

# MINUTES

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## Finance and Governance Committee

Monday, 11 November 2024

6:00 PM

Waratah Room

Georges River Civic Centre

Hurstville

UNCONFIRMED



GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL

## **PRESENT**

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Councillor Christina Jamieson (Chairperson), Councillor Ashvini Ambihaipahar, Councillor Borg (Mayor), Councillor Peter Mahoney, Councillor Leon Pun and Councillor Sam Stratikopoulos.

### **COUNCIL STAFF**

Director Business and Corporate Services - Danielle Parker, Chief Audit Executive - Steven Baker, Head of Strategic Property – Bernie Morabito, Senior Property Officer - Kristen O’Grady, Acting Chief Finance Officer - Craig Henry, Head of Corporate Governance and Risk - Renata Sala, Team Leader Procurement and Contracts Governance - Todd Payne, Chief Information Officer - Brendan Scott, General Counsel - James Fan, Manager Strategic Planning - Catherine McMahon, Executive Services Officer - Nickie Paraskevopoulos, Acting Executive Assistant to Director Business and Corporate Services - Ally Chand (Minutes), Head of Technology - Garuthman De Silva, Technology Business Support Officer – Lee Fermor

### **OPENING**

The Chairperson, Councillor Jamieson, opened the meeting at 6.05pm.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Chairperson, Councillor 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.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REMEMBRANCE DAY**

The Chair, Councillor Jamieson, acknowledged the brave Australians who have served and those who have died as a result of war.

*They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye,  
Steady and aglow; they were staunch to the end  
Against odds uncounted. They fell  
With their faces to the foe.*

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor  
The years condemn. At the going down of the sun  
And in the morning. We will  
Remember them.*

*Lest We Forget.*

Attendees observed 1 minute silence.

### **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 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**

**FIN032-24 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee Meeting held on 12 August 2024**  
(Report by Executive Services Officer)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Ambihaipahar, Mayor, Councillor Borg

That the Minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee Meeting held on 12 August 2024, be confirmed.

#### **Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Pun, Councillor Stratikopoulos

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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FIN033-24 Investment Report as at 31 July 2024**  
(Report by Senior Financial Accountant - Reporting)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Mahoney, Mayor, Councillor Borg

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

#### **Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Pun, Councillor Stratikopoulos

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

**FIN034-24 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee - Minutes of Meeting held on 23 May 2024 (Confirmed) and 15 August 2024 (Unconfirmed)**  
(Report by Chief Audit Executive)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Mahoney

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

(b) That the unconfirmed Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting

held on 15 August 2024 be received and noted by Council.

### **Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Pun, Councillor Stratikopoulos

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

### **FIN035-24 Investment Report as at 31 August 2024** (Report by Senior Financial Accountant - Reporting)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Ambihaipahar, Mayor, Councillor Borg

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

### **Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Pun, Councillor Stratikopoulos

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

### **FIN036-24 Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics 2024** (Report by Chief Audit Executive)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Mahoney, Mayor, Councillor Borg

That Council receives and notes the report on the Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

### **Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Pun, Councillor Stratikopoulos

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

### **FIN037-24 Investment Report as at 30 September 2024** (Report by Senior Financial Accountant - Reporting)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Pun

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

### **Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Pun, Councillor Stratikopoulos

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

### **FIN038-24 T24/002 Lease of Carss Park Cafe** (Report by Senior Procurement and Contracts Business Partner)

**PROCEDURAL MOTION****MOTION:** Councillor Stratikopoulos

That FIN038-24 T24/002 Lease of Carss Park Cafe be considered in closed session to discuss the confidential attachment.

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

**FIN038-24 T24/002 Lease of Carss Park Cafe**

(Report by Senior Procurement and Contracts Business Partner)

*THAT in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 4 of the Local Government Act 1993, the matters dealt with in this attachment be considered in closed Council Meeting at which the press and public are excluded. In accordance with Section 10D(i) it is considered the matter concerns commercial information of a confidential nature that would if disclosed prejudice the position of a person who supplied it.*

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.

**Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Pun, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Borg

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

**FIN039-24 Quarterly Budget Review Report for Period Ending 30 September 2024**

(Report by Senior Business Performance Accountant)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Pun, Councillor Stratikopoulos

- (a) That Council receives and notes the contents of this report in relation to the Quarterly Budget Review for the period ending 30 September 2024.
- (b) That Council adopt the proposed amendments to the 2024/25 Budget as outlined in the attachments.

**Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Pun, Councillor Stratikopoulos

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

**FIN040-24 Proposed Strategic Risks 2024/25 and Update to Risk Appetite**

(Report by Head of Corporate Governance and Risk)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Stratikopoulos, Mayor, Councillor Borg

- (a) That Council receive and note the JLT Public Sector Risk Report, July 2024 (Attachment 1).
- (b) That Council endorse the proposed changes to the 2024/25 Strategic Risks outlined in Attachment 2 to be provided to Council for approval in November 2024:
  - i) Financial Sustainability

- ii) Cyber Security
- iii) Assets and Infrastructure
- iv) People and Culture
- v) Climate Change
- vi) Reputation
- vii) Ineffective Governance
- viii) Social Cohesion
- ix) Housing Infrastructure
- x) Waste Management
- xi) Liability Claims
- xii) Business Continuity

(c) That Council endorse the changes to Council's Risk Appetite Statement (Attachment 3).

### Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihapahar, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Pun, Councillor Stratikopoulos

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

### PROCEDURAL MOTION MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION

At this stage of the meeting, time being 6.14pm the Chair, Councillor Jamieson advised that the meeting would move into 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 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:

#### **FIN056A-24 Tree Matter - Mortdale**

(Report by Head of Strategic Property)

*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) (b) it is considered the matter contains information concerning the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer.*

*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 information concerning the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer.*

#### **FIN057A-24 Property Matter - Open Space Land Acquisition and Embellishment - Keith Street, Peakhurst**

(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.*

**FIN038-24 T24/002 Lease of Carss Park Cafe**

(Report by Senior Procurement and Contracts Business Partner)

*THAT in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 4 of the Local Government Act 1993, the matters dealt with in this attachment be considered in closed Council Meeting at which the press and public are excluded. In accordance with Section 10D(i) it is considered the matter concerns commercial information of a confidential nature that would if disclosed prejudice the position of a person who supplied it.*

The Chair, 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 in relation to the item in Closed Session.

**MOTION:** Councillor Stratikopoulos

That in accordance with Section 10A Clause 2 of the Local Government Act 1993, the Committee enter into Closed Session to discuss item/s:

- FIN056A-24 - Tree Matter - Mortdale
- FIN057A-24 - Property Matter - Open Space Land Acquisition and Embellishment - Keith Street, Peakhurst
- FIN038-24 - T24/002 Lease of Carss Park Cafe

**Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Pun, Councillor Stratikopoulos

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

**CLOSED CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

**CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

**FIN056A-24 Tree Matter - Mortdale**

(Report by Head of Strategic Property)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Ambihaipahar

- (a) That a boundary adjustment be undertaken at 10 Boundary Road, Mortdale by way of widening of the public road reserve to permit the tree on the corner of Boundary Road and Universal Street, Mortdale to be located wholly within the public road reserve.
- (b) That the General Manager be authorised to complete all necessary actions for the

proposed road widening as outlined within this report, including signing any relevant documentation.

- (c) That all survey, legal and required fencing costs in this matter be met by Council.
- (d) That the subject tree be placed on the Significant Tree Register following completion of the road widening process.

### Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Pun, Councillor Stratikopoulos

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

### **FIN057A-24 Property Matter - Open Space Land Acquisition and Embellishment - Keith Street, Peakhurst** (Report by Senior Property Officer)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Mahoney

- (a) That Council purchase the property at 13 Keith Street, Peakhurst, being Lot 2 in Deposited Plan 27817 on the terms outlined in (confidential) Attachment 1 to this report.
- (b) That Council authorise the General Manager to execute the Contract for Sale, Transfer Document and all other associated documentation to complete the purchase of Lot 2 in Deposited Plan 27817 at 13 Keith Street, Peakhurst.
- (c) That in accordance with Section 31 (2) of the Local Government Act 1993, the land be classified as Community Land upon settlement.
- (d) That Council endorse the budget allocation and funding source as outlined within this report to progress the acquisition and embellishment of open space at Keith Street, Peakhurst as detailed in this report. Noting a further report and resolution of Council will be required prior to committing to purchase of 15 Keith Street, Peakhurst.

### Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Pun, Councillor Stratikopoulos

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

Note: The following Questions With No Notice were asked by Councillor Pun with regard to FIN057A-24 Property Matter - Open Space Land Acquisition and Embellishment - Keith Street, Peakhurst:

Q1. Were the two properties previously zoned differently some time ago to allow for these potential acquisitions?

Q2. Was the original intention to simply open the thoroughfare or was it Council's intention to contribute to a future master plan?

### **FIN038-24 T24/002 Lease of Carss Park Cafe** (Report by Senior Procurement and Contracts Business Partner)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Ambihaipahar

- (a) That Council accepts the commercial offering that is recommended for T24/002 Lease of



Carss Park Cafe, as outlined in confidential attachment 1.

- (b) That the General Manager be authorised to execute the Lease with the successful Contractor on behalf of Council.
- (c) That Council inform the unsuccessful parties to the negotiation process of the resolution.

### **Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Pun, Councillor Stratikopoulos

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

Note: The following Question With No Notice was asked by Councillor Stratikopoulos with regard to FIN038-24 T24/002 Lease of Carss Park Cafe:

Q1. Does the agreement require the lessee to make a capital investment, like fit out the premises?

### **PROCEDURAL MOTION RETURN OPEN SESSION**

**MOTION:** Councillor Stratikopoulos

That the meeting revert to Open Session, the time being 6.33pm.

### **Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Pun, Councillor Stratikopoulos, The Mayor, Councillor Borg

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 Stratikopoulos

That the recommendations from the Closed Session be confirmed as recommendations of the Committee.

### **Record of Voting**

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Ambihaipahar, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Pun, Councillor Stratikopoulos

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

### **CONCLUSION**

The Meeting was closed at 6.34pm.

Chairperson

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