in the business paper.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item: QWN018-24 Development Application Progress

Author: Councillor Wang

Directorate: Office of the General Manager

Matter Type: Questions with Notice

COUNCILLOR QUESTION

In light of the Development and Building Q3 Metrics Report presented at the Environment and Planning Committee on 11 June 2024, could you please provide more information on the following:

1. What is the average time taken by Georges River Council to process Development Applications (DAs) compared to other adjacent Councils?
2. What progress has the Council made since last year, and what are the main reasons behind this progress?
3. With the anticipated increase in DA numbers due to the implementation of NSW Housing Reforms, what are the Council's plans to manage the increased DA volume?

OFFICER RESPONSE

The NSW Planning Performance Dashboard (NSW Planning Portal) was used to provide a comparison; however, it should be noted that, as confirmed by assessment staff at other NSW Councils and based on Georges River Council's own experience, NSW Planning Portal data is not reflective of actual Council performance. No information is provided on the Planning Portal detailing how Planning Portal data is calculated and the data source relied upon.

Contact was made to adjoining Councils to obtain their more accurate internal data, however given the timeframe available to provide a response, no responses were received.

1. *What is the average time taken by Georges River Council to process DAs on a comparative basis with other adjacent Councils.*

	Georges River FY 2023/24	Bayside FY 2023/24	Canterbury- Bankstown FY 2023/24	Sutherland FY 2023/24
Total applications Determined	242*	183	509	636
Average Days per application Determined	212*	189	121	225

*Georges River Council's data (directly from Council's system) indicates that:

- Year-to-date 477 applications were finalised (including 323 approved, 65 withdrawn, and 89 refused);
- On average, these were finalised within 164 days of lodgement, this figure was influenced by 30 determined applications that had an assessment time of over 400 days; and
- The median assessment time (that experienced by the average applicant) was 130 days.

Given that the NSW Planning Portal data does not accurately reflect the output of Georges River Council, it is unknown if it is accurate in respect to the performance of neighbouring Councils.

2. *What progress has the Council made since last year, and what are the main reasons behind this progress?*

Over the period 1 July 2023 to 15 June 2024, 412 development applications were determined and 477 finalised (withdrawn or determined). The average days taken to determine was 169 days (139 days median), down from 185 days on average and 144 days median. Progress measured in assessment days can be misleading as assessment days are only recorded on determination and as such clearance of a large backlog of applications can elevate average assessment times.

Key progress has been made in the reduction of long outstanding applications, with over 30 applications that had been undetermined for over 400 days being cleared within this period. Currently, Council has only 3 applications of this age on hand, and all have specific service history as to why they have not yet been determined.

Council currently has only 211 applications on hand, where as in FY2022/2023, this figure exceeded 300 applications.

The reasons for this progress are as follows:

- Increased staffing levels due to an ongoing recruitment campaign aligned with the use of consultants, temporary labour, and contractors to fill the capacity gap;
- Process improvement, including more rigorous information quality review processes at lodgement, standardised assessment report templates, and growing staff and community familiarity with the Georges River LEP and DCP 2021;
- Temporary support provided by the Metropolitan Assessment Relief Program of the NSW Government, which enabled Council to use freed up assessment resources to better target difficult applications, while assisting with process reviews;
- A general decline in development applications due to market conditions and legislative changes.

3. *With the anticipated increase in DA numbers due to the implementation of NSW Housing Reforms, what are the Council's plans to manage the increased DA volume?*

The precise and immediate impact on assessment volumes of any change to planning rules is uncertain due to a number of variables being:

- Broader economic conditions;
- The cost of land, materials, and availability of suitably priced skilled construction labour;
- The precise formulation of the policy and whether the policy responds to an existing market demand.

The NSW Housing reforms involve 2 key policies, and their potential impact is detailed below:

- Transport Oriented Development State Environmental Planning Policy

As this policy only directly impacts upon the Kogarah north and town centre area, where densities already exceed those sought under the policy, it is not anticipated that this policy will have a significant impact on assessment volumes.

- Low and Mid-Rise Housing Reform

This policy will result in additional sites being eligible for greater development if implemented as proposed.

The policy may, depending on its final formulation, impact significantly upon assessment volumes. The level of that impact on assessment volumes will depend upon the extent to which the policy will rely upon private certification as opposed to Council based development assessment.

If the new policy, as drafted, results in inconsistencies or unclear rules as has occurred with some State Environmental Planning Policies in the past, the policy may also result in a rise in the number of complex applications resulting in slower assessment times and an increase in legal appeals.

Given the current uncertainty regarding the impact of the policy on assessment volumes within the current economic environment, Council is adopting a wait and watch approach. The current focus on filling existing vacancies, lowering the assessment volume on hand, and reducing the median assessment days with a view to ensuring system capacity will continue to better position Council in the event of a policy induced change in development application submissions.

Answer published in the business paper.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (CLOSED MEETING)

Council's Code of Meeting Practice allows members of the public present to indicate whether they wish to make representations to the meeting, before it is closed to the public, as to whether that part of the meeting dealing with any or all of the matters listed should or should not be considered in closed session.

RECOMMENDATION

That in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 4 of the Local Government Act 1993, the following matters be considered in closed Meeting at which the press and public are excluded.

CCL027A-24 Property Matter - Proposed Reclassification and Sale of Part Moore Park, Beverley Park (Report by Senior Property Officer)

THAT in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 4 of the Local Government Act 1993, the matters dealt with in this report be considered in closed Council Meeting at which the press and public are excluded. In accordance with Section 10A(2) (g) it is considered the matter contains advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.

THAT in accordance with Section 10D it is considered that if the matter were discussed in an open Council Meeting, it would on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it contains advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.

That in accordance with the provisions of Section 11(2) of the Act, the reports and correspondence relating to these matters be withheld from the press and public.

OPEN COUNCIL

CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS