

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Council Meeting

Monday, 28 July 2025

7:00 PM

Dragon Room

Civic Centre

Hurstville



GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL

LATE ITEMS**MAYORAL MINUTE**

MM013-25	Supporting a Sustainable Local Government Sector (Report by The Mayor, Councillor Borg)	3
MM014-25	Recognition of Connells Point Rovers Football Club's 60th Anniversary (Report by The Mayor, Councillor Borg)	5

MAYORAL MINUTE**Item: MM013-25 Supporting a Sustainable Local Government Sector****Mayor:** The Mayor, Councillor Borg**BACKGROUND**

The financial pressures facing local government have become increasingly complex. Councils across NSW continue to manage growing service demands, ageing infrastructure, and the cumulative effects of decades-long cost shifting, often with limited capacity to raise revenue.

The latest research commissioned by Local Government NSW (LGNSW) shows that the increase in cost shifting has continued. The cost shifting report, produced for the 2023/24 financial year, reveals that \$1.5 billion of expense has been imposed on councils. This is an increase of approximately \$140 million (10 per cent) since the last report for the 2021/22 financial year, when the total cost shift was estimated at \$1.36 billion. On average, this also now represents an inflated cost of \$497.40 for each ratepayer, an increase of \$36.72 from 2021/22. The full report is available online at www.lgnsw.org.au/costshifting.

The NSW Government has initiated a parliamentary inquiry into local government financial sustainability. The inquiry report, released in November 2024, put forward 17 recommendations. In May 2025, the NSW Government formally responded, endorsing 15 of those recommendations either fully or in part across five key reform areas. These reforms reflect a commitment to long-term sustainability, while recognising the importance of council autonomy and democratic accountability. The reforms include:

- Maintaining the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) role in rate regulation
- Introducing Comprehensive Spending Reviews to support permanent rate adjustments
- Simplifying the Special Rate Variation process
- Streamlining financial reporting requirements
- Auditing and indexing statutory and user fees to better reflect service delivery costs
- Establishing an independent Expert Advisory Panel to guide implementation.

The NSW Government's response underscores its recognition of the financial constraints councils face and the need for shared responsibility in supporting local communities. While these reforms are still in their early stages, Georges River Council welcomes the focus on sustainability and looks forward to partnering closely with the State Government to ensure that implementation is practical, meaningful, and beneficial at the local level.

MOTION:

- (a) That Council receive and note the findings of the LGNSW Cost Shifting report for the 2023/24 financial year.
- (b) That the General Manager write to the Premier, the NSW Treasurer, the NSW Minister for Local Government, and the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) expressing Council's support for ongoing reforms that enhance the financial sustainability and funding transparency of local government and advocating for continued action to address cost shifting through targeted regulatory improvements.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

MM013-25

Item: MM014-25 Recognition of Connells Point Rovers Football Club's 60th Anniversary**Mayor:** The Mayor, Councillor Borg**BACKGROUND**

I wish to acknowledge and congratulate Connells Point Rovers Football Club on the celebration of their 60th Anniversary – a significant milestone for a club that has become a mainstay of grassroots sport in the Georges River area.

The anniversary celebration was held on Saturday, 19 July 2025 at Doltone House, Sylvania, and was a fitting tribute to the Club's rich history, strong community spirit, and enduring legacy.

Georges River Council was proudly represented at the event by Councillors Landsberry, Mort and Dimoski. The celebration was also attended by Mr Zhi Soon MP, Member for Banks, Mr Mark Coure MP, Member for Oatley, Gary Lockwood, CEO of Football St George, and Nicholas Smerdely, Director of Football St George.

Since its establishment in 1966, Connells Point Rovers has grown to become one of the largest sporting clubs in the St George area, now boasting over 70 teams across all age groups. For nearly six decades, the Club has played an essential role in nurturing a love of football, developing players' skills, and building a sense of belonging within our community.

Generations of volunteers, coaches, committee members, referees, players and families have contributed to Connells Point Rovers ongoing success, and it is this dedication that has shaped the Club's proud identity.

On behalf of Georges River Council, I extend our sincere congratulations to President Lance Condon and the Club Executive for their outstanding leadership and commitment to the Club and the community.

We wish Connells Point Rovers Football Club continued success both on and off the field for many years to come.

MOTION:

That Council writes to Connells Point Rovers Football Club to formally congratulate the Club on their 60th Anniversary and thank them for their long-standing contribution to the Georges River community.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil