

MINUTES

Finance and Governance Committee

Monday, 14 April 2025

6:00 PM

Waratah Room

Georges River Civic Centre

Hurstville



PRESENT

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

COUNCIL STAFF

Director Business and Corporate Services - Danielle Parker, Chief Finance Officer – Scott Henwood, Chief Audit Executive – Steven Baker, Senior Property Officer – Kristen O’Grady, Integrated Planning and Reporting Officer – Marisa Severino, Executive Assistant to Mayor and Manager Office of the General Manager – Claudine Pfeiffer, Acting Executive Assistant Director Business and Corporate Services – Ally Chand (Minutes), and Technology Business Support Officer – Chris Stojanovski.

OPENING

The Chairperson, Councillor Jamieson, opened the meeting at 6:01pm.

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.

APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies or requests for leave of absence.

Councillor Ashvini Ambihaipahar has been granted a 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

FIN009-25 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee Meeting held on 10 March 2025
(Report by Executive Services Officer)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Stratikopoulos

That the Minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee Meeting held on 10 March 2025, be confirmed.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, 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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FIN010-25 Investment Report as at 28 February 2025
(Report by Senior Financial Accountant - Reporting)

RECOMMENDATION: The Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Mahoney

That the Investment Report as at 28 February 2025 be received and noted by Council.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, 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.

FIN011-25 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee - Minutes of Meetings held 14 November 2024 (Confirmed) and 13 March 2025 (Unconfirmed)
(Report by Chief Audit Executive)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Mahoney, The Mayor, Councillor Borg

- (a) That the confirmed Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 14 November 2024 be received and noted by Council.
- (b) That the unconfirmed Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 13 March 2025 be received and noted by Council.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, 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.

FIN012-25 Quarterly Commercial Property Portfolio Report for Period Ending 31 December 2024
(Report by Senior Property Officer)

RECOMMENDATION: The Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Mahoney

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

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, 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.

FIN013-25 Half Year Progress Report: July 2024 - December 2024

(Report by Integrated Planning and Reporting Officer)

RECOMMENDATION: The Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Mahoney

- (a) That Council receive and note the Half Year Progress Report July 2024 – December 2025 (Attachment 1) of performance made towards Georges River Council's Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2024/25.
- (b) That a copy of the Half Year Progress Report July 2024 – December 2025 be published on Council's website and a link provided to the Office of Local Government.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, 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.

FIN014-25 Reappointment of Independent Member to the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee

(Report by Chief Audit Executive)

RECOMMENDATION: The Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Pun

That Council reappoint Mr Cliff Haynes as an independent member and chairperson to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) in accordance with the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Terms of Reference, for a four (4) year period ending to 22 March 2029.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, 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.

PROCEDURAL MOTION**CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (CLOSED SESSION)**

At this stage of the meeting, time being 6.06pm 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 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:

FIN013A-25 Property Matter - Open Space Land Acquisition of 15 Keith Street Peakhurst

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 Mahoney, Councillor Stratikopoulos

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.

FIN013A-25 Property Matter - Open Space Land Acquisition of 15 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.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, 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.

CLOSED CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

FIN013A-25 Property Matter - Open Space Land Acquisition of 15 Keith Street Peakhurst

(Report by Senior Property Officer)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Mahoney, The Mayor, Councillor Borg

- (a) That Council purchase the property at 15 Keith Street, Peakhurst, being Lot 132 in Deposited Plan 532403 on the terms outlined in this report.
- (b) That Council authorises the General Manager to execute the Contract for Sale, Transfer Document and all other associated documentation to complete the purchase of Lot 132 in DP532403, located at 15 Keith Street, Peakhurst.
- (c) That in accordance with Section 31 (2) of the Local Government Act 1993, the land be classified as Community Land following settlement.
- (d) The Councillors receive a workshop on the current/pending status of acquired properties for open space and any future plans for Hurstville and Kogarah.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, 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.

PROCEDURAL MOTION**OPEN SESSION**

MOTION Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Pun

That the meeting revert to Open Session, the time being 6:19pm.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, 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**

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Pun

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

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Jamieson, 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.

CONCLUSION

The Meeting was closed at 6:21pm.

Chairperson