

AGENDA

Community and Culture Committee

Monday, 08 September 2025

6:00 PM

Dragon Room

Georges River 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.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE COMMITTEE 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.

APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE

REQUEST TO JOIN VIA AUDIO VISUAL LINK

NOTICE OF WEBCASTING

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

PUBLIC FORUM

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CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Item: COM036-25 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 11 August 2025

Author: Executive Assistant to Director Community and Culture

Directorate: Community and Culture

Matter Type: Previous Minutes

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 11 August 2025, be confirmed.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [1](#) Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 11 August 2025



COM036-25

MINUTES

Community and Culture Committee

Monday, 11 August 2025

6:00 PM

Dragon Room

**Georges River Civic Centre
Hurstville**



GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL

PRESENT

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councillor Landsberry, (Chairperson), The Mayor, Councillor Elise Borg (ex-officio member), Deputy Mayor, Councillor Liu, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Arthur, Councillor Dimoski, Councillor Gao (joined the meeting online), Councillor Mort and Councillor Wang.

COUNCIL STAFF

General Manager – David Tuxford, Director Community and Culture - Kristie Dodd, Manager Sport Community Facilities and Events - Margaret Le, Manager Cultural Engagement and Library Services – Justin Yeomans, Head of Customer Experience – Michelle Cowie, Coordinator Community Property and Venues – Andrew Williams, Coordinator Communications and Engagement – Catherine James, Acting Manager Office of the General Manager – Sue Matthews, Executive Services Officer – Marisa Severino, Team Leader Technology Business Support – Mark Tadros and Executive Assistant to the Director Community and Culture – Billie Johnson (Minutes).

OPENING

The Chairperson, Councillor Landsberry, opened the meeting at 6.03pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson, Councillor Landsberry 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.

There were no apologies or requests for leave of absence.

REQUEST TO ATTEND VIA AUDIO VISUAL LINK

Councillor Gao request to join the meeting via audio visual link.

MOTION: Councillor Arthur, Councillor Anzellotti

That Councillor Gao be granted permission to attend the meeting via audio visual link.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Arthur, Councillor Dimoski, Councillor Gao, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mort, Councillor Wang, The Mayor, Councillor Borg

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

NOTICE OF WEBCASTING

The Chairperson, Councillor Landsberry 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 Dimoski disclosed a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary Interest in item COM033-25 Event Grants - September 2025 to October 2025 for the reason that Councillor Dimoski is acquainted with some of the members of the committee (Australian Macedonian Council of NSW). They have reached out for guidance on how to communicate with the Council officers and I have assisted them with that.

Councillor Gao disclosed a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary Interest in item COM033-25 Event Grants - September 2025 to October 2025 for the reason that Councillor Gao was a member of the Lugarno Lions Club between May 2024 and June 2025.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no registered speakers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

COM030-25 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 14 July 2025 (Report by Executive Services Officer)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Allison, Councillor Mort

That the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 14 July 2025, be confirmed.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Arthur, Councillor Dimoski, Councillor Gao, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mort, Councillor Wang, The Mayor, Councillor Borg

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COM031-25 Adopted Customer Feedback and Complaints Management Policy (Report by Head of Customer Experience)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Mort, Councillor Allison

- (a) That Council adopt the Draft Georges River Council's Customer Feedback and Complaints Management Policy following the public exhibition period.
- (b) That the General Manager be delegated authority to make minor administrative changes to the Policy, if required.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Arthur, Councillor Dimoski, Councillor Gao, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mort, Councillor Wang, The Mayor, Councillor Borg

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

COM032-25 Action Plan for Library Spaces (Report by Manager, Cultural Engagement and Library Services)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Mort, Councillor Allison

- (a) That Council endorse the following sites identified as potential locations for a new 2,500 square metre district library to serve the western half of the Georges River Local Government Area:
 - (i) the Council-owned land at 23-29 Cook Street, Mortdale; and
 - (ii) the land in the southeast corner of Olds Park adjoining Forest Road, Penshurst.
- (b) That the zoning, development feasibility and valuation of the Council owned land at 23-29 Cook Street Mortdale be reviewed as part of Council's Property Strategy refresh and the results reported back to Council.
- (c) That Council endorse the actions outlined within this report, including the proposed actions identified to revitalise, reimagine and transform Council's branch libraries.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Arthur, Councillor Dimoski, Councillor Gao, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mort, Councillor Wang, The Mayor, Councillor Borg

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

COM033-25 Event Grants - September 2025 to October 2025 (Report by Coordinator Events and Sponsorship)

Note: It was noted that Councillor Dimoski left the Chambers at 06:22pm

RECOMMENDATION: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mort

That Council approves the Event Grant requests of:

- (a) \$20,000 (\$18,745 financial and \$1,255 in kind value) to support the 'Macedonian Festival 2025' on Sunday 7 September 2025;
- (b) \$20,000 (\$17,980 financial and \$2020 in-kind value) to support the 'Lugarno Lions Community Fair' on Sunday 21 September 2025; and
- (c) \$16,610 (\$16,610 financial and \$0 in kind value) to support 'The Healthy Minds & Wellbeing Expo' on Thursday 9 October 2025.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Arthur, Councillor Gao, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mort, Councillor Wang, The Mayor, Councillor Borg

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

Note: It was noted that Councillor Dimoski returned to the Chambers at 06:28pm

COM034-25 Outgoing Sponsorship - Kingsway Community Care Fundraising Dinner 2025 (Report by Sponsorship Specialist)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Mort, Councillor Allison

That Council approves the Outgoing Sponsorship request of \$5,000 to become a sponsor of the Kingsway Community Care Fundraising Dinner being held on 23 October 2025.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Arthur, Councillor Dimoski, Councillor Gao, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mort, Councillor Wang, The Mayor, Councillor Borg

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

COM035-25 Licence Renewal - St George District Rugby League Football Club Pty Ltd, Harold Fraser Oval, 276 Princes Highway, Kogarah Bay (Report by Coordinator Community Property and Venues)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Mort, Councillor Allison

That Council delegate authority to the General Manager to enter a renewal Option Licence with St George District Rugby League Football Club Pty Ltd, Harold Fraser Oval, 276 Princes Highway, Kogarah Bay, as per the Licence Terms and as further detailed within this report.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Arthur, Councillor Dimoski, Councillor Gao, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mort, Councillor Wang, 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 6.36pm

Chairperson

UNCONFIRMED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item: COM037-25 Report of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee meeting held on 14 August 2025

Author: Executive Assistant to Director Community and Culture

Directorate: Community and Culture

Matter Type: Committee Reports

COM037-25

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee recommendations for items SAC013-25 to SAC016-25 as detailed below, be adopted by Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The following Committee recommendations for items SAC013-25 to SAC016-25 are submitted to Council for determination.
2. The recommendations were made by the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee at its meeting on 14 August 2025.

BACKGROUND

3. The purpose of The Committee is to provide a forum for the dissemination of information to local, regional, and state sporting bodies, as well as support cross-code collaboration between local sporting bodies to achieve greater utilisation of facilities and fields.
4. The Committee comprises of fifteen elected representatives from local sporting bodies within the Georges River local government area and three nominated Councillor representatives.
5. The Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee Meeting was held on 14 August 2025 where Council officers provided updates on Council's Capital Works program, sporting facilities, Carss Park Aquatic Facility, and an overview of sport and recreation facilities across the local government area.
6. Representatives from the Alcohol and Drug Foundation and the NSW Office of Sport delivered a presentation prior to the official proceedings on the Good Sports Program. The purpose of the presentation was to reaffirm Council's ongoing commitment to promoting the safety and wellbeing of all individuals involved in community sport, including participants, officials, volunteers, and spectators.
7. Minutes of this meeting are now submitted to the Community and Culture Committee for consideration and for adoption by Council.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

SAC013-25 SPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL WORKS UPDATE
(Report by Acting Manager City Technical Services)

RECOMMENDATION: Member Finch, Member Widders

That the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee receive and note the presentation from the Acting Manager City Technical Services providing an update on Sporting Infrastructure

Projects within Council's Capital Works Program 2025/26.

SAC014-25 CARSS PARK AQUATIC FACILITY UPDATE

(Report by Executive Manager City Futures)

RECOMMENDATION: Member Mark Smith, Councillor Mort

That the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee receive and note the update within this report from Executive Manager City Futures on the Carss Park Aquatic Facility.

SAC015-25 RESPECTFUL ENVIRONMENTS IN COMMUNITY SPORT

(Report by Manager Sport, Community Facilities and Events)

RECOMMENDATION: Member Finch, Member Greene

That the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee receive and note the presentation provided by the Senior Community Development Officer – Good Sports Program, from the Alcohol and Drug Foundation and Project Officer – Policy and Planning from the NSW Office of Sport, outlining the strategic framework of the Good Sports Program and Office of Sport resources.

SAC016-25 SPORT, COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND EVENTS UPDATE

(Report by Manager Sport, Community Facilities and Events)

RECOMMENDATION: Member Finch, Councillor Mort

That the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee receive and note the presentation from the Manager Sport, Community Facilities and Events and Acting Manager City Operational Services, outlining an overview of Sport and Recreation facilities across the local government area.

FILE REFERENCE

D25/274980

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [1](#) Minutes of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee meeting held on 14 August 2025



MINUTES

Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee

Thursday, 14 August 2025

6:00 PM

Dragon Room
Georges River Civic Centre
Hurstville



GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Sam Stratikopoulos (Chairperson) (Apology),
Councillor Kathryn Landsberry (Alternate Chairperson),
Councillor Natalie Mort.

COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP

Ray Barbi – St George Basketball Association,
Jeffrey Barrett – St George Cycling Club (Apology),
Ross Bernays – Oatley Rugby and Sporting Club,
Sean Brohier – Football de Brazil,
Julian Finch – Connells Point Netball,
Kevin Greene – Cricket NSW,
Nicholas Smerdely – Football St George (Apology),
Scott Henderson – St George Touch Association,
Scot Holmes - St George OZTAG (Apology),
Jeff Killick – Southern Sydney Rugby League (Apology),
Darryl Lane – St George Little Athletics Club,
Warren Driscoll – St George Rugby League Football Club,
Mark Smith – Swimming Metro South East,
Tanya Smith – Golf NSW,
Dale Widders – St George Australian Football Club

GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL STAFF

David Tuxford - General Manager,
Kristie Dodd - Director Community and Culture,
Tom Heath – Acting Manager City Operational Services,
James Magee – Acting Manager City Technical Services,
Kent Stroud – Executive Manager City Futures
Margaret Le - Manager Sports, Community Facilities and Events
Naomi Bryant – Head of Operations City Life
Luke Galle – Coordinator Sports and Recreation
Lee Fermor – Technology Business Support Officer
Billie Johnson, Acting Executive Assistant to Director Community and Culture
Shannon Tomarchio – Personal Assistant to Sport, Community Facilities and Events

COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE

The Mayor, Councillor Elise Borg
Councillor Kathryn Landsberry (Alternate Chairperson)
Councillor Natalie Mort

EXTERNAL PRESENTERS

Mark Roach – Office of Sport
Kristian Whittaker – Alcohol and Drug Foundation

OPENING

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson, Councillor Landsberry 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 his 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

MOTION: Member Widders, Member Lane

That apologies on behalf of Councillor Stratikopoulos, Jeffrey Barrett, Scot Holmes, Jeff Killick and Nicholas Smerdely be accepted and a leave of absence be granted.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Member Barbi, Member Bernays, Member Brohier, Member, Member Greene, Member Henderson, Member Lane, Member Tanya Smith, Member Mark Smith, Member Widders, Member Driscoll.

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

NOTICE OF WEBCASTING

The Chairperson, Councillor Landsberry 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.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

SAC012-25 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee Meeting held on 22 May 2025

(Report by Executive Assistant to Director Community and Culture)

RECOMMENDATION: Member Greene, Member Brohier

That the Minutes of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee Meeting held on 22 May 2025, be confirmed.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Member Barbi, Member Bernays, Member Brohier, Member, Member Greene, Member Henderson, Member Lane, Member Tanya Smith, Member Mark Smith, Member Widders, Member Driscoll.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SAC013-25 Sporting Infrastructure Capital Works Update (Report by Acting Manager City Technical Services)

RECOMMENDATION: Member Finch, Member Widders

That the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee receive and note the presentation from the Acting Manager City Technical Services providing an update on Sporting Infrastructure Projects within Council's Capital Works Program 2025/26.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Member Barbi, Member Bernays, Member Brohier, Member, Member Greene, Member Henderson, Member Lane, Member Tanya Smith, Member Mark Smith, Member Widders, Member Driscoll.

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

SAC014-25 Carss Park Aquatic Facility Update (Report by Executive Manager City Futures)

RECOMMENDATION: Member Mark Smith, Councillor Mort

That the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee receive and note the update within this report from Executive Manager City Futures on the Carss Park Aquatic Facility.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Member Barbi, Member Bernays, Member Brohier, Member, Member Greene, Member Henderson, Member Lane, Member Tanya Smith, Member Mark Smith, Member Widders, Member Driscoll.

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

SAC015-25 Respectful Environments in Community Sport (Report by Manager Sport, Community Facilities and Events)

RECOMMENDATION: Member Finch, Member Greene

That the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee receive and note the presentation provided by the Senior Community Development Officer – Good Sports Program, from the Alcohol and Drug Foundation and Project Officer – Policy and Planning from the NSW Office of Sport, outlining the strategic framework of the Good Sports Program and Office of Sport resources.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Member Barbi, Member Bernays, Member Brohier, Member, Member Greene, Member Henderson, Member Lane, Member Tanya Smith, Member Mark Smith, Member Widders, Member Driscoll.

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

SAC016-25 Sport, Community Facilities and Events Update
(Report by Manager Sport, Community Facilities and Events)

RECOMMENDATION: Member Finch, Councillor Mort

That the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee receive and note the presentation from the Manager Sport, Community Facilities and Events and Acting Manager City Operational Services, outlining an overview of Sport and Recreation facilities across the local government area.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Member Barbi, Member Bernays, Member Brohier, Member, Member Greene, Member Henderson, Member Lane, Member Tanya Smith, Member Mark Smith, Member Widders, Member Driscoll.

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

CONCLUSION

The Meeting was closed at 6.56pm.

Chairperson

Item: COM038-25 Report of the Beverley Park Steering Committee meeting held on 3 September 2025

Author: Executive Assistant to Director Community & Culture

Directorate: Community and Culture

Matter Type: Committee Reports

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Beverley Park Steering Committee recommendations for items BPSCC010-25 to BPSCC011-25 as detailed below, be adopted by Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following Committee recommendations for items BPSCC010-25 to BPSCC011-25 are submitted to Council for determination.

The recommendations were made by the Beverley Park Steering Committee at its meeting on 3 September 2025.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**BPSCC010-25 PUBLIC ROUNDS REPORT**

(Report by Manager Sport, Community Facilities and Events)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee receive and note the public rounds report from August 2024 to July 2025.

Accepted.

BPSCC011-25 BEVERLEY PARK GOLF CLUB FINANCE REPORT

(Report by Manager Sport, Community Facilities and Events)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee receive and note the finance report to July 2025 for Beverley Park Golf Club.

Accepted.

FILE REFERENCE

D25/287071

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [1](#) Minutes of the Beverley Park Steering Committee meeting held on 3 September 2025



MINUTES

Beverley Park Steering Committee

Wednesday, 03 September 2025

12:00pm

TEAMS Meeting

UNCONFIRMED



PRESENT

MEMBERS

Mayor, Councillor Elise Borg (Chair)
Councillor Thomas Gao (Apology)
Councillor Sam Stratikopoulos (Apology)
Kristie Dodd – Director, Community and Culture
Danielle Parker – Director Business and Corporate Services
Tom Heath – Acting Director Assets and Infrastructure
Margaret Le – Manager Sport Community Facilities & Events
Shaun Smith – General Manager, BPGC (Apology)
Joe Bondin – President, BPGC (Apology)
Peter Thomas – Treasurer, BPGC
Daniel Metcalfe – Course Superintendent, BPGC

GEORGES RIVER COUNCILSTAFF

David Tuxford – General Manager
Bernard Morabito – Head of Strategic Property
Luke Galle – Head of Events and Operations
Franzi Mintus – Executive Assistant to the Director Community and Culture
Shannon Tomarchio – Personal Assistant Sport Community Facilities & Events
Nickie Paras – Executive Services Officer

OPENING

The Chairperson, the Mayor, Councillor Borg, opened the meeting at 12.01pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson, the Mayor, 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.

APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were apologies for Councillor Thomas Gao, Councillor Sam Stratikopoulos, Shaun Smith, General Manager of Beverley Park Golf Course, and Joe Bondin, President of Beverley Park Golf Course.

ATTENDANCE VIA AUDIO VISUAL LINK

This meeting is being held online by Teams Meeting and mobile phones must be turned to silent during the meeting.

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

The Mayor, Councillor Borg disclosed a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary interest in all items **BPSCC009-25 to BPSCC011-25**, for the reason that she lives in Beverley Park nearby the Beverley Park Golf Course. The Mayor, Councillor Borg will remain in the meeting and take part in the considerations on these items.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

BPSCC009-25 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Beverley Park Steering Committee Meeting held on 4 June 2025

(Report by Executive Assistant to Director Community and Culture)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Beverley Park Steering Committee Meeting held on 4 June 2025, be confirmed.

Accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BPSCC010-25 Public Rounds Report

(Report by Manager Sport, Community Facilities and Events)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee receive and note the public rounds report from August 2024 to July 2025.

Accepted.

BPSCC011-25 Beverley Park Golf Club Finance Report

(Report by Manager Sport, Community Facilities and Events)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee receive and note the finance report to July 2025 for Beverley Park Golf Club.

Accepted.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Plan of Management – update to be provided at the next meeting in December 2025.

2. **GRC staff visited BPGC last month** – Shaun Smith advised Council about consultants being brought in around financial sustainability of the club and developing a 5-year plan.
3. **Golf Course Gross Pollutant Trap** – included in FY2025/26 Capital Works Program.

CONCLUSION

The Meeting was closed at 12.11pm.

Chairperson

UNCONFIRMED

Item: COM039-25 Name Proposal for Boardwalk at Oatley Bay

Author: Manager, Cultural Engagement and Library Services

Directorate: Community and Culture

Matter Type: Committee Reports

COM039-25

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council endorse the name 'Oatley Bay Boardwalk' for the new boardwalk which will be constructed in Morshead Drive Reserve between the east and west sections of Morshead Drive in Hurstville Grove.
- (b) That the proposed name 'Oatley Bay Boardwalk' be placed on public exhibition for a period of no less than 28 days to allow the community to provide feedback.
- (c) That Council receive a further report to present the results of the community feedback.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. A coastal boardwalk previously located in Morshead Drive Reserve between the east and west sections of Morshead Drive in Hurstville Grove was demolished in May 2024 due to termite damage and a new boardwalk is scheduled to be constructed within Council's capital works program for 2025/26.
2. The demolished boardwalk was unofficially known as 'Oatley Bay Memorial Boardwalk' due to information signs that were installed on the boardwalk. Reinstallation of the memorial information signs is not supported under the Georges River Council Place Naming Policy (the Policy), as they do not meet the criteria for local significance or uniqueness to the Georges River local government area.
3. In accordance with the Policy, Council is allowed to discontinue use of the previously used unofficial name of the demolished boardwalk and assign a new name to the new boardwalk, particularly if the name will enhance wayfinding.
4. Determination of the proposed name for the boardwalk was done through a review of the history of the boardwalk and the requirements of the Policy.

BACKGROUND

History of the Boardwalk

5. On 27 November 2006 Kogarah Council resolved (389/2006) to:
'...construct a walkway connecting Neverfail Bay to Oatley Bay and a boardwalk connecting the two arms of Oatley Bay to enhance and protect the significant ecological value of Oatley Bay and its surrounds including Poulton Park and Moore Reserve and improve the recreational value of those parks'.
6. On 19 December 2007 the NSW Department of Planning awarded Kogarah Council a \$150,000 grant to co-fund the construction of the boardwalk. Council's expenditure was \$150,000 with a total project cost of \$300,000.
7. On 11 February 2008, after the grant was received, Kogarah Council resolved a Motion for 'Oatley Bay Boardwalk' by Councillor John Mikelsons (18/2008):
 - a) *That Council dedicates the planned boardwalk at Oatley Bay to the memory of those service men and women who died on peacetime service to their country.*

b) *That concept designs for the boardwalk be prepared with appropriate memorial "signposts" that indicate the importance of their service and the dedication itself.*

8. The purpose of the boardwalk and the grant funding was included in a report to Kogarah Council on 25 March 2008 (61/2008) and did not contain a memorial function:

'The project will protect native flora and fauna along Georges River foreshore and will also enhance Moore Reserve and Poulton Park by providing recreational and educational opportunities. The project will incorporate some bushland management sensitive to the needs of the native fauna, mangroves, and endangered saltmarsh protection. Therefore, contributing to protecting the native flora and fauna. The trail being partly located along the foreshore will be an ideal site for viewing many flying animals (birds and bats) entering the Kogarah Municipality via the Georges River, as the banks and headlands of the river are used by migratorv (sic) and nomadic species.'

9. The results of community consultation for the development application for the 'elevated footpath boardwalk and stairs' (DA 139/08) were reported to Kogarah Council on 23 June 2008 (151/2008). Six submissions were received from local residents, and no submissions related to a memorial purpose for the walkway.
10. The boardwalk was consistently referred to as 'Oatley Bay Boardwalk' during the planning phase, grant application phase, funding phase and Council resolution phases outlined above.
11. The boardwalk was opened in September 2008 and included information signs about incidents where service men and women died on peacetime service to their country in accordance with the 11 February 2008 Kogarah Council resolution (18/2008). The name 'Oatley Bay Memorial Boardwalk' was included on one of the information signs.
12. Since the opening of the boardwalk, the name 'Oatley Bay Memorial Boardwalk' was commonly used by the former Kogarah Council as well as Georges River Council in administrative documents, website information and formal public communication including the Moore Reserve Plan of Management (2023).
13. The name 'Oatley Bay Memorial Boardwalk' was not found on official government maps or consumer wayfinding maps, including:
- NSW Spatial Services;
 - Council's IntraMap;
 - Apple maps;
 - Google maps;
 - Bing maps; and
 - Whereis
14. The boardwalk was assessed in April 2024 by a structural engineer and determined to have compromised structural integrity due to termite damage and extensive timber rot. The boardwalk was closed to the public in April 2024 and partially demolished in May 2024, leaving only the piles remaining.
15. The design and construction of a new boardwalk was included in Council's capital works program. Community consultation on the new design was undertaken from 19 May 2025 to 06 June 2025, with construction scheduled during the 2025/26 financial year. The Community consultation indicated that most people identify the boardwalk as a place for exercise, walking or as a route to Moore Reserve. The new boardwalk design is included in Attachment 1.

16. During the demolition phase in 2024, the memorial information signs were removed. A review of the information signs determined they were in poor physical condition and contained images that Council does not have copyright to use. It was also determined that there was no connection between the subject matter of the signs and the Georges River area. The content of the signs is included in Attachment 2 and related to the following five subjects:
 - (a) HMAS Westralia Fire (West Australia 1988);
 - (b) HMAS Melbourne and HMAS Voyager Collision (Jervis Bay, 1964);
 - (c) RAN Sea King Helicopter Crash (Indonesia, 2005);
 - (d) Airforce Tragedies (no locations, 1991); and
 - (e) Blackhawk Crash (Townsville, 1996).
17. In accordance with the review of the history of the boardwalk, it was determined that:
 - (a) The key purpose of the boardwalk was to provide an environmentally sensitive walking route along the Oatley Bay foreshore;
 - (b) Two unofficial names relate to the facility, 'Oatley Bay Boardwalk' and most commonly since 2008 'Oatley Bay Memorial Boardwalk',
 - (c) The subject matter of the previous memorial information signs did not have local significance; and
 - (d) The boardwalk and memorial information signs had reached end of life.

Policy Requirements

18. The Policy provides a consistent naming convention for all Council assets, including Council facilities. The Policy also contains the rules for memorial plaques.
19. The removal of the memorial information signs that were attached to the previous boardwalk was done in accordance with Section 6.2.4 of the Policy:

'At the expiry of the useful life of the furniture or equipment upon which a Memorial Plaque is placed, Council officers may choose to remove the item'
20. Council is not allowed to re-install the memorial information signs because they do not meet the criteria for local significance or uniqueness to the Georges River LGA that are set out in Section 4.1.2(a) and (c) of the Policy as follows:
 - (a) *The name of a person who made demonstrable contributions that delivered significant benefit to the community or to the area in which the request relates*
 - (c) *Significant anniversaries of events unique to the history and culture of the Georges River Local Government Area or a particular site*
21. Council is allowed to discontinue use of the commonly used unofficial name of the previous boardwalk, 'Oatley Bay Memorial Boardwalk', because the boardwalk reached end of life. Section 7.3.2 of the Policy provides:

'The names of Buildings, Facilities or parts thereof generally shall not change during the life of the Building, Facility or part thereof.'
22. The determination of a suitable name for a Council facility is done in accordance with the general principles, general priorities and specific facility naming principles that are outlined in the Policy.
23. The general naming principles are stated in Section 1 of the Policy as follows:

A consistent naming convention for all Council assets, including Roads, Reserves, Buildings, Places and other Geographical features provides the following benefits:

- (a) efficient response to emergency situations by emergency services and other public services;*
- (b) clear way-finding for the public when moving around the Georges River Local Government Area;*
- (c) improved commercial activities by assisting efficient delivery of goods and services; and*
- (d) recognition of the history and culture of Georges River.*

24. The general naming priorities are stated in Section 2 of the Policy as follows:

Names will be selected that represent the diverse history of the region including:

- (a) Aboriginal history, heritage and culture;*
- (b) early settlers;*
- (c) historically significant people, activities and industries;*
- (d) war veterans; and*
- (e) gender diversity.*

25. The additional naming principles for Council facilities are stated in Section 7.3.1 as follows:

- (a) functional names;*
- (b) non-functional names, including naming after a person, group, or event;*
- (c) local names;*
- (d) commemorative names; or*
- (e) a combination of any two of the above.*

Identified Name Options

26. On Monday 7 July 2025 the following name options were presented at a Councillor workshop:

- Oatley Bay Boardwalk (recommended)
- Oatley Bay Memorial Boardwalk (not recommended)
- No formal name (not recommended)

27. 'Oatley Bay Boardwalk' was identified as the option most closely aligned with Policy requirements. It is a functional name that clearly describes the location and purpose of the facility in accordance with Section 7.3.1. The functional name will enhance clear wayfinding in accordance with Section 1 of the Policy. The name includes 'Oatley' which references early settler and first land grant holder James Oatley in accordance with Section 2 of the Policy. The name is similar to the long-standing informal name of the previous boardwalk and is intended to help people identify the new boardwalk. During community consultation for the design of the new boardwalk, the majority of respondents identified the facility as a place for exercise, walking and a thoroughfare to the nearby reserve. For these reasons, a functional name to assist wayfinding is recommended.

28. 'Oatley Bay Memorial Boardwalk' was identified as not complying with Policy requirements. As outlined above, that name was the commonly used informal name of the demolished boardwalk and because the design and intention of the new boardwalk does

not include a memorial, that name would cause confusion. Council is allowed to change an existing name if it will cause confusion, in accordance with Section 5.1 of the Policy and the requirements of clear wayfinding in Section 1 of the Policy. Council is also allowed to discontinue use of the informal name, because it related to a facility which had reached end of life, in accordance with Section 7.3.2 of the Policy, outlined above.

29. The option to not name the boardwalk is not recommended because it is inconsistent with Policy requirements regarding clear wayfinding. A name is required for the new boardwalk to ensure the route of passage can be clearly and unambiguously identified on official government maps, consumer wayfinding maps and Council records.
30. After the Councillor workshop, the proposed name 'Sharyn Cullis Memorial Boardwalk' was put forward by a Councillor. Dr Sharyn Cullis was a resident of Oatley who died in June 2022 and was known for her significant achievements in environmental activism.
31. She was recognised in 2020 with a St George Community Award. Dr Cullis was Principal of the Georges River Environmental Centre, Secretary of the Georges River Environmental Alliance and Vice President of Save Sydney's Koalas. She was a member of Sydney Metropolitan Water Catchment Authority, the National Parks Advisory Committee, as well as consultative committees for the South32 Appin Mine and Moorebank Intermodal. Significant achievements by Dr Cullis within the Georges River local government area included being the inaugural community representative on the Georges River Combined Councils Committee (Riverkeeper), volunteering with the Streamwatch and River Health Monitoring programs, Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society, Friends of Oatley and Friends of Glenlee. She led campaigns against a phone tower and café in Oatley Park, high rise on the Former Oatley Bowling Club site and increased densities within the Foreshore Scenic Protection Area. Dr Cullis also campaigned against BHP's expansion and impact on the O'Hares Creek system and the Dendrobium mine extension through the Georges River Environmental Alliance Group. Significant achievements by Dr Cullis outside the Georges River local government area included campaigning for the creation of the 6,500-hectare Dharawal National Park on the Illawarra escarpment east of Appin and the protection of endangered wildlife, particularly koalas, in the Campbelltown and Wollondilly local government areas.
32. The naming assessment criteria in Section 4.1.2 of the Policy, requires the 'name of a person who made demonstrable contributions that delivered significant benefit to the community or to the area in which the request relates'. The volunteer work done by Dr Cullis regarding Riverkeeper, Streamwatch, River Health Monitoring programs and the Foreshore Scenic Protection Area are consistent with the riverside location and environmental purpose of the boardwalk at Oatley Bay. Research indicated that the most significant contributions of Dr Cullis are aligned with Oatley and other areas in southwest Sydney.
33. The proposed name 'Sharyn Cullis Memorial Boardwalk' is inconsistent with the commemorative naming convention used by Council. Commemorative names adopted by Georges River Council generally do not include the word 'memorial', for example, the 'Norm and Beryl Butters Senior Citizens Centre', 'Blackshaw Gould Community Pavilion' and 'Clive James Library'. The name 'Sharyn Cullis Boardwalk' would be consistent with the commemorative naming convention used by Council.
34. Additional research by Council Officers, as well as consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee, was undertaken to review other name priorities in accordance with Section 2 of the Policy. That investigation included Aboriginal heritage, significant people or industries, and war veterans. No options were identified as having the required connection or significance to the coastal area of Oatley Bay in Hurstville Grove where the boardwalk is located.

35. In accordance with the principles and priorities of the Policy as well as the intended use of the facility, the functional name 'Oatley Bay Boardwalk' is the recommended name for the boardwalk located in Morshead Drive Reserve between the east and west sections of Morshead Drive in Hurstville Grove.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

36. There is no budget impact for this report. The cost of signage for the name of the boardwalk is within the capital works budget for the new boardwalk.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

37. Strategic Risk 6: Reputation

If a formal name is not assigned to the new boardwalk, there is a risk to Council's reputation due to potential confusion, and a perception of inconsistency in decision-making. Proceeding with a clear, policy-aligned name such as *Oatley Bay Boardwalk* reinforces the area's identity and Council's credibility, while demonstrating responsiveness to community feedback and historical context. The recommended name supports general wayfinding and improves potential emergency response outcomes.

38. Strategic Risk 7: Ineffective Governance.

There is also a risk of ineffective governance if the naming process does not comply with Council's Place Naming Policy or broader regulatory requirements. Inconsistent application of policies and procedures can undermine Council's governance framework and expose the organisation to non-compliance. The recommendations of this report are in accordance with Council's Policy and the decision-making framework for place naming, which aligns with the requirements of the NSW Geographical Names Board, thereby demonstrating sound governance and adherence to legislative standards.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

39. Community engagement was conducted for the design of the new boardwalk from 19 May 2025 to 06 June 2025 on Council's YourSay platform. The survey received responses from 34 people. Respondents were asked to provide multiple nominations for the different ways they use the boardwalk and area, with a total of 100 nominations received. 81 nominations (81%) related to the functional use of the boardwalk: 'for exercise (31 responses), 'as a route to access Moore Reserve' (17 responses) 'as a scenic or nature walk' (17 responses), 'to walk the dog' (11 responses), 'to visit family or friends' (5 responses). 16 responses (16%) related to 'recreation or relaxation' (9 responses) and 'for family outings' (7 responses). 2 responses (2%) identified the facility as a quiet place for reflection or remembrance'. 1 response was marked as 'other'.
40. Should Council approve the proposed name for the boardwalk at Oatley Bay, community engagement will be conducted for a period of no less than 28 days on Council's YourSay platform and the results will be presented in a future report to Council.

FILE REFERENCE

D25/222556

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [1](#) Oatley Bay Memorial Boardwalk Concept Design

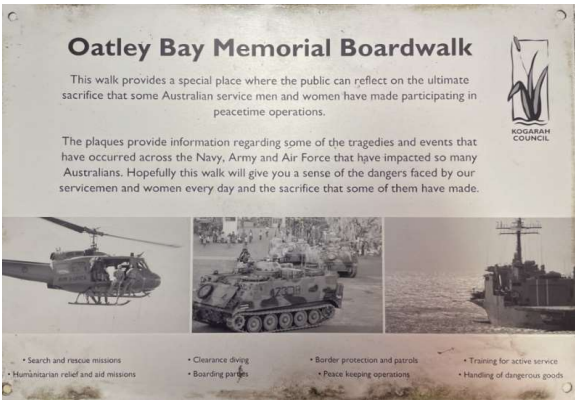


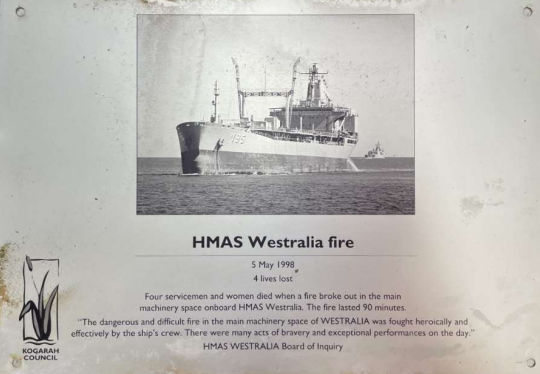
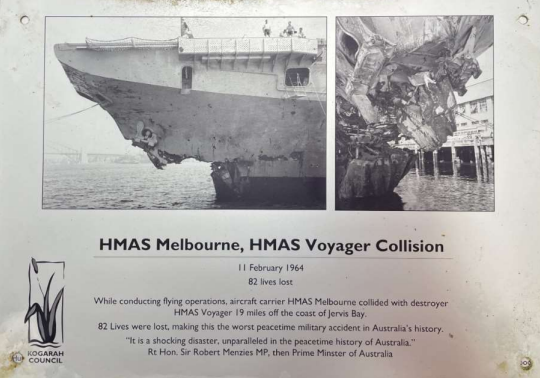
Attachment [2](#) Oatley Bay Memorial Boardwalk Plaque Transcriptions













Attachment 2 - Oatley Bay Memorial Boardwalk Plaque Transcriptions

 <p>The image shows a plaque for the Oatley Bay Memorial Boardwalk. It features a title, a paragraph of text, and a grid of six small images with captions. The grid images show a helicopter, an amphibious tank, a ship, and various military operations. The captions are: Search and rescue missions, Humanitarian relief and aid missions, Clearance diving, Boarding parties, Border protection and patrols, Peace keeping operations, Training for active service, and Handling of dangerous goods.</p>	<p>Oatley Bay Memorial Boardwalk</p> <p>This walk provides a special place where the public can reflect on the ultimate sacrifice that some Australian service men and women have made in participating in peacetime operations.</p> <p>The plaques provide information regarding some of the tragedies and events that have occurred across the Navy, Army and Air Force that have impacted so many Australians. Hopefully this walk will give you a sense of the dangers faced by our servicemen and women every day and the sacrifice that some of them have made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search and rescue missions• Humanitarian relief and aid missions• Clearance diving• Boarding parties• Border protection and patrols• Peace keeping operations• Training for active service• Handling of dangerous goods
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 <p>HMAS Westralia fire</p> <p>5 May 1988 4 lives lost</p> <p>Four servicemen and women died when a fire broke out in the main machinery space onboard HMAS Westralia. The fire lasted 90 minutes.</p> <p>"The dangerous and difficult fire in the main machinery space of WESTRALIA was fought heroically and effectively by the ship's crew. There were many acts of bravery and exceptional performances on the day."</p> <p>HMAS WESTRALIA Board of Inquiry</p>	<p>HMAS Westralia Fire 5 May 1988 4 lives lost</p> <p>Four servicemen and women died when a fire broke out in the main machinery space onboard HMAS Westralia. The fire lasted 90 minutes.</p> <p>"The dangerous and difficult fire in the main machinery space of WESTRALIA was fought heroically and effectively by the ship's crew. There were many acts of bravery and exceptional performances on the day."</p> <p>HMAS WESTRALIA Board of Inquiry</p>
 <p>HMAS Melbourne, HMAS Voyager Collision</p> <p>11 February 1964 82 lives lost</p> <p>While conducting flying operations, aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne collided with destroyer HMAS Voyager 19 miles off the coast of Jervis Bay.</p> <p>82 Lives were lost, making this the worst peacetime military accident in Australia's history.</p> <p>"It is a shocking disaster, unparalleled in the peacetime history of Australia."</p> <p>Rt Hon. Sir Robert Menzies MP, then Prime Minister of Australia</p>	<p>HMAS Melbourne, HMAS Voyager Collision 11 February 1964 82 lives lost</p> <p>While conducting flying operations, aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne collided with destroyer HMAS Voyager 19 miles off the coast of Jervis Bay.</p> <p>82 Lives were lost, making this the worst peacetime military accident in Australia's history.</p> <p>"It is a shocking disaster, unparalleled in the peacetime history of Australia."</p> <p>Rt Hon. Sir Robert Menzies MP, then Prime Minister of Australia</p>

 <p>RAN Sea King Helicopter crash</p> <p>Nias, Indonesia 3 April 2005 9 lives lost</p> <p>Nine service personnel perished while on a humanitarian mission to Indonesia's tsunami stricken area. One of HMAS Kanimbla's Sea King helicopter was transporting medical personnel and supplies to a village in Nias.</p> <p>"I have to report that nine of our family has died and the crew of Sea King 21 have been there and confirmed it."</p> <p>CMDR George McGuire – Commanding Officer HMAS Kanimbla</p> 	<p>RAN Sea King Helicopter crash Nias, Indonesia 3 April 2005 9 lives lost</p> <p>Nine service personnel perished while on a humanitarian mission to Indonesia's tsunami stricken area.</p> <p>One of HMAS Kanimbla's Sea King helicopter was transporting medical personnel and supplies to a village in Nias.</p> <p>"I have to report that nine of our family has died and the crew of Sea King 21 have been there and confirmed it."</p> <p>CMDR George McGuire – Commanding Officer HMAS Kanimbla</p>
 <p>Airforce tragedies</p> <p>1991 15 lives lost</p> <p>1991 was a defining year for flying safety. The Australian Defence Force lost an F/A-18, a PC9, a Porter, a Boeing 707 and a P3 Orion.</p> <p>The great tragedy of that year was the loss of 15 young Australians – all with dreams of careers in military aviation, all killed in peacetime training accidents.</p> 	<p>Airforce tragedies 1991 15 lives lost</p> <p>1991 was a defining year for flying safety. The Australian Defence Force lost an F/A-18, a PC9, a Porter, a Boeing 707 and a P3 Orion.</p> <p>The great tragedy of that year was the loss of 15 young Australians – all with dreams of careers in military aviation, all killed in peacetime training accidents.</p>

 <p>Black Hawk crash Townsville 12 June 1996 18 lives lost 18 soldiers were killed when two Black Hawk helicopters collided during a night-time anti-terrorist exercise near Townsville, in North Queensland. "This has been a real tragedy and we are all deeply hurt by it but what we've been doing we strongly believe in and we do it for the benefit of Australia." Captain David Burke, pilot of the second helicopter</p> 	<p>Black Hawk crash Townsville 12 June 1996 18 lives lost 18 soldiers were killed when two Black Hawk helicopters collided during a night-time anti-terrorist exercise near Townsville, in North Queensland. "This has been a real tragedy and we are all deeply hurt by it but what we've been doing we strongly believe in and we do it for the benefit of Australia." Captain David Burke, pilot of the second helicopter</p>
 <p>We honour the many friends and families of our lost service men and women. They live with their tremendous loss on a daily basis. Their great sacrifice has not gone unnoticed.</p> 	<p>We honour the many friends and families of our lost service men and women. They live with their tremendous loss on a daily basis. Their great sacrifice has not gone unnoticed.</p>

Item: **COM040-25 Event Grants - Christian Alliance, Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, St Mark Coptic Orthodox Church**

Author: Coordinator Events and Sponsorship

Directorate: Community and Culture

Matter Type: Committee Reports

COM040-25

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approves the Event Grant applications of:

- (a) \$20,000 (\$20,000 financial and \$0 in-kind value) to support the 'Together in Unity: Annual Celebration of Community, Culture and Faith' on Saturday 25 October 2025;
- (b) \$10,000 (\$9,430 financial and \$570 in-kind value) to support the 'Christmas in Kogarah' event on Saturday 6 December 2025; and
- (c) \$19,440 (\$18,185 financial and \$1,255 in-kind value) to support 'St Mark's Christmas Carols' on Sunday 30 November 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report seeks Council approval for three event grant applications, totalling \$49,440, as outlined below:
 - (a) \$20,000 (\$20,000 financial and \$0 in-kind value) to support The Christian Alliance, *Together in Unity: Annual Celebration of Community, Culture, and Faith*;
 - (b) \$10,000 (\$9,430 financial and \$570 in-kind value) to support Cornerstone Presbyterian Community Church, *Christmas in Kogarah*; and
 - (c) \$19,440 (\$18,185 financial and \$1,255 in-kind value) to support Coptic Orthodox Church St Mark, *St Mark's Christmas Carols* to the value of \$49,440.
2. These have been assessed in accordance with Council's Grants and Donations Policy and are recommended for approval.

BACKGROUND

3. Georges River Council receives requests from community organisations seeking support for community events and initiatives. In accordance with the Georges River Council Grants and Donations Policy (2025), each application is assessed, and recommendations are presented to Council for consideration.
4. On Wednesday 23 July 2025, Council received correspondence from Christian Alliance Incorporated requesting an event grant of \$20,000 in financial support, in relation to their event application to host the Together in Unity: Annual Celebration of Community, Culture and Faith event. This event will be held on Saturday, 25 October 2025 at Hurstville Entertainment Centre with an expected attendance up to 1000 attendees:

Organisation	Christian Alliance Incorporated
Description of organisation	The Christian Alliance is a network of 55 churches, schools, charities, and community groups united since 2022 to celebrate multicultural heritage and diversity. Through events and intercultural dialogues, it fosters collaboration, resource-sharing, and community-building across Georges River Council and surrounding regions.
Event Description	Together in Unity is a vibrant, inclusive event that celebrates the cultural, linguistic, and faith diversity of the Georges River region through music, dance, storytelling, and shared meals. It brings together families, youth, seniors, and people with disabilities in a welcoming space that promotes connection, creativity, and community pride. Supported by local charities and volunteers, the event also provides access to essential services and fosters lasting relationships across diverse communities.
Community Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and cultural awareness • Local area promotion
Use of Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound and lighting • Photography and videography • Catering • Security

5. On Monday 21 July 2025, Council received correspondence from Cornerstone Presbyterian Community Church, requesting an event grant of \$10,000 (\$9,430 financial and \$570 in-kind value). Christmas in Kogarah is scheduled to take place at Kogarah Town Square on Saturday, 6 December 2025, with an expected attendance of 500 people:

Organisation	Cornerstone Presbyterian Community Church
Description of organisation	Cornerstone supports the St George community through a range of local initiatives, including collaborations with St George Public Hospital and nearby schools. This organisation places particular emphasis on assisting those in need during the Christmas season, promoting connection, compassion, and a strong sense of community.
Event Description	Christmas in Kogarah is a vibrant, family-friendly annual celebration featuring festive entertainment, food stalls, and carols. This event enhances community spirit across the St George region by offering inclusive activities that encourage social connection and positive mental well-being. It supports active participation from both the Cornerstone community and local attendees, fostering a welcoming and connected environment.
Community Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and cultural awareness

Use of Grant	<p>Equipment and hiring expenses such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary hire of marquee equipment • Marketing • Festive decorations and activities • Kids amusements and petting zoo • Coffee catering • Sound, AV hire and staging
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6. On Sunday 3 August 2025, Council received correspondence from St Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church requesting an event grant of \$19,440 (\$18,185 financial and \$1,255 in-kind value) for the St Mark's Christmas Carols. This event is expecting 500 attendees at Carss Bush Park on Sunday 30 November 2025:

Organisation	St Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church
Description of organisation	The St Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church brings together individuals and families from all walks of life, encouraging connection through shared music, celebration, and hospitality.
Event Description	Christmas Carols open to the community with entertainment, food and rides. This event is a welcoming environment for church members and the broader community to engage in a spirit of unity and goodwill.
Community Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and cultural awareness • Economic development • Local area promotion
Use of Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entertainment • Equipment hire • Food • Security

7. Applications were assessed against a range of criteria included in the Event Grant Guidelines 2025-2026, such as:
- Promote social and cultural awareness;
 - Supports economic development of the local government area; and
 - Promotes the local government area.
8. These events are in accordance with Council's Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035:
- Pillar 1: Our Community, specifically addressing strategies;
 - (i) Provide and support community events that connect people and reflect the diversity of our communities;

- (ii) Provide a range of accessible services, facilities and programs that respond to social issues and foster community wellbeing;
 - (iii) Provide a range of services, programs and facilities that address the needs of local people of all ages, and through all stages of life;
 - (iv) Provide programs, services and activities that support knowledge sharing and lifelong learning; and
 - (v) Provide programs and events that promote, support and celebrate local heritage and history.
9. Specifically, the event grants are recommended for approval by Council due to alignment with the Georges River Council's Events and Festival's Charter:

Event	Key Features	Alignment with Charter
Together in Unity: Annual Celebration of Community, Culture and Faith	Connects people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities through inclusive, culturally rich programming and shared experiences.	Supports strategic event activation by promoting local pride, improving access to essential services, and fostering long-term community partnerships.
Christmas in Kogarah	Family-friendly celebration with interactive activities and performances to create a vibrant and inclusive Christmas precinct within the Kogarah area.	Connecting diverse groups through shared celebration, accessible activities, and appreciation of Christmas traditions to support local families and foster long-term community connections in the St George area.
St Mark's Christmas Carols	Inclusive celebration that fosters social cohesion, cultural appreciation, and community well-being through music, food and entertainment.	Promotes community well-being, encourages local participation and engagement, accessible entertainment and business partnerships.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. The total amount for Council's approval is \$49,440 consisting of:
- Total financial value: \$47,615; and
 - Total in-kind value: \$1,825.
11. A breakdown of the event grant applications received for these three events is outlined in table 1 as follows:

Table 1. Event Grant Applications – October to December 2025

Event	Event Date	Requested Amount	Recommended Financial	Recommended In-kind	Recommended Total
Together in Unity: Annual Celebration of Community,	25/10/25	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000

Culture and Faith					
Christmas in Kogarah	6/12/25	\$10,000	\$9,430	\$570	\$10,000
St Mark's Christmas Carols	30/11/25	\$19,440	\$18,185	\$1,255	\$19,440
TOTAL		\$49,440	\$47,615	\$1,825	\$49,440

RISK IMPLICATIONS

12. *Strategic Risk 6: Ineffective Governance* – There is a risk that these events could be funded outside of Council, or that funds may not be used appropriately. To mitigate compliance and governance risks, the:
 - (a) Assessment and recommendations of event grant applications are in line with the Event Grant Guidelines and the Georges River Council Grants and Donations Policy (2025); and
 - (b) Grant recipients are required to adhere to the Event Grant Guidelines and the Georges River Council Grants and Donations Policy (2025).
13. *Strategic Risk 8: Social Cohesion* – There is a risk to social cohesion if Council does not support these event grants, as community events play a key role in fostering connection, enhancing individual wellbeing, and contributing to local economic productivity. By supporting local initiatives, Council ensures that funded events deliver maximum community benefit and respond directly to community needs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

14. Community engagement was undertaken in the development of the Grants and Donations Policy (2025) and Sponsorship Policy (2023) prior to adoption by Council.

FILE REFERENCE

D25/275013

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item: COM041-25 Domestic and Family Violence in Georges River

Author: Coordinator Community Capacity Building

Directorate: Community and Culture

Matter Type: Committee Reports

COM041-25

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council endorse the Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan (Attachment 1), which proposes actions to address domestic and family violence through primary prevention, early intervention, crisis response, and advocacy.
- (b) That Council note the preliminary feasibility assessment of a Georges River Council Domestic and Family Violence Memorial Garden to honour the victims of domestic and family violence in the Georges River community, as outlined in Domestic and Family Violence Memorial Garden Preliminary Feasibility Assessment (Attachment 2).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Georges River Council has developed a Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan (Action Plan) in response to Council resolutions NM046-24 and NM107-24, which address the urgent need to strengthen prevention, support, and advocacy in the Local Government Area (LGA). The resolutions commit Council to reviewing current initiatives, identifying new measures to enhance awareness and capacity, and investigating the preliminary feasibility of a Memorial Garden to honour victims of domestic and family violence (DFV).
2. The Action Plan is structured around four strategic approaches: Primary Prevention, Early Intervention, Crisis Response, and Advocacy. Key actions include expanding financial assistance to DFV service providers and community organisations, streamlining access to emergency funding, strengthening community awareness through education and culturally responsive engagement, and embedding DFV messaging into Council projects and public spaces.
3. Council's approach to mitigating DFV builds on existing initiatives such as the Community Safety Education Program, capacity building through including events and resources, and strong partnerships and interagency collaborations.
4. Council undertook a preliminary feasibility assessment of constructing a Memorial Garden to honour victims of DFV (Attachment 2 - Domestic and Family Violence Memorial Garden Preliminary Feasibility Assessment).
5. The proposed Memorial Garden is identified as a long-term initiative in the Action Plan, subject to final site selection, design and funding.

BACKGROUND

6. On 27 May 2024, Council resolved (NM046-24) to take proactive steps to address gender-based violence in the LGA:
 - (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*
 - (ii) *Dr Hannah Tonkin, NSW Women's Safety Commissioner*
 - (iii) *Senator Katy Gallagher, Federal Minister for Women*
- 7. On 16 December 2024, Council resolved (NM107-24) to investigate the construction of a Memorial Garden to Honour Victims of Domestic Violence:
 - (a) *That the General Manager, in close consultation with local women's and family support groups, refuges and charities, NSW Police and NSW Health and any other relevant organisations and authorities, prepares a report to be presented to a future meeting of Council to consider the feasibility and approximate cost of constructing a Memorial Garden in order to honour victims of domestic violence.*
 - (b) *That the report incorporates potential locations and funding sources, including internal and external sources, and NSW and Federal grants.*
- 8. Considering the intersections of NM046-24 and NM107-24, this report and the accompanying Action Plan address the resolutions simultaneously. An assessment of community perspective and site identification for a Memorial Garden to honour victims of DFV is included in (Attachment 2) and an action addressing the construction of the Memorial Garden is included in the Action Plan (Attachment 1).

Strategic Context

- 9. Council demonstrates its commitment to supporting vulnerable and marginalised people, and the community organisations supporting them, through the Georges River Council Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035, and the Social Justice Charter 2022-2026.
- 10. This report aligns with the Georges River Council Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 priority of providing stability and security for all members of Georges River. This report is consistent with the following strategies:
 - Pillar 1 - Our Community
 - *Provide a range of accessible services, facilities and programs that respond to social issues and foster community wellbeing.*
 - *Provide a range of services, programs and facilities that address the needs of local people of all ages, and through all stages of life.*
 - *Provide programs, services and activities that address health and safety issues.*
 - Pillar 4 – Our Built Environment
 - *Prioritise investment in infrastructure.*
- 11. This report also aligns with the Georges River Council Social Justice Charter 2022-2026:
 - Focus 1 – Connected Communities. Objective 2: Advocacy and opportunities are provided for social, economic, and cultural participation to foster social cohesion and belonging.
 - *Action 2: Provide opportunities for community-led representation of vulnerable and marginalised communities and people with lived experience.*

- *Action 4: Advocate for the identified needs of our community and for better legislative protections for vulnerable and marginalised communities.*
 - Focus 2 – Safe Places and Spaces. Objective 1: People in Georges River feel safe, accepted and included.
 - *Action 1: Provide opportunities for community-consultative placemaking to shape inclusive, safe and accessible physical and online spaces.*
 - *Action 3: Amplify resources and provide training to increase physical and online safety.*
 - Focus 5 – Good Governance. Objective 1: Council governance is transparent and accountable.
 - *Action 3: Ensure Council's financial assistance programs benefit vulnerable and marginalised communities.*
 - *Action 6: Commit to consult and engage with vulnerable and marginalised communities on initiatives and issues that impact their lives.*
12. This report aligns with federal and state strategies committing to end violence:
- The National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-32 - The national policy framework guiding actions towards ending violence against women and children.
 - First Action Plan 2023-2027 - Outlines initial actions, responsibilities, and how commitments will be delivered in the first five years of the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032.
 - Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence National Partnership Agreement 2023–25 - \$47.8 million in Commonwealth Government funding to frontline support services supporting women and children experiencing DFV.
 - NSW Domestic and Family Violence Plan 2022–2027 and NSW Sexual Violence Plan 2022-2027 - A coordinated framework to end DFV.
 - NSW Health Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Domestic and Family Violence 2021–26 - Outlines a strategic approach to reinforcing the public health system's role in DFV.
13. While federal and state governments set the strategic direction, legislate, and fund specialist services to address DFV, local government plays a complementary role. Councils are uniquely positioned to engage directly with communities, raise awareness, provide accessible information, advocate for local needs, and integrate prevention and response measures into local programs, services, infrastructure, and partnerships.

Data on Gender-Based Violence and DFV

In Australia

14. The Working for Women Department of the Australian Government defines gender-based violence (GBV) as violence directed at someone because of their gender. DFV is a subset of GBV, which incorporates any behaviour that is violent, threatening, controlling or intended to make the victim-survivor or their family feel scared and unsafe. The key difference is that GBV is a broader term that defines the underlying gender inequality and power imbalances behind the acts, and DFV describes the context as set in domestic and family relationships.

15. As such, this report focuses on opportunities for Council to act in the DFV space, recognising that these actions contribute to addressing the broader issue of GBV at a local level.
16. The Australian Bureau of Statistics Personal Safety Survey indicated that between 2021-2022:
 - 1 in 6 women had experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a current or previous cohabiting partner since the age of 15, compared to 1 in 18 men;
 - 1 in 4 women had experienced emotional abuse by a current or previous cohabiting partner since the age of 15, compared to 1 in 7 men;
 - 1 in 6 women had experienced economic abuse by a current or previous cohabiting partner since the age of 15, compared to 1 in 13 men; and
 - 1 in 5 women had experienced sexual violence since the age of 15, compared to 1 in 16 men.
17. There is no government-funded tracker for women and children killed by DFV. For this report, data is drawn from respected activist-led sources: Destroy the Joint's Counting Dead Women and The Red Heart Campaign's Memorial to Women and Children Lost to Violence, outlined in Table 1.

Criteria	Destroy the Joint's Counting Dead Women	The Red Heart Campaign's Memorial to Women and Children Lost to Violence
Deaths recorded and confirmed as a result of violence against women	32	47
Deaths recorded as a result of suspected violence-related deaths	Not counted	
Deaths recorded as a result of violence against children	Not counted	16

Table 1. Women and children's lives lost due to DFV

In the Georges River Local Government Area

18. Data from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research highlights notable trends in DFV within the Georges River LGA:
 - In the past two years, there have been two homicides in the Georges River area linked to DFV;
 - From April 2015 to March 2025, crime statistics show an average annual increase of 6.3% in sexual offences related to DFV, and a 6.2% average annual increase in intimidation, stalking, and harassment offences; and
 - Over the same period, incidents of malicious damage to property have remained stable, and no kidnappings related to DFV have been recorded in the Georges River area.

Correspondence sent from Council resolution NM046-24

19. In May 2024, the former Mayor, Councillor Sam Elmir, sent letters to the following State and Federal representatives to support the Leaving Violence Program:
 - The Honourable Jodie Harrison MP, Minister for Women NSW;
 - Dr Hannah Tonkin, NSW Women's Safety Commissioner; and
 - Senator Katy Gallagher, Federal Minister for Women.
20. A response was received from Senator Katy Gallagher acknowledging the correspondence and outlining support for Council's Community Safety Education Program (CSEP) and engagement with community partners.

Current Council Initiatives Addressing DFV

21. Council's approach to community safety, including DFV, is underpinned by Council's CSEP. On 18 December 2023, Council resolved (CCL112-23) the establishment of the CSEP. The CSEP aims to ensure that the Georges River community is safe and feels safe and is delivered through a combination of collaboration and partnership opportunities, advocacy, financial assistance programs, school and youth engagement, and housing support.
22. The current Council initiatives incorporate four strategic approaches:

Primary Prevention

Proactive strategies aimed at shifting societal attitudes, norms, and behaviours that condone or excuse violence, with the intent of stopping violence from occurring in the first place by creating environments where it is less likely to happen.

Early Intervention

Recognising and responding to the warning signs or risk factors of DFV before the situation escalates into crisis.

Crisis Response

Immediate, short-term actions to assist individuals and families currently experiencing DFV. Services in this category focus on ensuring safety, stabilising the situation, and preventing further harm to those affected by violence.

Advocacy

Advocating to decision-makers to change systems addressing structural inequalities to create lasting change at the systemic level, ensuring that institutions better prevent and respond to violence.

23. Current initiatives delivered by Council to mitigate DFV include collaboration and partnerships, advocacy, financial assistance programs, school and youth engagement, and housing support as listed in Table 2.

Initiative	Strategic Approach			
	Primary Prevention	Early Intervention	Crisis Response	Advocacy
Collaboration and Partnerships				
St George Police Area Command (PAC)		✓		✓

Addressing safety issues through one-on-one meetings and attendance at St George PAC's quarterly Community Safety Precinct Meeting.				
Developing a coercive control z-card information guide in partnership with St George Domestic Violence Committee (SGDVC), available in English, Chinese Simplified, Arabic, Bengali, Thai and Nepali.	✓	✓	✓	
Upskilling SGDVC by providing coercive control training for SGDVC member organisations in 2025.	✓	✓	✓	
Working with neighbouring Councils to discuss trends and compare strategic approaches to supporting people experiencing DFV and organisations working in the sector.	✓	✓		
Collaborating with community organisations and services that support people experiencing DFV, including via the use of property to provide accommodation for people living in unsafe situations.			✓	
Contributing to the Elder Abuse Collaborative community languages podcast on identifying and reporting elder abuse for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.		✓	✓	✓
Facilitating Child Safe Leaders training with the Child Abuse Prevention Service for Council staff (tiers 1, 2, and the Executive Team).	✓			✓
Advocacy				
Annual St George Candlelight Vigil in collaboration with				✓

SGDVC.				
Annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign in collaboration with SGDVC.				✓
Financial Assistance Programs				
Providing \$93,840 in grant and outgoing sponsorship funding to organisations specialising in DFV support in the last three financial years.		✓	✓	
School and Youth Engagement				
Annual NO Domestic Violence Walk.	✓			✓
Designing and distributing educational resources to all students participating in 2024 NO Domestic Violence Walk.	✓			
Brainstorm Productions theatre performances on respectful relationships for 572 students in 2024.	✓			
Love Bites facilitator training for the youth sector in 2023-2024.	✓	✓		
Housing Support				
Holding a Lease Agreement with a community organisation for the provision of crisis accommodation to support victim-survivors of DFV in the Georges River LGA. The project is funded by a rental subsidy of \$50,000 per annum (excl. GST).			✓	
Running a donation drive for a local shelter, collecting new underwear and socks for men, toiletries, in-date non-perishable food, backpacks, and new toys year-round at the Georges River Civic Centre.			✓	

Table 2. Current Council Initiatives Addressing GDV and DFV

Service Provision in Georges River and Surrounding Areas

24. Council consulted with local community networks and organisations to understand the current service provision landscape in the Georges River area.
- Member organisations of SGDVC, including representatives from local women's and family support services, refuges, charities, NSW Police and NSW Health, identified the following services currently delivered within the Georges River Area. Depending on the service and program, participants range between 5-20 people for more targeted or smaller programs, and up to 200 people for larger scaled programs.
 - (i) Practical support, including preventative workshops for young people on healthy relationships, tailored case management and referrals, housing assistance, counselling, safety planning, safety meeting representation, and psychoeducation; and
 - (ii) Community engagement delivered through forums, seminars, organisation training, interagency collaboration, law expos, and collaboration with multicultural and religious groups.
 - Findings from St George Youth Network stated that social media often portrays idealised and unrealistic relationships, young people can find it difficult to recognise negative traits in partners, and they frequently look to family and friends as role models for relationship behaviour.
 - Findings from Council's Multicultural Advisory Committee included community concern about the appropriateness of holding regular Anti-Domestic Violence Information Seminars with NSW Police given mistrust of police from some members of some CALD communities.
25. Council consulted with neighbouring local governments to understand service provisions in their areas.
- Sutherland Shire Council holds an annual DFV awareness walk, attends monthly Domestic Violence Committee meetings, provides financial support to DFV organisations through grants and subsidies and runs capacity building initiatives to target DFV, including professional development with the DFV committee each year and advocating internally.
 - Bayside Council holds an annual Community Walk Against Family and Domestic Violence, provides financial support for local DFV service providers, and subsidises a local shelter.

Gaps in Service Provision

26. Council has identified gaps in service provision to prevent and mitigate DFV, in consultation with DFV service providers and community organisations including representatives from local women's and family support services, refuges, charities, NSW Police and NSW Health, as presented in Table 2.
27. These gaps, presented in Table 3 below, are addressed through four strategic approaches: Primary Prevention, Early Intervention, Crisis Response and Advocacy.

Strategic Approach	Identified Gaps
Primary Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of early intervention and prevention education programs, particularly in schools and community settings.

Early Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of bystander training available to upskill the community, equipping family members and friends to be better positioned to identify and support loved ones experiencing DFV. • Limited access to free or low-cost venues for service providers to host programming targeted at victim-survivors or perpetrators, e.g. men's behaviour change programs.
Crisis Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate access to culturally appropriate services and support, including access to interpreters and bilingual staff. • Restricted availability of coordinated case management and wrap-around support that addresses the complex and diverse needs of both victim-survivors and perpetrators of DFV. • Inadequate access to financial support and counselling services for victim-survivors. • Scarcity of legal support services for victim-survivors, including an absence of childcare support for victim-survivors attending police stations and court proceedings. • Sector capacity constraints, including high demand for services, long waitlists, delayed service deployment, and limited funding availability. • Insufficient crisis accommodation and social housing, particularly for women, youth, and families from CALD backgrounds.
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient advocacy support for community organisations in the DFV space.

Table 3. Identified Gaps in Service Provision in Georges River

Council's Response to Gaps in Service Provision

28. Council recognises its social responsibility to maintain a proportionate and inclusive response to addressing DFV in the LGA. In line with NM046-24 (part (a)(ii)), Council is committed to responding to these service gaps through actions outlined in the Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan (Attachment 1).
- Gaps in service provision within Georges River LGA were identified through consultation with internal teams, and external stakeholders, including local women's and family DFV support services, refuges, charities, NSW Police and NSW Health.
29. Implementation of these actions will:
- Increase access to financial assistance for DFV service providers and community organisations within the LGA;
 - Seek to reduce timeframes to accessing funding from Council for those in emergencies;

- Strengthen community capacity and awareness through education, engagement, and culturally responsive programs; and
 - Embed DFV awareness into Council's initiatives, ensuring messages of respect, safety, and inclusion are integrated into the community.
30. Community consultation revealed community concern about the cultural appropriateness of holding regular Anti-Domestic Violence Information Seminars with NSW Police, as outlined in NM046-24 part (a)(ii), given mistrust of police from some members of some CALD communities. As a result, Council officers have included alternate, culturally appropriate actions in the Action Plan to better support CALD communities experiencing DFV.
 31. This report aligns with actions in the Action Plan - Homelessness in Georges River (CCL049-25) to explore the provision of crisis accommodation for vulnerable and marginalised groups, pending the availability of suitable Council properties.
 32. To ensure the Action Plan meets evolving community needs, Council will continue to monitor emerging trends, gaps, and opportunities for local intervention, and evaluate progress of actions through data, outcomes, and stakeholder feedback.

Domestic and Family Violence Memorial Garden

33. In accordance with NM107-24 part (a), a preliminary feasibility assessment of the need for a Memorial Garden to honour victims of DFV is included in attachment 2.
34. Council consulted with external stakeholders from SGDVC including local women's and family DFV support services, refuges, charities, NSW Police and NSW Health; and internal stakeholders including the Assets and Infrastructure Directorate.
35. Preliminary investigations have identified 7 potential sites that may be suitable based on criteria identified by internal and external stakeholders, including site type, site use, regional context, access, site conditions, and sightlines and safety.
36. The preliminary investigation identifies Council-owned land potentially suitable for the project, while recognising that further opportunities and site-specific preference may arise before the project commences. Potential sites include:
 - (a) Boongarra Reserve, Oatley
 - (b) Connells Point Reserve, Connells Point
 - (c) Croot Park, Hurstville
 - (d) Gannons Park, Peakhurst
 - (e) Rasdall Park, Narwee
 - (f) Spooner Park, Beverley Park
 - (g) Thorpe Park, Hurstville
37. Ongoing community consultation and careful consideration of the Memorial Garden's unique design and purpose will help ensure the final location best meets the needs of the community.
38. Consultation is also required to select an official name for the Memorial Garden that complies with Council's Place Naming Policy.
39. Part (b) of NM107-24 is addressed in Attachment 2, which identifies potential funding sources, including external recurring State and Federal grants, as well as internal capital works project proposals. Once funding is secured and the scope of the garden is defined,

a further report will be presented to Council to outline the construction costs for the Memorial Garden, as requested in part (a) of NM107-24.

40. This project has been integrated into the Action Plan as a long-term action. Next steps include Council officers submitting a project proposal form to allocate funding for a detailed concept design in FY 2026/27. As part of the detailed concept design, targeted community consultation and a comprehensive risk assessment will be undertaken.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

41. All programming initiatives within the Action Plan will be funded from the Community Capacity Building team's operational budget.
42. Should additional non-budgeted funds be required to fund evolving community needs, funds will be sought through partnerships, grant funding and operational budget bids.
43. The establishment of a Memorial Garden is not within allocated budget. A budget bid will be submitted for FY2026/27 capital works as outlined above.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

44. Strategic Risk 6: Reputation - *The risk of Council's identity, brand and standing being negatively impacted, reducing Council's ability to engage in sound decision-making and being able to take strategic action whilst maintaining essential services and support for the community.* As outlined in the Social Justice Charter, Council is committed to supporting vulnerable and marginalised groups in the LGA through advocacy, resource amplification, and training. Council's reputation is at risk if it does not work to address DFV in the LGA. Council can mitigate this risk by implementing the actions from the Action Plan to address DFV.
45. Strategic Risk 8: Social Cohesion - *Failure to identify and/or respond to the changing socio-economic needs of our community. Social cohesion erosion and growing socio-economic gap negatively impacting social stability, individual well-being, and economic productivity.* Council faces social cohesion risks by not advocating for and supporting vulnerable and marginalised groups within the community. The initiatives proposed in the Action Plan aim to strengthen community cohesion by ensuring all residents feel safe and supported, particularly those at risk of or affected by DFV.
46. Strategic Risk 9: Housing Infrastructure - *The risk that Council may fail to facilitate housing and development that aligns with the community's growing needs and expectations, while also ensuring planning regulations and building practices are sufficient to address climate change impacts and severe weather events. This could lead to inadequate housing supply and environmental challenges.* There is a risk that current housing supply will not meet the growing and diverse needs of the community. Council's capacity to facilitate appropriate housing solutions could be further strained without targeted responses. The Action Plan provides an opportunity to assess and allocate resources that may support temporary or situational housing solutions for affected community members.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

47. Council undertook community consultation with key external stakeholders to understand trends in DFV, its impact on priority populations, and service gaps. Findings of these consultations are outlined earlier in this report.
48. Government organisations consulted included:
 - Sutherland Shire Council's Community Development Advisor, 16 July 2025; and
 - Bayside Council's Coordinator Community Support and Programs, 22 July 2025.

49. Community service stakeholders consulted included:

- (a) St George Domestic Violence Committee (SGDVC)
 - (i) On 24 June 2025, a survey was presented to the committee assessing the community's interest in a Memorial Garden to pay tribute to victims of DFV. 14 member organisations including St George PAC, NSW Health, The Family Co., Homes NSW, Advance Diversity Services, 2Connect, Exodus, CatholicCare, Bayside Council, and Integricare, unanimously supported the construction of a Memorial Garden to honour victims of DFV in Georges River;
 - (ii) On 16 July 2025, a survey was shared with members of SGDVC to gain insight into their experience working with people affected by DFV in Georges River and what services are currently delivered in the LGA; and
 - (iii) On 31 July 2025, a follow up survey was distributed to SGDVC members to identify desired inclusions in a Memorial Garden. Findings are elaborated on in Attachment 2.
- (b) St George Youth Network (SGYN) - on 6 August 2025, Council officers consulted with SGYN members to better understand young people's experiences in relationships.
- (c) Council's Multicultural Advisory Committee - on 12 August 2025, consultation was undertaken to gain insight from the CALD community regarding the effectiveness and appropriateness of regular information sessions run in collaboration with NSW Police for the CALD community.

FILE REFERENCE

D25/279497

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [↓1](#) Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan



Attachment [↓2](#) Domestic and Family Violence Memorial Garden Preliminary Feasibility Assessment





Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan

2025

Initiative	Action	Rationale	Primary Prevention	Early Intervention	Crisis Response	Advocacy
Short-Term (Within 12 Months)						
Collaboration and Partnerships	Strengthen the relationship between Council and DFV service providers in the GRC area.	Improve coordination, identify service gaps, and enhance support for victim-survivors.	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Investigate opportunities to collaborate on the development of educational and awareness-raising resources.	Increase community understanding and engagement with DFV prevention.	✓	✓		
	Seek out current educational programming run by DFV organisations that can be supported by Council resourcing (e.g. funding, venues, promotion).	Amplify survivor voices and support advocacy efforts.	✓	✓		✓
DFV Webpage on the GRC Website	Consult with local DFV organisations and service providers to explore Council's role in supporting access to their services via the Council website.	Provide an avenue for service providers to share messaging with the community.	✓	✓		✓
	Use insights from consultation to guide updates to the existing DFV webpage.	Create a central, accessible hub of information and support.	✓	✓		
	Implement a "quick exit" button and improve navigation for users in crisis.	Ensure the safety and discretion of users accessing DFV information online.			✓	
	Promote existing translated resources.	Remove language barriers and ensure equitable access to support.	✓	✓		

Initiative	Action	Rationale	Primary Prevention	Early Intervention	Crisis Response	Advocacy
Advocacy	Write advocacy letters to State and Federal Governments to advocate for police cultural sensitivity training.	Improve police response and build trust with diverse communities.		✓	✓	✓
	Advocate to the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) for increased funding and availability of Men's Behaviour Change Programs.	Expand access to perpetrator programs and reduce repeat offending.		✓		✓
Financial Assistance Programs	Promote Council's financial assistance programs to community organisations delivering DFV-related projects and support services, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised communities.	Support the delivery of community-based DFV programs.		✓		
	Identify and apply for state or federal grants to fund initiatives outlined in this Action Plan.	Maximise impact and financial sustainability of Action Plan initiatives.		✓	✓	✓
Mid-Term (From 12 Months to 3 Years)						
DFV Webpage on the GRC Website	Translate key DFV resources and service directories into key community languages.	Remove language barriers and ensure equitable access to support.	✓	✓		
Education Campaigns	Deliver a targeted campaign to share DFV awareness content in key community locations.	Promote available support pathways to CALD groups.	✓	✓		
	Deliver a targeted campaign to share information on respectful relationships via social media.	Promote information where young people already engage.	✓	✓		

Initiative	Action	Rationale	Primary Prevention	Early Intervention	Crisis Response	Advocacy
School and Youth Engagement	Facilitate connections between schools and local DFV support organisations to deliver evidence-based sessions on respectful relationships, consent, and help-seeking.	Support consistent, age-appropriate messaging across schools.	✓	✓		
	Support youth arts or creative projects that explore themes of gender equality or respectful relationships.	Empower young people to share messages through creative expression.	✓	✓		
Policy Review	Explore the feasibility of introducing fast-track grant processes for service providers delivering key initiatives aligned with Council's endorsed Action Plans, to be considered in the next revision of the Grants and Donations Policy.	Provide responsive support to organisations meeting urgent community needs.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Long Term (3 Years+)						
Placemaking	Consider the feasibility of a memorial garden based on policy, consultation, and location criteria.	Honour victims and survivors of DFV and provide a space for community reflection.				✓
Housing Support	Explore the use of Council property for crisis accommodation.	Increase emergency housing options for people experiencing DFV.			✓	✓
	Engage in discussions with local housing providers and neighbouring councils to identify shared opportunities for transitional housing solutions.	Expand housing pathways and improve regional coordination.			✓	✓



Measure of success	How it will be measured
Improved collaboration with local DFV service providers	Number of joint initiatives or meetings held, formalised partnerships
Increased access to DFV information and services for priority groups	Website usage analytics (including translated pages and quick exit feature
Additional funding secured to support DFV initiatives	Number of grants applied for and awarded, total revenue received, number of initiatives delivered using external funds
Stronger advocacy outcomes and influence	Number of advocacy actions taken, responses or commitments from government bodies, policy or funding changes influenced



Domestic and Family Violence Memorial Garden

Preliminary Feasibility Assessment

2025

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Background and Context

On 16 December 2024, Council resolved (NM107-24) to investigate the construction of a Memorial Garden to Honour Victims of Domestic Violence:

- (a) That the General Manager, in close consultation with local women's and family support groups, refuges and charities, NSW Police and NSW Health and any other relevant organisations and authorities, prepares a report to be presented to a future meeting of Council to consider the feasibility and approximate cost of constructing a Memorial Garden in order to honour victims of domestic violence.*
- (b) That the report incorporates potential locations and funding sources, including internal and external sources, and NSW and Federal grants.*

Purpose

This report explores the preliminary feasibility of a Memorial Garden (the Garden) devoted to honouring and remembering all those affected by Domestic and Family Violence (DFV), including victims and survivors. Alongside Council's current initiatives in the DFV space, a Garden would spread awareness about the prevalence and impact of DFV. The Garden would offer a safe and peaceful space for reflection, healing, and support for survivors and their families, and act as a visible symbol of Council's commitment to supporting this cause.

Scope

Council's initial scope for the Garden includes exploration of inclusion of the following elements:

- Commemorative plaques honouring victims and survivors
- Public art installations or sculptures
- Landscaped garden beds and tree planting
- Accessible pathways suitable for all visitors
- Seating areas for quiet reflection
- Potential interactive or educational elements

Strategic Context

This preliminary feasibility aligns with the Georges River Council Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035, which highlights the value constituents place on stability and security for all members of Georges River. This report is consistent with:

- Pillar 1 - Our Community
 - *Provide a range of accessible services, facilities and programs that respond to social issues and foster community wellbeing.*
 - *Provide a range of services, programs and facilities that address the needs of local people of all ages, and through all stages of life.*

- *Provide programs, services and activities that address health and safety issues.*
- Pillar 4 – Our Built Environment
 - *Prioritise investment in infrastructure.*

Policy Alignment

The naming of the Garden will be undertaken in accordance with the Georges River Council Place Naming Policy. During the assessment process, Council officers will seek feedback from stakeholders and the broader community. This process will ensure that the final name reflects the values of remembrance, healing, and honours those affected by DFV.

If endorsed, the name will be submitted to Council for formal approval. This approach ensures that the naming process remains compliant with the Policy.

Case Study: Bayside Council's Family and Domestic Violence Reflection Garden

The Family and Domestic Violence Reflection Garden (the Bayside Garden) in Mutch Park, Pagewood, stands as a tribute to those affected by DFV. Opened on 7 December 2023 during the 16 Days of Activism campaign, the Bayside Garden provides a place for reflection, education, and healing, reinforcing the collective responsibility to address and prevent DFV. It was developed through a collaborative effort between Bayside Council and the Eastern Suburbs Domestic Violence Network.

The Bayside Garden's design incorporates elements that symbolise the journey of healing and resilience, as presented through Figures 1-5. Circular and curved pathways represent the continuous process of recovery, while subtle changes in elevation offer a sense of protection without confinement. The patterned pavement signifies both the fractures caused by violence and the eventual coming together, embodying the themes of restoration and unity.

The Bayside Garden serves as a focal point for community remembrance and support. On 6 May 2025, a candlelight vigil was held at the Bayside Garden, allowing the community to honour those lost to DFV and reaffirm their commitment to supporting initiatives aimed at reducing and preventing such violence.

As presented in Figure 2, the plaque states:

"This garden is dedicated to those lives lost due to family and domestic violence and provides a peaceful space for loved ones and survivors to reflect, heal and remember.

Together let us build a world free from violence.

Each element has a special meaning:

- *The words have been chosen to inspire, heal and encourage.*

- *The circular and curved shapes and the open-ended pathway represent the healing process while the subtle changes in levels and surrounding trees represent protection but not enclosure.*
- *The pavement pattern symbolises fracturing, but also coming together in completion.*
- *The garden contains ornamental plants in tones of purple – a symbol of the global campaigns against domestic and family violence – as well as deciduous trees with autumn colours that symbolises change and brightness in the dark.*
- *The tear drop shape of the garden represents the many tears that have been shed.”*

In Figure 5, a circular overlay was applied to an aerial image of the Bayside Garden to estimate its size and scale.

Figure 1: Front View of Garden



Figure 2: Close Up of Plaque



Figure 3: Full View of Plaque



Figure 4: Plan of Garden

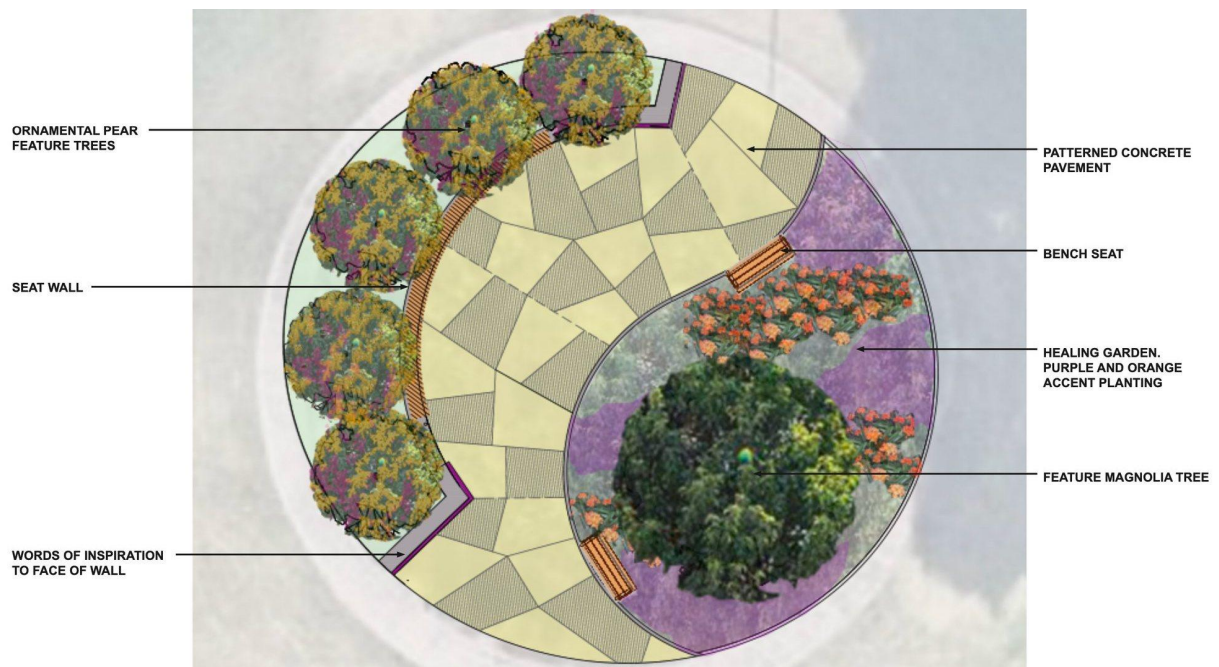


Figure 5: Scale of Garden



Stakeholder Engagement

On 24 June 2025, Council's Community Capacity Building Officer – Community Safety consulted with the St George Domestic Violence Committee (SGDVC) on the proposed Garden. SGDVC includes representatives from local women's and family support services, refuges, charities, NSW Police, and NSW Health.

During the initial engagement, SGDVC unanimously expressed strong support for the development of a Garden, agreeing it would meaningfully honour victims and survivors of DFV. SGDVC endorsed a simple design approach aligned with the concept implemented by Bayside Council, in an existing park with a space visible, quiet and open for the Garden.

A subsequent engagement sought detailed recommendations to ensure the unique character of a Georges River Garden. SGDVC members recommended inclusion of these elements:

- Engraved stones, a commemorative tree, or an art piece.
- Interactive elements.
- Sheltered seating for protection from the weather.
- Flowering, low-maintenance trees, and flower gardens.
- Visible contact information for support services.

Council will continue to engage with local stakeholders to ensure that the Garden reflects the unique character, history, and needs of the local community. Council will also continue to consult with SGDVC as the project progresses to ensure the Garden remains a collaborative and community-supported initiative.

Site Assessment

Site assessments were conducted to understand which parks in the Georges River Area are suitable candidates for the development of a Garden.

The assessment considered factors such as site size, accessibility, proximity to public transport, quality of drainage and irrigation, and social sensitivities.

The Generic Parks Plan of Management indicates the permissible uses of all the proposed sites.

All shortlisted sites are zoned RE1 – Public Recreation under the Georges River Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2021. The objectives of this zone are:

- To enable land to be used for public open space or recreational purposes;
- To provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses, and
- To protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.

The criteria are explored more deeply in Table 1.

Table 1: Criteria for Site Assessment

Criteria	Description
<i>Site Type</i>	Sufficient space for the garden and part of an existing park setting, incorporating established natural flora. <i>Note: To guide space requirements, the footprint of Bayside Garden was used as a reference for visualising fit and context.</i>
<i>Site Use</i>	Capacity for other passive park activities (walking, seating, picnicking); excludes sites booked for sporting uses. Available amenities (public toilets, seating, shaded areas).
<i>Regional Context</i>	Located at an appropriate distance from Bayside's Garden to establish a space with its own unique character, while also avoiding proximity to existing memorials within Georges River Council.
<i>Access</i>	Accessible by public transport (train or bus within 400m) with nearby car parking.
<i>Site Conditions</i>	Adequate drainage and suitable topography to establish and sustain plantings.
<i>Sight lines and safety</i>	Visible, quiet, and open location offering a space for reflection and remembrance with adequate sightlines.

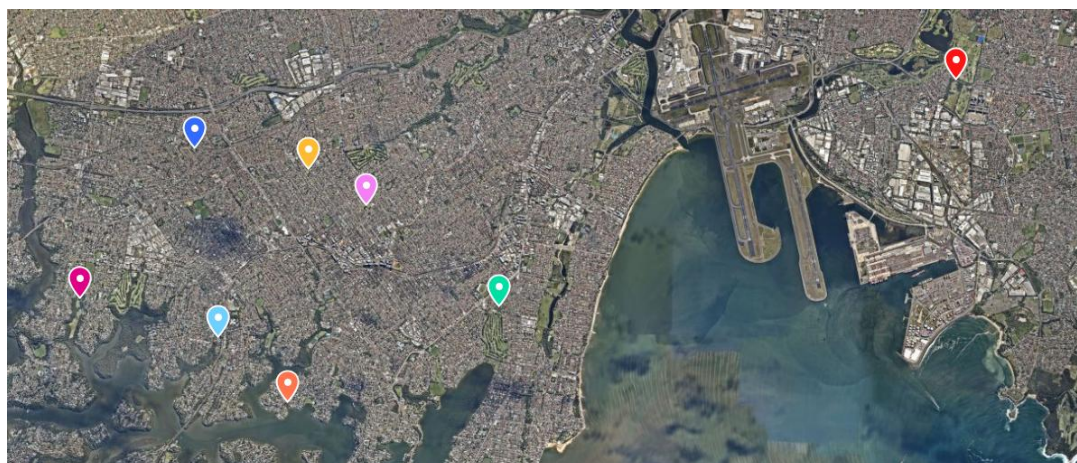
Applying these criteria led to the identification of seven sites considered potentially suitable for the Garden. Each demonstrates varying strengths and limitations when measured against the assessment criteria framework:

- Boongarra Reserve, Oatley
- Connells Point Reserve, Connells Point
- Croot Park, Hurstville
- Gannons Park, Peakhurst
- Rasdall Park, Narwee
- Spooner Park, Beverley Park
- Thorpe Park, Hurstville








Additional locations of cultural or community significance may also be considered in consultation with relevant stakeholders or through future community engagement.

Potential sites are shown in Figure 6, demonstrating their proximity to the Bayside Garden.

Figure 6: Distribution of Sites



Key

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Bayside's Garden |  Site 5: Rasdall Park |
|  Site 1: Boongarra Reserve |  Site 6: Spooner Park |
|  Site 2: Connells Point Reserve |  Site 7: Thorpe Park |
|  Site 3: Croot Park | |
|  Site 4: Gannons Park | |

Site 1: Boongarra Reserve

Address: Boongarra Reserve 1R River Road OATLEY NSW 2223

The proposed location is illustrated in Figure 7.

Figure 7: Scale of Garden at Site 1



Considerations:

- Small park footprint, without any sporting activities.
- Well-connected to public transport, with close proximity to Oatley Train Station (130m) and a local bus stop (110m).
- Street parking available, with additional parking at the nearby Oatley Community Parking Lot (350m).
- Highly visible within the local street, supporting passive surveillance.
- Level topography supports accessibility.
- No on-site amenities such as toilets or seating, but within close proximity to public amenities at Oatley Train Station.
- Functions as a thoroughfare, which may limit opportunities for stillness or seclusion.
- Presence of existing memorials in nearby Oatley locations may reduce the symbolic distinctiveness of the site.

Site 2: Connells Point Reserve

Address: 290 Connells Point Rd, CONNELLS POINT NSW 2221

The proposed location is illustrated in Figure 8.

Figure 8: Scale of Garden at Site 2



Considerations:

- Pre-existing natural assets, including river views, mature trees and shaded areas.
- Existing playground infrastructure creates a family-friendly destination.
- Public toilet facilities available on-site.
- Presence of basketball post, used for passive recreation.
- Located near a bus stop (350m) and offers street parking.
- Less centrally located within the LGA, with limited bus service frequency and a greater distance from Hurstville Train Station (2.7km).
- Landscape slopes down towards the water.
- Highly visible within the local street, supporting passive surveillance.

Site 3: Croot Park

Address: 25 Bristol Rd, HURSTVILLE NSW 2220

The proposed location is illustrated in Figure 9.

Figure 9: Scale of Garden at Site 3



Considerations:

- Existing playground infrastructure creates a family-friendly destination.
- Presence of cricket net, used for passive recreation.
- Approximately 1km from Hurstville Train Station and 300m from the nearest bus stop.
- Street parking available.
- Centrally located within the LGA, improving equity of access for a wide catchment of residents.
- Pre-existing natural assets, including mature trees, shaded areas and existing garden beds.
- No on-site toilet facilities. The closest toilets are in Hurstville Museum and Gallery (853m).
- Highly visible within the local street, supporting passive surveillance.
- Mild slope across the site, which may influence design and accessibility.

Site 4: Gannons Park

Address: Pindari Rd & Isaac Street, PEAKHURST NSW 2210

The proposed location is illustrated in Figure 10.

Figure 10: Scale of Garden at Site 4



Considerations:

- Passive recreation, mostly walking and running tracks.
- Large site with pre-existing natural assets, including a stormwater retention lake and mature vegetation.
- Furthest location from Bayside's existing memorial garden, offering geographic separation.
- Public car park available.
- Presence of a dog park.
- Public toilets available.
- Site scale and features provide flexibility for design, but may require careful integration with existing uses.
- 800m from the closest bus stop, and 4.1km from Oatley Train Station.

Site 5: Rasdall Park

Address: 3 Bryant St, NARWEE NSW 2209

The proposed location is illustrated in Figure 11.

Figure 11: Scale of Garden at Site 5



Considerations:

- Supports passive recreation and includes existing playground infrastructure.
- Seating available within the park for informal use and reflection.
- Public toilet facilities available on-site.
- Bus stop located nearby, supporting public transport access.
- Site line limitations may affect visibility and passive surveillance.
- Nearby bus stop (180m), and 550m from Narwee Train Station.
- Street parking available.
- Level topography supports accessibility.

Site 6: Spooner Park

Address: 56A Jubilee Avenue, BEVERLEY PARK NSW 2217

The proposed location is illustrated in Figure 12.

Figure 12: Scale of Garden at Site 6



Considerations:

- Closest site to Bayside's Garden.
- Located within walking distance of public transport, including a nearby bus stop (350m) and Carlton Train Station (1.1km).
- Street parking available.
- Highly visible within the local street, supporting passive surveillance.
- Offers a tranquil space for reflection.
- Contains pre-existing natural assets and a smaller sensory garden valued by neighbouring community members.
- Presence of netball and soccer posts, contributing to passive recreation.
- No on-site toilet facilities. The closest public toilets are at Scarborough Park, approximately 850 metres away.
- Near asset cluster including Jubilee Stadium, Bexley Park Golf Club, and St George Leagues Club.

Site 7: Thorpe Park

Address: 31 Low St, HURSTVILLE NSW 2220

The proposed location is illustrated in Figure 13.

Figure 13: Scale of Garden at Site 7



Considerations:

- Existing playground and cricket net support passive recreation.
- Seating available, encourages informal community use.
- Highly visible within the local street, supporting passive surveillance.
- Street parking available.
- Nearby bus stop (220m), and 2km from Hurstville Train Station.
- Level topography supports accessibility.
- No on-site toilets. The nearest facilities are at Beverly Hills Park (1km).

Financial Feasibility

Funding Options - Internal

The project is not currently included in Council's four-year capital works program and is therefore dependent on a capital works budget bid.

Funding Options – External

There are recurring grant opportunities that have been offered in previous years but are not yet confirmed for the upcoming year, which this project may be eligible for.

Community Building Partnership Program:

- Funding range: \$10,000 to \$100,000
- Status: Closed for 2025, but expected to reopen in 2026
- Eligible applicants: NSW councils, not-for-profits, Indigenous corporations
- Eligible projects: Capital works including new infrastructure or refurbishment
- Matched funding: Required for councils

NSW Social Cohesion Grants – Round 4: Bolstering Local Government Response to Hate

- Funding range: Up to \$250,000 per project
- Status: Closed for 2025, but expected to reopen in 2026
- Purpose: To support local councils in NSW to:
 - Prevent and respond to hate-motivated behaviour
 - Promote social cohesion and inclusion
 - Build community resilience
- Eligible applicants: NSW local government councils
- Eligible projects:
 - Infrastructure or place-based initiatives that foster inclusion
 - Community engagement programs
 - Training and capacity-building for council staff
 - Public space improvements that promote safety and belonging

Preliminary Risk Considerations

The creation of a Garden in Georges River LGA could be seen as duplicative of Bayside's Garden, potentially diluting the symbolic value of the Garden. Bayside Council's Garden is located in Pagewood, at the easternmost boundary of their LGA. The location of Georges River's proposed Garden will need to take this into account to ensure appropriate spatial distribution.

There is a risk to the asset integrity of the Garden due to potential vandalism, as evidenced by defacing of The Red Heart Foundation's She Matters murals in Melbourne and Orange. Vandalism would further impact social cohesion and perception of community safety. Council can mitigate this risk through capacity building resources, as well as collaborating with St George PAC and utilising deterrents to anti-social behaviour.

There is a risk that the perspectives of survivors may not be adequately reflected in the Garden's concept or design. To address this, Council officers will consult closely with key stakeholders, including specialist DFV services, local support organisations, SGDVC and lived experience advocates. This consultation will help shape the Garden's design, location, and naming to ensure it is appropriate, respectful, and aligned with its intended purpose.

The Garden's design, symbolism, or naming may not reflect cultural protocols or sensitivities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or culturally and linguistically diverse communities. To mitigate this, Council officers will engage in meaningful consultation with local Aboriginal community leaders and multicultural representatives through Council's Multicultural Advisory Committee. This will ensure cultural considerations are incorporated throughout the design process and that the space is inclusive and welcoming to all.

If not appropriately communicated, the project may be perceived as symbolic or tokenistic rather than a meaningful part of Council's DFV response. To mitigate this, Council officers will use media releases to provide regular updates on the project's progress and the establishment of the Garden. These communications will position the Garden as one part of a comprehensive suite of Council initiatives addressing DFV outlined in the Draft Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan. Media releases will also highlight Council's partnerships with community organisations, financial support provided through its grant programs, and ongoing advocacy efforts.

The chosen site may lack the necessary accessibility, or symbolic relevance for a reflective and respectful space. To mitigate this, a detailed site suitability analysis will be conducted to assess factors such as accessibility, visibility, noise levels, safety, and landscape potential. The project plan will remain adaptable, with ongoing engagement to ensure the selected site continues to meet community needs and expectations.

Next Steps

Should funding be confirmed through external grants or the Council's capital works program, the following actions will be undertaken:

- (a) Council endorsement anticipated on 22 September 2025.
- (b) Allocation of budget for detailed site assessment subject to budget bid in FY26/27.
- (c) Identification of site: Boongarra Reserve, Spooner Park, Connells Point Reserve, and Croot Park or additional locations of cultural or community significance identified in consultation with relevant stakeholders or through future community engagement.

- (d) Development of a detailed concept design, including principles that underpin its development.
- (e) Consultation on design with targeted community groups.
- (f) Comprehensive risk assessment and safety planning.

Item: **COM042-25 Place Naming Proposal for Calendonia Crescent Reserve - Results of Community Consultation**

Author: Coordinator Library Operations

Directorate: Community and Culture

Matter Type: Committee Reports

COM042-25

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council acknowledge the results of the community consultation for the proposed name 'Caledonia Crescent Reserve'.
- (b) That Council approve the name 'Caledonia Crescent Reserve', for the reserve located on Caledonia Crescent, Peakhurst in Lot 32 DP202901 and Lot 9 section 2 DP23646, be submitted to the NSW Geographical Names Board for review and gazettal.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. On 24 June Council endorsed the proposed name 'Caledonia Crescent Reserve' for the reserve located on Caledonia Crescent, Peakhurst in Lot 32 DP202901 and Lot 9 section 2 DP23646, and resolved to place the name on public exhibition (COM023-25/CCL049-25).
2. The proposed name was put on public exhibition on Council's Your Say website from 10 July 2025 to 7 August 2025.
3. Community feedback did not identify anything to demonstrate that the proposed name is inconsistent with the requirements or priorities of Council's Place Naming Policy.

BACKGROUND

4. The Georges River Council Place Naming Policy (the Policy) provides a consistent naming convention for all Council assets to ensure efficient wayfinding for the public, essential utilities, and emergency services. The Geographical Names Board of NSW (GNB) is the designated naming authority for reserves and is responsible for gazettal of reserve names. Council's role in naming reserves as the landowner, is to identify appropriate names determine community support and make recommendations to the GNB.
5. The proposed name 'Caledonia Crescent Reserve' has long been associated with Lot 32 DP202901 and Lot 9 section 2 DP23646, being commonly used by the community, Council and in subdivision maps since at least 1961. While the name has never been formally gazetted, it is already listed in the NSW Spatial Services maps and database and well as consumer wayfinding maps.
6. The proposed name, "Caledonia Crescent Reserve" is aligned with requirements of the Policy including the general principles of establishing clear way finding and maintaining existing commonly used names, even if they are unofficial.

Results of the public exhibition

7. The place naming proposal for 'Caledonia Crescent Reserve' was placed on public exhibition from 10 July 2025 to 7 August 2025. Of the 131 visits to the page, only five submissions were received, four through the Your Say platform and one via email. The feedback received is summarised in the following table:

Community Feedback	Review by Council Officers
<p>'Please consult with local Aboriginal leaders and community and use the original name if known or another name considered appropriate by Aboriginal people'.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name proposals are presented to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee for feedback. Should Traditional Owners identify an Aboriginal name for the reserve, a dual name can be considered in accordance with Section 5.2 of the Policy and Goal 1.6 of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy.
<p>'In the 1960's, when the park had a slippery dip, merry go round, see saw and swings, it also has a sign announcing it was Robinson Park. I think it was something to do with a resident in Park St that used to own the land. The sign went and this unofficial name went with it. The proposed name makes sense'.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research did not identify any record of a formal or informal name 'Robinson Park' related to Lot 32 DP202901 and Lot 9 section 2 DP23646.
<p>'Would be good to consider naming the park Bugarra <sic> or Anderson Park. The Anderson family (Joe Anderson and Ellen Anderson) were local residents who were great Aboriginal leaders. Ellen Anderson shared many Dhawaral stories and knowledge. Joe Anderson was a leader of Aboriginal rights and was the first person to use film to call for Aboriginal rights in the 1930s'.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joe Anderson, also known as 'King Burruga', was famous for his historic address petitioning the Crown for equal rights for Aboriginal People in 1933. Joe Anderson and his family were closely associated with the Salt Pan Creek area. Council has a Historical Marker for Joe Anderson located in Ogilvy Street, Peakhurst. Research did not identify a specific connection between Joe Anderson and the reserve. Should Traditional Owners identify an Aboriginal name for the reserve, a dual name can be considered in accordance with Section 5.2 of the Policy and Goal 1.6 of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy.
<p>"Caledonia Crescent Reserve" is too ... sterile; "Caledonia Crescent" is more personal, intimate, etc. (I feel it's more fitting.)'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The word 'reserve' is required in the name to differentiate it from the road. The Policy allows reserves next to roads to derive their name from the road.
<p>'It should be an Aboriginal name relevant to the area. E.g. Bidjigal Reserve'.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council acknowledges the Bidjigal people as the Traditional Owners of the

	<p>Georges River Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should Traditional Owners identify an Aboriginal name for the reserve, a dual name can be considered in accordance with Section 5.2 of the Policy and Goal 1.6 of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy.
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8. The community feedback received did not identify anything to demonstrate that the existing informal name 'Caledonia Crescent Reserve' is inconsistent with Policy or identify any unforeseen priorities to change the long-standing name. Accordingly, the name "Caledonia Crescent Reserve" is recommended to Council for approval to submit to the GNB.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. Within budget allocation. The appropriate sign and related costs for the reserve will be determined by Council's City Maintenance team and is within budget for street and miscellaneous signage.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

10. *Strategic Risk 6 – Reputation.* Failure to implement the recommended place name poses a reputational risk to Council. The name requirements for reserves are regulated through the NSW Geographical Names Board Place Naming Policy. Council's role as landowner is to identify and recommend appropriate names that comply with that policy which include the requirements to maintain well established commonly used names, as outlined in the report. Should Council not recommend names that comply with policy requirements, it could erode the confidence of the public and government departments in Council decision making.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

11. From 10 July 2025 to 7 August 2025, the proposed name was published on Council's Your Say website. During this public exhibition period:
- The Your Say project page recorded 131 visits;
 - There were 111 aware participants who logged a visit; and
 - There were 5 engaged participants who submitted feedback. The survey was completed 4 times, and one email submission was received.
12. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee was consulted and confirmed that the project was not a naming priority for an Aboriginal name and that place name projects involving Aboriginal names will be led by Traditional Owners in accordance with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy

FILE REFERENCE

D25/279772

ATTACHMENTS

Nil