

AGENDA

Community and Culture Committee

Monday, 10 November 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

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Item: COM046-25 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 13 October 2025

Author: Executive Services Officer

Directorate: Office of the General Manager

Matter Type: Previous Minutes

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 13 October 2025, be confirmed.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [↓](#)1 Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 13 October 2025



COM046-25

MINUTES

Community and Culture Committee

Monday, 13 October 2025

6:00 PM

Dragon Room

Georges River Civic Centre
Hurstville



GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL

PRESENT

COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Mayor, Councillor Borg (ex officio member), Councillor Landsberry (Chairperson), Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Arthur, Councillor Dimoski, 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 Procurement & Contracts – Todd Payne, Manager Office of the General Manager – Vicki McKinley, Executive Manager City Futures – Kent Stroud, Coordinator Communications and Engagement – Catherine James, Executive Services Officer – Marisa Severino, Technology Business Support Officer – Chris Stojanovski, and Executive Assistant to the Director Community and Culture – Franzi Mintus (Minutes).

OPENING

The Chairperson, Councillor Landsberry, opened the meeting at 6.02pm.

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

MOTION: The Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Mort

That an apology on behalf of Councillor Liu be accepted and a Leave of Absence granted.

Record of Voting

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

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

REQUEST TO ATTEND VIA AUDIO VISUAL LINK

There were no requests to attend via Audio Visual Link.

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

There were no disclosures of interest made.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no registered speakers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

COM043-25 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 8 September 2025
(Report by Executive Services Officer)

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Mort, Councillor Dimoski

That the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 8 September 2025, be confirmed.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Arthur, Councillor Dimoski, Councillor Gao, 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

COM044-25 Place Naming Policy Review
(Report by Coordinator Library Operations)

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Mort, Councillor Allison

- (a) That Council endorse the revised draft Place Naming Policy.
- (b) That the revised draft Place Naming Policy 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 following the public exhibition period.

Record of Voting

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

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

PROCEDURAL MOTION

MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Councillor Landsberry

At this stage of the meeting the time being 6.13pm the Chair, Councillor Landsberry, advised that the meeting would move into Closed Session in accordance with Section 10A of *The Local Government Act 1993*.

Accordingly, members of the press and public are excluded from the Closed Session and access to confidential documents relating to the item considered during the course of the Closed Session will be withheld.

This action was taken to allow discussion of the confidential attachments to the following item:

COM045-25 T25/006 Jubilee Stadium Naming Rights Sponsorship
(Report by Senior Procurement and Contracts Business Partner)

THAT in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 4 of the Local Government Act 1993, the matters dealt with in this report be considered in closed Council Meeting at which the press and public are excluded. In accordance with Section 10A(2) (d(i)) it is considered the matter concerns commercial information of a confidential nature that would if disclosed prejudice the position of a person who supplied it.

The Chair, Councillor Landsberry, asked the Director Community and Culture if any representations had been received from the public that the item attachments should not be discussed in Closed Session.

The Director replied that no representations had been received to the item attachments in Closed Session.

Councillor Landsberry asked if there were any members of the public gallery who would like to speak on the reasons the Committee proposes to consider the item attachments in Closed Session. There were none.

Record of Voting

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

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

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort

That the meeting revert to Open Session, the time being 6.35pm.

Record of Voting

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

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

COM045-25 T25/006 Jubilee Stadium Naming Rights Sponsorship
(Report by Senior Procurement and Contracts Business Partner)

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Mort, Councillor Allison

- (a) That in accordance with 178 (1) (b) & 178 (3) (e) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 Council declines to accept any of the tenders for T25/006 Jubilee Stadium Sponsorship and resolve to enter into negotiations with one or more parties with a view to entering into a contract in relation to the subject matter of the tender.
- (b) That in accordance with 178 (4) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, the reason for Council to decline all tenders is that none of the tenders achieved a satisfactory standard. By resolving to enter into negotiations with one or more parties it is anticipated that a satisfactory outcome will be achieved on demonstrated capacity and ability to provide sponsorship services with a competitive income paid to Council.
- (c) That Council authorise the General Manager to oversee negotiations with the established negotiation Team and to execute any documentation required to give effect to the resolution.
- (d) That a further report be provided to Council at its meeting in February 2026 detailing the outcome of the negotiation process and a recommendation to award.
- (e) That Council notify all Tenderers that Council declined to accept any of the Tenders.

Record of Voting

For the Motion: Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Arthur, Councillor Dimoski, Councillor Gao, 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 6.37pm.

Chairperson

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item: COM047-25 Quarterly Community Property Report - 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025

Author: Coordinator Community Property and Venues

Directorate: Community and Culture

Matter Type: Committee Reports

COM047-25

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Community Property Report for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report details lease and licence agreements executed within Georges River Council's Community Property portfolio for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025.
2. During the period 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025, there were one (1) lease agreement, and no licence agreements executed by Council.

BACKGROUND

3. Council manages a portfolio of 65 community properties under a community lease or community licence, divided into 72 separate tenancies.
4. There are 36 community facilities in the community property portfolio, which are divided into 36 separate tenancies (Table 1 - 6 in the attached Community Property Register – 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025).
5. There are 29 community/sporting amenity buildings in the community property portfolio which are divided into 36 separate licensable areas. One licensable area is shared seasonally between two different tenants (Table 7 in the attached Community Property Register – 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025).
6. The Community Property portfolio saw the inclusion of two (2) new properties during the July to September 2025 quarter:
 - i. Penshurst Park Sports Storeroom, 643A King Georges Road, Penshurst
 - ii. Oatley Park Bath Pavilion Storeroom, 1 Dame Mary Gilmore Drive, Oatley
7. During the period 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025, there were one (1) lease agreement, and no licence agreements executed by Council:
 - (a) Transport Asset Holding Entity of New South Wales (TAHE) being Part Folio Lot 100 Deposited Plan 1141151 located at being known as Norm and Beryl Butters Senior Citizens Centre located at 161 Hurstville Road, Oatley. The Lease term is for eight years from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2029.
8. During the period 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025, an Expressions of Interest (EOI) process was undertaken seeking submissions from not-for-profit community organisations for the following properties within the Community Property portfolio. Outcomes of the EOIs listed below will be provided in the Quarterly Community Property Report 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025:

- (a) Part Lot 101 in Deposited Plan 1016477 known as Hurstville Community Garden located at 63 Wright Street, Hurstville. Licence agreement for a term of five (5) years with nil option. The EOI was advertised between 16 July 2025 to 12 August 2025.
- (b) Part Lot 7051 in Deposited Plan 1027262 known as Penshurst Park Sport Hub located at 643A King Georges Road, Penshurst. Licence agreement for a term of five (5) years with nil option for a community storage facility. The EOI was advertised between 30 July 2025 to 26 August 2025.
- (c) Lot B in Deposited Plan 162265 located at 49 English Street, Kogarah. Lease agreement for a term of five (5) years with nil option. The EOI was advertised between 13 August 2025 to 9 September 2025.
- (d) Part Lots 10 and 11 in Deposited Plan 16464 located at 1A Allen Street, South Hurstville. Lease agreement for a term of five (5) years with nil option. The EOI was advertised between 13 August 2025 to 9 September 2025.
- (e) Auto Consol 2121-49 comprising of lots 17 and 18 in Deposited Plan 4817, located at 25 Cook Street, Mortdale. Lease agreement for a term of five (5) years with nil option. The EOI was advertised between 13 August 2025 to 9 September 2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9. Council's Community Property portfolio is forecast to receive a total annual income of \$1,305,726 (excluding GST) for 2025/26 financial year. Net annual income after subsidy is forecasted to be \$172,397.
- 10. An annual rental subsidy of \$1,133,329 (excluding GST) is applied across Council's Community Property portfolio based on current market rental rates. Subsidies are determined in accordance with Council's Community Lease and Licence Policy.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11. *Strategic Risk 6: Reputation.* A negative reputational impact on Council could result in Council's failure to enact the leases and licences in accordance with Council's Community Lease and Licence Policy.
- 12. *Strategic Risk 7: Ineffective governance.* This risk is considered and addressed by using the Community Lease and Licence Policy to mitigate compliance risk in assessing and awarding leases/licences for Council owned/council operated land and properties.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 13. Engagement was undertaken in the development of the Georges River Council Community Lease and Licence Policy (2024) which was adopted by Council on 22 July 2024 (CCL046-24).

FILE REFERENCE

D25/267125

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [1](#) Attachment 1 Community Property Register 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025



Attachment 1 Community Property Report - Community Properties Listing

Attachment 1 Community Property Report - Community Properties Listing
1 July 2025 – 30 September 2025

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Table 1 - Scouts and Girl Guides

No.	Address	Lessee / Licencee / Occupant	Annual Rent (excl. GST)	Annual Subsidy	Contract Expiry Date
1	Oatley Girl Guides Hall 61 Neville Street, Oatley	Girl Guides Association NSW	\$20	TBC	30/06/2009
2	Prairievale Reserve Girl Guides Hall and Vacant Hall (Former The Scout Association of Australia NSW Branch 61 Terry Street, Blakehurst	Vacant	\$0	N/A	N/A
3	Beverly Hills Scout Hall 30 Kooemba Road, Beverly Hills	The Scout Association of Australia NSW Branch	\$115	TBC	30/11/2003
4	Glen Road Scout Hall 2A Glen Road, Oatley	The Scout Association of Australia NSW Branch	\$115	TBC	18/08/2002
5	Kingsway Scout Hall 74 Barnards Avenue, Hurstville	The Scout Association of Australia NSW Branch	\$1	TBC	31/12/2021
6	Kyle Bay Sea Scouts Hall 161 Kyle Parade, Connells Point	The Scout Association of Australia NSW Branch	\$20	TBC	24/10/1996
7	Lugarno Scout Hall 18a Lime Kiln Road, Lugarno	The Scout Association of Australia NSW Branch	\$1	TBC	31/12/2021
8	Oatley West Scout Hall 117D Woronora Parade, Oatley	The Scout Association of Australia NSW Branch	\$1	TBC	31/12/2021
9	Oatley Sea Scouts Hall 16 Annette Street, Oatley	The Scout Association of Australia NSW Branch	\$20	TBC	9/01/2000
10	Peakhurst Park Hall 7a Hedley Street, Riverwood	Vacant	\$0	N/A	N/A
Total:			\$293	\$0	

Table 2 - Community Centres

No.	Address	Lessee / Licencee / Occupant	Annual Rent (excl. GST)	Annual Subsidy	Contract Expiry Date
1	Mortdale Community Centre 2B-2C Boundary Road, Mortdale	Jubilee Community Services	\$0	\$106,088	30/06/2036
2	Kingsgrove Community Centre 30 Morgan Street, Kingsgrove	Kingsgrove Community Aid Centre Inc.	\$0	\$49,522	30/06/2025
3	49 English Street, Kogarah	Kogarah Community Services	\$9,643	\$21,557	17/08/2025
4	Riverwood Community Centre 31 Thurlow Street, Riverwood	Riverwood Community Centre Ltd.	\$1,346	\$24,655	31/12/2028
5	Pole Depot, Part 23 and 25, St Georges Road, Penshurst	3Bridges Community Ltd.	\$1	\$104,999	4/09/2037
6	Norm and Beryl Butters Senior Citizens Centre 161 Hurstville Road, Oatley	3Bridges Community Ltd.	\$5,200	\$11,600	30/06/2021
7	Allawaw Aboriginal Corporation 65/23-27 MacMahon Street, Hurstville	Allawaw Aboriginal Corporation	\$2,242	\$7,508	9/02/2030

Attachment 1 Community Property Report - Community Properties Listing

8	The Family Co Shop 9, 3 Cross Street, Hurstville	Sutherland Shire Family Services trading as The Family Co	\$3,234	\$11,466	9/05/2030
Total:			\$21,666	\$337,395	

Table 3 - Baby Health Centres

No.	Address	Lessee / Licencee / Occupant	Annual Rent (excl. GST)	Annual Subsidy	Contract Expiry Date
1	Kingsgrove Baby Health Centre 30 Morgan Street, Kingsgrove	NSW Dept of Health	\$0	\$5,000	N/A
2	Oatley Baby Health Centre 26 Letitia Street, Oatley	NSW Dept of Health	\$0	\$45,000	N/A
3	Riverwood Baby Health Centre Cnr Keppel Avenue and Short Street, Riverwood	NSW Dept of Health	\$0	\$16,500	N/A
4	South Hurstville Baby Health Centre 1a Allen Street, South Hurstville	NSW Dept of Health	\$0	\$28,000	N/A
Total:			\$0	\$94,500	

Table 4 - Community Sports

No.	Address	Lessee / Licencee / Occupant	Annual Rent (excl. GST)	Annual Subsidy	Contract Expiry Date
1	163 Kyle Parade, Connells Point	Connells Point Sailing Club	\$598	\$32,302	29/04/2027
2	12 Merriman Street, Kyle Bay	Blakehurst Bowling Club Inc	\$620	\$4,601	18/09/2026
3	Hurstville Oval 30 Dora Street, Hurstville	St George Cricket Club Inc.	\$3,548	\$8,520	30/04/2029
4	Olds Park Sports Club 1 Olds Park Lane, Beverly Hills	Olds Park Sport Club	\$46,598	\$40,402	28/03/2028
Total:			\$51,364	\$85,825	

Table 5 - Community Gardens

No.	Address	Lessee / Licencee / Occupant	Annual Rent (excl. GST)	Annual Subsidy	Contract Expiry Date
1	Hurstville Community Gardens 63 Wright Street, Hurstville	Hurstville Community Gardens Association	\$1	TBC	31/03/2011
Total:			\$1	\$0	

Table 6 - Miscellaneous

No.	Address	Lessee / Licencee / Occupant	Annual Rent (excl. GST)	Annual Subsidy	Contract Expiry Date
1	Penshurst Park Youth Facility 643-643A King Georges Road, Penshurst	3Bridges Community Inc.	\$57,996	\$207,379	31/12/2026
2	25 Cook Street, Mortdale	Mortdale Men's Shed Inc.	\$483	\$35,917	31/10/2022
3	Carss Cottage 80 Carwar Avenue, Carss Park	Kogarah Historical Society	\$531	\$22,869	12/12/2026
4	76 Carwar Avenue, Carss Park	St George Men's Shed Inc.	\$341	\$14,659	01/05/2026
5	5 Bryant Street, Narwee	Narwee Pre-School Kindergarten Inc	\$16,461	\$129,789	17/08/2033

Attachment 1 Community Property Report - Community Properties Listing

6	Level 1, 84 Railway Parade, Kogarah	Radio 2NBC	\$6,258	\$17,253	31/07/2027
7	Pole Depot Part 23, St Georges Road, Penshurst	St George Creative Arts Society	\$1,656	\$37,944	31/12/2026
8	Crisis Accommodation Undisclosed location	Kingsway Community Care Inc.	\$0	\$45,455	22/12/2029
9	16 Gray Street, Kogarah	The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust	\$1,000	\$39,000	10/12/2089
10	Kogarah School of Arts 10 Bowns Road, Kogarah	St George Concert Band	TBC	TBC	TBC
11	27 Railway Lands, Kogarah (Opposite 134 Railway Parade, Kogarah)	Project Youth	\$2,600	\$15,600	9/05/2026
12	1a Allen Street, South Hurstville	Vacant	\$0	N/A	N/A
Total:			\$87,819	\$565,865	

COMMUNITY/SPORTING AMENITY BUILDINGS

Table 7 - Sport Amenities

No.	Address	Lessee / Licencee / Occupant	Annual Rent (excl. GST)	Annual Subsidy	Contract Expiry Date
1	Lower Gannon's Park Storeroom	Hurstville All Breed Dog Training Club Inc.	\$832	\$2,197	30/09/2027
2	Poulton Park Netball Storeroom 9 Morshead Drive, Connells Point	Connells Point Netball Club	\$1,365	\$5,135	10/12/2029
3	Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 5a Hedley Street, Riverwood	Vacant	TBC	TBC	TBC
4	Beverly Hills Park Rugby League Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 199 Vanessa Street, Beverly Hills	Head Licence St George Junior Rugby League Inc. Sub Licence Kingsgrove Colts	TBC	TBC	TBC
5	Renown Reserve Rugby League Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 28 Mountbatten Street, Oatley	Head Licence St George Junior Rugby League Inc. Sub Licence Renown United Football Club	TBC	TBC	TBC
6	Riverwood Park Rugby League Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 79 Coleridge Street, Riverwood	Head Licence St George Junior Rugby League Inc. Sub Licence Riverwood Legion Junior Rugby League Football Club	TBC	TBC	TBC
7	Todd Park Rugby League Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 342 Princes Highway, Blakehurst	Head Licence St George Junior Rugby League Inc. Sub Licence Kogarah Cougars	TBC	TBC	TBC
8	HV Evatt Park Shared Amenities Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 1116 Forest Road, Lugarno	Seasonal Head Licence St George Junior Rugby League Inc. Sub Licence Penshurst RSL Kookaburras	TBC	TBC	TBC
9	HV Evatt Park Shared Amenities Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 1116 Forest Road, Lugarno	Georges River Rugby Club	TBC	TBC	TBC
10	HV Evatt Park Shared Amenities Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 1116 Forest Road, Lugarno	Seasonal Licence St George Junior Baseball Club	TBC	TBC	TBC

Attachment 1 Community Property Report - Community Properties Listing

11	Riverwood Park Rugby Union Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 79 Coleridge Street, Riverwood	Oatley Rugby Union Club	TBC	TBC	TBC
12	Harold Fraser Oval Cricket Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 276 Princes Highway, Kogarah Bay	Seasonal Head Licence St George District Cricket Club Inc. Seasonal Sub Licence St George Sutherland Women's Cricket Club	\$555	\$2,135	31/05/2025
13	Olds Park Cricket Storeroom Olds Park, 630 Forest Road, Penshurst	Head Licence St George Australian Football Club Incorporated (AFL) Sub Licence Penshurst West Youth Cricket Club	TBC	TBC	TBC
14	Olds Park AFL Clubhouse, Canteen and Amenities Building Olds Park, 630 Forest Road, Penshurst	Head Licence St George Australian Football Club Incorporated (AFL) Seasonal Sub Licence St George District Cricket Club	TBC	TBC	TBC
15	Olds Park AFL Storeroom Olds Park, 630 Forest Road, Penshurst	Head Licence St George Australian Football Club Incorporated (AFL) Sub Licence Penshurst RSL Panthers Junior AFL	TBC	TBC	TBC
16	Olds Park Little Athletics Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom Amenities Building Olds Park, 630 Forest Road, Penshurst	Head Licence St George Little Athletics Seasonal Sub Licence to Football St George	TBC	TBC	TBC
17	Olds Park Soccer Storeroom Olds Park, 630 Forest Road, Penshurst	Head Licence St George Little Athletics Sub Licence Football St George Sub Licence Penshurst West Football Club	TBC	TBC	TBC
18	Olds Park Soccer Changeroom and Storeroom Olds Park, 630 Forest Road Penshurst	Head Licence Football St George Sub Licence Penshurst West Football Club	\$555	\$1,395	31/05/2025
19	Charles Pirie Reserve Soccer Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 15r Parkside Drive, Kogarah Bay	Head Licence Football St George Sub Licence Carss Park Football Club	\$555	\$3,460	31/05/2025
20	Claydon Reserve Soccer Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 49 Ramsgate Road, Sans Souci	Head Licence Football St George Sub Licence Sans Souci Football Club	\$649	\$2,550	31/05/2025
21	Gannons Park Reserve Soccer Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 11p Kara Lane, Peakhurst	Head Licence Football St George Sub Licence Forest Rangers Football Club	\$555	\$3,460	31/05/2025
22	Gannons Park Reserve Soccer Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 11p Kara Lane, Peakhurst	Head Licence Football St George Sub Licence Lugarno Football Club	\$555	\$2,460	31/05/2025
23	Harold Fraser Oval Soccer Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 276 Princess Highway, Kogarah Bay	Seasonal Head Licence Football St George Seasonal Sub Licence Carlton Rovers Football Club	\$555	\$2,568	31/05/2025
24	Oatley Park Oval Soccer Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 1 Dame Mary Gilmore Drive, Oatley	Head Licence Football St George Sub Licence Oatley West All Saints Football Club	\$533	\$1,773	31/05/2025

Attachment 1 Community Property Report - Community Properties Listing

25	Peakhurst Park Soccer Canteen and Storeroom 5a Hedley Street, Riverwood	Head Licence Football St George Sub Licence Peakhurst United Football Club	\$555	\$3,435	31/05/2025
26	Peakhurst Park Soccer Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom Synthetic 5a Hedley Street, Riverwood	Football St George	\$555	\$2,940	31/05/2025
27	Poulton Park Soccer Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 9 Morshead Drive, Connells Point	Head Licence Football St George Sub Licence Connells Point Rovers Football Club	\$533	\$3,466	31/05/2025
28	Renown Reserve Soccer Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 28 Mountbatten Street, Oatley	Head Licence Football St George Sub Licence Oatley Football Club	\$594	\$2,540	31/05/2025
29	Beverly Hills Park Soccer Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 199 Vanessa Street, Beverly Hills	Head Licence Football St George Sub Licence Hurstville Minotaurs Football Club	TBC	TBC	TBC
30	Carss Park Flats Soccer Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 74 Carwar Avenue, Carss Park	Head Licence Football St George Sub Licence Hurstville Zagreb Football Club	TBC	TBC	TBC
31	Gifford Park Soccer Temporary Amenities	Football St George Sub Licence Hurstville Glory FC for Summer 2023/24 sporting season	\$555	\$4,980	31/05/2025
32	Riverwood Park Storeroom 79 Coleridge Street, Riverwood	Oatley Rugby and Sporting Club	1,750	\$5,250	31/05/2025
33	Olds Park Netball Storeroom Olds Park, 630 Forest Road, Penshurst	Vacant	\$0	TBC	TBC
34	Gannons Park Reserve Canteen and Storeroom 11p Kara Lane, Peakhurst	Vacant	\$0	TBC	TBC
35	The Green Football Canteen, Changerooms and Storeroom 2 Merriman St, Kyle Bay	Head Licence Football St George Sub Licence Oatley Football Club	\$0	TBC	TBC
36	Penshurst Park Sport storeroom 643 King Georges Road	St George City Football Club	\$0	TBC	TBC
37	Oatley Park Bath Pavilion Storeroom 1 Dame Mary Gilmore Dr	Oatley Amateur Swimming Club	\$0	TBC	TBC
Total:			\$11,254	\$49,744	

Note: Annual Subsidy based on available Market Valuation

Item: COM048-25 Interactions with Children and Young People Policy for Public Exhibition

Author: Child Protection and Youth Services Officer

Directorate: Community and Culture

Matter Type: Committee Reports

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council endorse the Draft Interactions with Children and Young People Policy allowing the draft policy to be placed on public exhibition for a period of no less than 60 days for comment/feedback.
- (b) That Council receive a further report after the exhibition period outlining the comment/feedback received before the policy is adopted by Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. On 28 November 2022, Council endorsed the Interactions with Children and Young People Policy (the Policy) with a scheduled review date of November 2025 (CCL109-22 - COM046-22).
2. The Policy is the overarching document within Council's Child Safe Framework, providing a clear structure to support legislative compliance and safeguard children and young people in all Council activities and services.
3. In accordance with the review timeline, a Draft Policy has been prepared to reflect Council's updated child-safe practices and the evolving legislative requirements. The Draft Policy also integrates feedback obtained through preliminary internal consultation and preliminary external consultation with key community stakeholders.
4. This report seeks Council's endorsement for the Draft Policy to be placed on public exhibition for a period of no less than 60 days.

BACKGROUND

5. In November 2021, the Children's Guardian Amendment (Child Safe Scheme) Act 2021 (NSW) passed through NSW Parliament, introducing the Child Safe Scheme (the Scheme).
6. The Scheme requires child-related organisations, including councils, to implement the NSW Child Safe Standards (the Standards), developed in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission), and to operate as child safe organisations.
7. The Scheme requires that child-related organisations implement the Standards through child safe systems, policies, and processes.
8. In November 2022, Council endorsed the Interactions with Children and Young People Policy as the overarching document within Council's Child Safe Framework (CCL109-22 - COM046-22).
9. The Policy provides Council Officials with a clear framework of accountability and outlines responsibilities regarding their interactions with children and young people, and the reporting of child protection concerns.

10. Maintaining and regularly reviewing a robust child-safe policy is a requirement under the Scheme, as per Child Safe Standard 9: *Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved.*

The Interactions with Children and Young People Policy

11. The Policy ensures that Council complies with legislation pertaining to child protection, including (but not limited to):
 - Mandatory reporting;
 - Recruitment and selection;
 - Responding to reports of child abuse or neglect, including allegations against Council Officials;
 - Storage of children and young peoples' records; and
 - The National Redress Scheme.
12. The Policy applies to all Council Officials, including staff, Councillors, work experience participants, volunteers, students on placement, consultants and contractors.
13. The Policy provides a framework of accountability by outlining the responsibilities of all Council Officials through detailing:
 - Council's child safe commitment;
 - The importance of engaging in respectful and positive interactions with children and young people; and
 - Council's child protection reporting procedures.
14. The Policy is the overarching document within Council's Child Safe Framework which also includes:
 - Child Safe Code of Conduct – Council Officials: Defines expectations for how Council Officials should behave around children and/or young people;
 - Child Protection Reporting Framework: Provides a streamlined reporting process with an attached supportive mechanism of subject matter experts through the Child Protection Triage Team;
 - Children and Youth Participation Framework: Guides Council Officials to actively involve children and young people in decision-making processes; and
 - Child Safe Action Plan: Outlines a framework of ongoing improvement that is focused on evolving community needs and changing legislation.

Revisions to the Draft Policy for Public Exhibition

15. In October 2025, the NSW Parliament passed major reforms to strengthen child safety practices in the early childhood education and care sector through amendments to the *Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010 (NSW)* and related Regulations.
16. The reforms, which took effect from 30 October 2025, place the rights and best interests of children as the paramount consideration in decision making processes, expand mandatory screening and reporting obligations, increase penalties for non-compliance, and enhance regulatory powers and transparency requirements.
17. The changes apply to all approved early childhood education and care providers, including local councils that operate early learning services, and aim to embed child safety into

governance, culture, and daily practice across entire organisations, not just within direct care roles. The reforms respond to national reviews and public concern for stronger safeguards, reinforcing that child safety is a shared, organisation-wide responsibility.

18. Preliminary consultation was undertaken with key internal and external stakeholders and integrated into the Draft Policy. Details of the consultation are included in the Community Engagement section of this report.
19. Key changes made to the Draft Policy following preliminary internal consultation and to ensure compliance with new early childhood education and care sector reforms include:
 - (i) Addition of the related Education and Care Services legislation and regulations;
 - (ii) Clearer wording in respect to the paramountcy of children's rights and best interests;
 - (iii) Added definition of inappropriate conduct;
 - (iv) Added clarity around the response to immediate risk of a child's safety or wellbeing;
 - (v) Clarification around the requirements of the WWCC and who is required to hold a valid clearance in NSW;
 - (vi) Added detail around the responsibility of Council staff to manage the status of their WWCC;
 - (vii) Added explanation of Council's child safe tier system with clear wording to define what each tier represents;
 - (viii) Detail of the requirement for Council Officials to follow the Working with Children Check (WWCC) Verification Procedure when engaging contractors to undertake child-related work and/or when recruiting for child-related positions;
 - (ix) Updated information about Council's Child Protection Reporting Framework and Child Protection Triage Team, endorsed by the Executive Team on 3 June 2025 (EXE105-25);
 - (x) Updated definitions to enhance clarity and reduce ambiguity; and
 - (xi) Clarification of Council's decision to implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations concurrently with the Standards to reflect reflects Council's commitment to best practice.
20. Key changes made to the Draft Policy following preliminary external consultation:
 - (i) More specific language around the requirement of Council Officials to include the voices of children and young people in the recruitment process for child-related work; and
 - (ii) Increased accountability and guidance around one-to-one interactions with children and young people.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

21. No budget impact for this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

22. Strategic Risk 4: People and Culture – *Council's inability to attract, retain and be able to continually develop and retain a capable, qualified, and appropriately skilled workforce as well as maintaining a culture that is focused on the achievement of Council's objectives and values whilst always providing a safe workplace environment.* The implementation of

the Policy ensures that Council officials are adequately supported regarding child safe practices, including guidance around how to identify, respond to, and/or report child protection concerns, incidents, and/or allegations, while also provide a framework of accountability.

23. 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.* The implementation of this Policy helps mitigate the risk by ensuring Council remains aligned with legislative obligations, thereby reinforcing trust, credibility, and confidence in its governance and operations.
24. Strategic Risk 7: Ineffective Governance – *Failure of Council's Governance and Compliance Frameworks to ensure compliance with relevant legislative, statutory, regulatory and policies and procedures and which are not being monitored across the organisation.* Compliance obligations under the Child Safe Scheme commenced on 1 February 2023. The revised Policy provides a clear framework to support Council in meeting these obligations and maintaining legislative compliance.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

25. To ensure the voices of children and young people were present within the Policy, Council Officers undertook preliminary consultation with key internal and external stakeholders and sector professionals throughout from June to October 2025 to support the Policy revision, including:
 - Council's Youth Advisory Committee (YAC);
 - The St George Youth Network (SGYN): A local youth interagency made up of community organisations, government departments, and schools that work with or support young people in Georges River, Bayside, and/or the Sutherland Shire;
 - Schools in Georges River: students and staff at Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus;
 - Council's Child Safe Champions: An internal Working Group; and
 - Council's Early Learning Services staff.
26. While on public exhibition, Council Officials will seek input from local early learning services including children and families to ensure their voices are reflected in the Policy.

FILE REFERENCE

D25/281244

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [↓](#)1 Draft Interactions with Children and Young People Policy - Policy Review





Draft Interactions with Children and Young People Policy

November 2025

Policy Administration

Dates	Policy approved 28/11/2022 This policy is effective upon its approval. Policy is due for review
Approved by	Council Meeting 28/11/2022 Council Resolution CCL09-22
Policy Type	☐ Executive Policy ☒ Council Policy
Exhibition Period	Not applicable
Policy Owner	Manager Community and Early Learning Services Community and Culture Directorate
References & Legislation	<i>Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014</i> <i>Child Protection (Offenders Prohibition Orders) Act 2004</i> <i>Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000</i> <i>Children's and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998</i> <i>Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) (Child Employment) Regulation 2015</i> <i>Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Regulation 2022</i> <i>Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012</i> <i>Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013</i> <i>Children's Guardian Act 2019</i> <i>National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018</i> <i>Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Amendment Act 2025</i> <i>Education and Care Services National Regulations (2011)</i> <i>Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998</i>
Related Documents	<i>Georges River Council Code of Conduct</i> <i>Georges River Council Child Safe Code of Conduct – Council Officials</i> <i>Council's Child Safe Action Plan</i> <i>Child Protection Reporting Framework</i> <i>Children and Youth Participation Framework</i> <i>Working with Children Check Verification Procedure</i> <i>Mandatory Reporter Guide (MRG)</i> <i>Customer Feedback and Complaints Management Policy</i> <i>Customer Experience Charter</i> <i>Royal Commission Final Report Recommendations (2017)</i> <i>NSW Child Safe Standards</i> <i>National Principles for Child Safe Organisations</i> <i>The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990)</i> <i>Information Security Framework Policy</i> <i>Records and Information Management Policy</i> <i>Appropriate Workplace Behaviour Policy</i>

Document Identifier	Policy #: Pol-087.01 Doc # D22/279885
Breaches of Policy	Breaches of any policy will be dealt with and responded to in accordance with adopted codes and/or relevant legislation.
Record Keeping	All documents and information obtained in relation to the implementation of this policy will be kept in accordance with the NSW State Records Act 1998 (including relevant disposal freeze notices), Georges River Council's Corporate Records Policy and adopted internal procedures.

Purpose

Georges River Council (Council) recognises the rights of children and young people to feel safe when accessing Council services and facilities. The safety, welfare, and wellbeing of children and young people remain the primary consideration in all decisions and actions made by Council that affect or impact children and young people.

The purpose of the Interactions with Children and Young People Policy (the Policy) is to:

- Ensure that Council provides a safe environment for children and young people.
- Outline the professional and legal obligations of Council Officials, including staff and Councillors in relation to child protection.
- Outline Council's child safe tier system and clearly define what each tier represents.
- Ensure that Council remains compliant with all legislation pertaining to child protection, including (but not limited to): mandatory reporting; recruitment and selection; and responding to reports of child abuse or neglect, including allegations against Council Officials.
- Ensure the appropriate storage of children and young peoples' records, including multimedia.
- Ensure that Council remains compliant with all legislative frameworks listed in the References and Legislation table.

Scope

This Policy applies to all Council Officials as defined in the Definitions Table below, which includes staff, Councillors, work experience participants, volunteers, students on placement, consultants, and contractors.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents which form Council's Child Safe Framework:

- [Child Safe Code of Conduct – Council Officials](#)
- [Child Protection Reporting Framework](#)
- [Children and Youth Participation Framework](#)
- [Working with Children Check \(WWCC\) Verification Procedure](#)
- [Child Safe Action Plan](#)

Definition of Terms

Term	Meaning
Abuse	A term used to refer to different types of harm or maltreatment. In this document it refers to types of harm or maltreatment that children and young people experience, including physical harm, sexual assault, exposure to domestic violence, psychological harm, and prenatal risks.
Child Protection Allegation	A complaint involving the actions of a Council Official where children or young people (under 18 years of age) are involved. This is where the child or young person's care, safety and/or protection may have been compromised as a result.
Child	A person who is under the age of 16 years.
Child Protection Helpline	A state-wide call centre run by the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) that is available 24/7 and is staffed by professionally qualified caseworkers to receive and screen all reports about suspected abuse or neglect of a child or young person or those at risk of harm from abuse or neglect. The Helpline can be contacted on 132 111.
Child Protection Triage Team	A team of Council staff who are subject matter experts and are available to support staff seeking advice in respect to child protection allegations, incidents, or concerns.
Child Safe Organisation	An organisation in which child safety is embedded in planning, policy, and practices and where the voices of children and young people are sought, listened to and acted on.
Child Safe Tiers	Council staffing positions have been allocated a 'child safe tier' based on the level of interaction with children and young people that each position brings.
Child Safe Champions	A group of Council staff who oversee the identification, implementation and creation of policies, procedures and actions that enable Council to meet its objectives as a child safe organisation.
Child-related Work	Work which involves direct contact or interaction with children and/or young people, and where that contact is a usual part of and a primary purpose of the work.

Complaint	A form of feedback that expresses dissatisfaction towards Council, its policies, procedures, or the conduct of Council Officials.
Council Official	In this policy a Council Official includes Councillors, members of staff of Council, contractors, administrators, community members of Advisory Committees, members of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC), members of reference panels, Council committee members and delegates of Council. A Council Official also includes others engaged by Council such as work experience participants, volunteers, students on placement and consultants.
Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ)	The NSW Government agency responsible for the care and protection of children and young people.
Inappropriate Conduct	Conduct directed towards or in the presence of a child that a reasonable person would consider to be inappropriate. It may include behaviour that is: inconsistent with professional standards, causes or is likely to cause emotional, psychological, or physical harm, or has violent or sexual connotations.
Mandatory Reporters	People who deliver services, wholly or partly, to children as part of their paid or professional work. This is regulated by the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998. At Council, this includes all staff or representatives working in or engaged to support the operations of Council's Early Learning Services.
Mandatory Reporter Guide (MRG)	The Mandatory Reporter Guide is a decision-making tool to assist Mandatory Reporters to help determine how the suspected risk of significant harm of a child or young person is reported.
National Redress Scheme	The Australian Government established the National Redress Scheme in response to recommendations by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The National Redress Scheme provides redress to people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse, known as survivors.
Neglect	A term used to refer to a pattern characterised when a parent or caregiver cannot regularly provide a child or young person the basic requirements for their growth and development such as food, clothing, shelter, medical and dental care, adequate supervision and adequate parenting and care.
Redress	Redress refers to the acknowledgement of harm done. Under the National Redress Scheme, survivors are entitled to counselling, a direct personal response from the responsible institution and/or a redress payment.

Reportable Allegation	A Reportable Allegation in relation to a Council Official means: a) if the Council Official holds or is required to hold a WWCC clearance for the purpose of their paid or professional work with Council - an allegation that the Official has engaged in conduct that may be Reportable Conduct, whether or not the conduct is alleged to have occurred in the course of the employee's employment with Council, or; b) if the Council Official is not required to hold a WWCC clearance for the purpose of their paid or professional work with Council - an allegation that the Official has engaged in conduct that may be Reportable Conduct, unless the conduct is alleged to have occurred outside of the course of the Official's paid or professional work with Council.
Reportable Conduct	Refers to a sexual offence, sexual misconduct, ill-treatment of a child, neglect of a child, an assault against a child, an offence under section 43B or 316A of the Crimes Act 1900 or behaviour that causes significant emotional or psychological harm to a child, regardless of whether or not a criminal proceeding in relation to the conduct has been commenced or concluded.
Risk of Significant Harm (ROSH)	Concern/s that a child or young person is likely to, or may suffer physical, psychological, or emotional harm because of what is being done (physical, sexual, or psychological abuse) or not done (neglect) by another person.
Survivor	A person who has suffered sexual abuse that is within the scope of the National Redress Scheme.
Working with Children Check (WWCC)	The WWCC is a requirement for anyone who works or volunteers in child-related work in NSW. The check provides either clearance to work with children for five years, or a bar against working with children.
Young Person	For the purpose of this Policy and noting the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998, a young person is a person who is over the age of 16 but under the age of 18.

Policy Statement

1. Council's Child Safe Commitment

- 1.1. Georges River Council is committed to putting children first and championing child safety within the Georges River community. Council will actively advocate for the rights of children and young people, upholding Council's commitment as a child safe organisation.
- 1.2. All Council Officials are required to adhere to this Policy and ensure that all elements within are followed while keeping the safety and wellbeing of children and young people at the forefront of their mind and work practices.
- 1.3. Council is committed to supporting all children and young people – regardless of their diverse backgrounds, identities, abilities, or access needs – to have safe, inclusive, and enjoyable experiences within the

Georges River community, including when accessing Council facilities and services.

- 1.4. Through the [Children and Youth Participation Framework](#), Council will ensure the active participation of children and young people in the organisation by involving children and young people in Council decision-making, particularly in matters that do or may affect them.
- 1.5. Council is responsible and accountable for ensuring that all Council Officials are equipped with the knowledge and skills in order to respond to and report any child protection concerns through ongoing training and education.
- 1.6. Council must ensure that all Council Officials are informed of any legislative changes or requirements regarding child safe organisations as well as ensuring that this Policy is easily accessible.
- 1.7. Council Officials should avoid one-to-one interactions with children and young people wherever possible, and ensure such interactions are conducted in line with Council's Child Safe Framework.
- 1.8. Council will maintain an active working group of 'Child Safe Champions' comprised of staff from all directorates within Council. This group is responsible for overseeing the development of child-related policies and procedures and advocating for child safety within their areas of work.
- 1.9. Council will maintain a system established to allocate a particular 'child safe tier' to each staffing position. Child safe tiers are determined based on the level of interaction with children and young people that each position brings. This approach allows for all staff to be provided with appropriate training and support. However, it has no bearing on the requirements of a Working with Children Check (WWCC).
 - 1.9.1. Tier 1: Working or interacting with children and/or young people is the primary function of the position.
 - 1.9.2. Tier 2: Working or interacting with children and/or young people occurs on a regular and sometimes weekly basis but is not the primary function of the position.
 - 1.9.3. Tier 3: Working or interacting with children and/or young people occurs on an incidental/circumstantial basis.
 - 1.9.4. Tier 4: Working or interacting with children and/or young people occurs on a minimal basis or does not occur at all.
- 1.10. This policy reflects Council's commitment to the:
 - a) [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) and;
 - b) [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#) (the National Principles).

- 1.11. The *Children's Guardian Amendment (Child Safe Scheme) Act 2021* (NSW) amended the *Children's Guardian Act 2019* (NSW) to create a regulatory framework, the NSW Child Safe Scheme (the Scheme). The Scheme requires child-related organisations in NSW to comply with and implement the ten Child Safe Standards (the Standards) arising from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission).
- 1.12. The National Principles were drafted to have a deliberately broader scope than the Standards to cover other forms of potential harm to children and young people in addition to child sexual abuse.
- 1.13. In recognition that the Standards and National Principles describe the necessary elements for child safe practices, the Office of the Children's Guardian considers organisations in NSW that are implementing the National Principles will be simultaneously implementing the Standards.
- 1.14. Council has opted to implement the National Principles concurrently with the Standards. This reflects Council's commitment to national best practice and ensures that Council's child safe culture, systems, and processes are consistent with both State and Commonwealth expectations.

2. Operational Procedures

2.1. Mandatory Reporting Risk of Significant Harm

- 2.1.1. Where there are concerns for the immediate safety or wellbeing of a child or young person, the police should be notified on 000.
- 2.1.2. Where there are concerns that a child or young person is suspected to be at risk of significant harm, staff who are Mandatory Reporters are required to report their concerns to the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) via the Child Protection Helpline. The Helpline receives reports via telephone on 132 111 or online via an e-report. Mandatory Reporters, and all other Council Officials, should follow the [Child Protection Reporting Framework](#) when responding to reports of child abuse or neglect.

2.2. Selection and Recruitment

- 2.2.1. Adults who work or volunteer in child-related work in NSW must have a WWCC. Council will meet legal requirements to ensure that only people with valid WWCC clearances are engaged in child-related work, either paid or unpaid. Council must verify the WWCC details and keep records of anyone employed or externally engaged to undertake child-related work.
- 2.2.2. A WWCC is required for individuals whose role involves direct, face-to-face, or observational contact with children which is a usual part

of their duties. A WWCC is not required for individuals whose contact with children is incidental, supervised, or occasional.

- 2.2.3. The WWCC is an essential part of Council's recruitment process to prevent people who pose a risk to the safety of a child or young person from being employed or engaged in child-related work.
- 2.2.4. People and Culture manage the verification process for all selection and recruitment-related WWCCs. This is in line with the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012* and the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013*.
- 2.2.5. All employees, contractors and volunteers who hold or are required to hold a WWCC are responsible for managing the status of their WWCC. Council employees are required to inform their People Leader and/or People and Culture of any changes to their WWCC status, including expiry.
- 2.2.6. Business units that engage external contractors or stakeholders to undertake child-related work are required to verify the WWCC clearance/s and file appropriate records in accordance with Council's Records Management Policy or local procedures. This is in line with the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012* and the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013*.
- 2.2.7. Council Officials should follow the [Working with Children Check \(WWCC\) Verification Procedure](#) when engaging contractors to undertake child-related work and/or when recruiting for child-related positions.
- 2.2.8. Where appropriate, the recruitment process for Tier 1 and Tier 2 positions should seek to incorporate the views of children and/or young people in line with Council's Child Safe Framework (for example, by involving them in aspects of the interview or selection process, or by asking child protection-related interview questions).

Allegations Against Council Officials Involving Children and/or Young People

- 2.2.9. Complaints and/or allegations against any Council Official involving a child and/or young person will be handled in accordance with the *Children's Guardian Act 2019*.
- 2.2.10. This Act governs the following functions and responsibilities of the Children's Guardian (as is relevant to Council):
 - Administration of the [Child Safe Scheme](#); and
 - Administration of the [Reportable Conduct Scheme](#).

2.2.11. All Council Officials are expected to engage in respectful and positive interactions with all children and young people that utilise Council services and facilities. As per the Reportable Conduct Scheme, Council is obligated to report child-related allegations involving Council Officials that meet the threshold for reporting, following an investigation. When responding to an allegation against a Council Official that involves a child and/or a young person, the [Child Protection Reporting Framework](#) must be followed.

- Council's Child Protection Triage Team (the Team) forms part of the Child Protection Reporting Framework.
- The Team consists of subject matter experts available to support staff by providing guidance and advice about child protection allegations, incidents, and concerns.

2.2.12. Disciplinary action will be handled in accordance with Council's Appropriate Workplace Behaviour Policy and [Code of Conduct](#).

2.3. Child Safe Organisation

2.3.1. Council advocates for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in the Georges River community, which includes implementing best practice approaches pertaining to child safety.

2.3.2. Council considers children and young people in program planning, delivery, and evaluation, and in physical and online environments.

2.3.3. Council adopts the Royal Commission Final Report Recommendations (2017) relevant to Local Government organisations. Given that Council is implementing the National Principles, Council is simultaneously implementing the Standards as recommended in the Royal Commission's Final Report.

2.3.4. Council's 'Child Safe Champions' collaborate on the identification, implementation and creation of policies, procedures and actions that enable Council to meet its objectives as a child safe organisation.

2.3.5. As a child safe organisation, Council is committed to responding to changing legislation and best practice recommendations.

2.4. Children and Young People's Records

2.4.1. Council has a responsibility to ensure that all records are kept private and confidential, particularly those that contain information and details about children and young people. In order to maintain confidentiality and ensure their safety and wellbeing, access to children and young people's records is limited to specific staff, contractors, and volunteers.

- 2.4.2. Generally, Council Officials in child-related positions have access to the records of children and young people who they work with.
- 2.4.3. Council Officials that have access to children and young people's records must:
- respect the confidentiality and privacy rights of all persons;
 - ensure that information stored is not divulged or communicated either directly or indirectly, to anyone other than permitted Council Officials or individuals required by any act, law, or legislation;
 - only access records or information for the purpose of their work;
 - never misuse information in any way; and
 - ensure the appropriate use of images of children and young people.
- 2.4.4. Access to records involving children and young people vary depending on the type of record. Council Officials are required to consult Governance and Risk Management Team as well as Council's Information Management Team (IMT) if they are unsure of a record's security access.
- 2.4.5. Archived and inactive files are maintained and stored safely and securely from unauthorised access. The retention and disposal of files adheres to the NSW State Archives and Records General Disposal Authorities and the associated Council procedures.
- 2.4.6. Should an archived or inactive record become active again or be accessed for legal purposes, the Council Official accessing the information must advise IMT and the Governance and Risk Management Team in writing to allow for a sentencing reassessment of this record.

2.5. National Redress Scheme

- 2.5.1. Council acknowledges the life-long impact of institutional child sexual abuse on survivors and is a participating institution in the National Redress Scheme. As a participating institution, if a survivor of child sexual abuse seeks access to the National Redress Scheme, Council is required to act with discretion, in good faith and use its best endeavours to assist people applying for redress by providing information to relevant authorities or stakeholders.

Responsibilities

Position	Responsibility
All Council Officials	Be aware of, and comply with, their responsibilities under the Interactions with Children and Young People Policy.

Child Safe Champions	- Advocate for children and young people in line with the Interactions with Children and Young People Policy. - Provide staff with access to information and support regarding child safety. - Support the development and implementation of policies, procedures and actions that enable Council to meet its objectives as a child safe organisation.
Information Management and Technology	- Ensure recordkeeping practices comply with relevant legislation. - Maintain secure information systems for managing child-related records, and ensuring they are compliant and meet security standards.
People and Culture	- Ensure the Interactions with Children and Young People Policy is communicated to all new employees as part of the induction process. - Ensure breaches of the Interactions with Children and Young People Policy are managed in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures.
Manager Community and Early Learning Services	- Ensure the Interactions with Children and Young People Policy is included on Council's policy register and record management system. - Provide a point of contact about the meaning and application of the Interactions with Children and Young People Policy.
Director Community and Culture	Ensure Council has an Interactions with Children and Young People Policy and adequate child safe procedures in place that provide compliance with relevant regulations and legislation.
General Manager	- Ensure adequate systems and processes, policies and procedures are in place to prevent, detect and respond to abuse and/or neglect of children and young people. - Investigate breaches of the Interactions with Children and Young People Policy and enforce compliance.

Version Control and Change History

Version	Amendment Details	Policy Owner	Period Active
1.0	New Georges River Council Interactions with Children and Young People Policy	Manager Community and Early Learning Services	28/11/2022 – 28/11/2025
2.0	Amendments to Version 1 of the Interactions with Children and Young People Policy as outlined in the report to Council on 17/11/2025	Manager Community and Early Learning Services	17/11/2025 – 17/11/2028

Item: COM049-25 Place Naming Proposal for Boardwalk at Oatley Bay - Results of Community Consultation

Author: Coordinator Library Operations

Directorate: Community and Culture

Matter Type: Committee Reports

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council acknowledge the results of the community consultation for the proposed name 'Sharyn Cullis Boardwalk'.
- (b) That Council approve the name 'Sharyn Cullis Boardwalk' for the boardwalk which will be constructed in Morshead Drive Reserve, along the coast of Oatley Bay, between the east and the west sections of Morshead Drive in Hurstville Grove.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. On 22 September 2025, Council endorsed the proposed name 'Sharyn Cullis Boardwalk' for the new boardwalk at Morshead Drive Reserve and placed it on public exhibition from 26 September to 26 October 2025 (CCL083-25). Feedback during the public exhibition period demonstrated community support for the proposed name and consistency with Council's Place Naming Policy.
2. This report recommends formal adoption of the name and outlines next steps for implementation, including notification to the NSW Geographical Names Board and installation of signage.

BACKGROUND

3. The Georges River Council Place Naming Policy (the Policy) provides a consistent naming convention for all Council assets, including Council facilities, to ensure efficient wayfinding for the public, essential utilities and emergency services.
4. The new boardwalk, which will be constructed in Morshead Drive Reserve, along the coast of Oatley Bay, between the east and west sections of Morshead Drive in Hurstville Grove, replaces the previous boardwalk which was informally named 'Oatley Bay Memorial Boardwalk'. The former facility featured eight information signs about incidents where service men and women lost their lives on peacetime service. It had reached end-of-life due to extensive termite damage and was demolished in May 2024.
5. In accordance with the Policy, Council is authorised to remove the information plaques and commence the formal process to assign a new name to the new boardwalk, as the previous facility had reached the end of its life cycle.
6. The proposed name 'Sharyn Cullis Boardwalk' aligns with the commemorative naming convention used for other facilities and reflects the priorities in the Policy to recognise historically significant people and promote gender diversity.
7. Dr Sharyn Cullis was an acclaimed environmentalist and educator who lived in Oatley from 1985 until her passing in 2022. She made significant contributions to protecting the Georges River and its surrounding environment through her advocacy and work with Streamwatch and Riverhealth monitoring programs. She was a community representative on the Georges River Combined Councils Committee (now Riverkeeper).
8. On 22 September 2025 Council unanimously endorsed the proposed name 'Sharyn Cullis Boardwalk' and approved the name to be placed on public exhibition (CCL083-25).

Results of Community Consultation

9. The place naming proposal for 'Sharyn Cullis Boardwalk' was placed on public exhibition from 26 September to 26 October 2025. During the public exhibition period there were 385 visits to the Your Say project page, with 58 submissions to the Your Say survey received. The Your Say submissions are included in Attachment 1 and summarised as follows:
 - 48 people were 'very happy' or 'happy' with the proposed name.
 - Four people commented that the previous information plaques should be retained.
 - Four people commented that the boardwalk should have an Aboriginal name. None of those submissions were received from people who identified as Aboriginal.
 - One person who supported the name commented that it should also include the location 'Oatley Bay' in the name.
10. One anonymous item of feedback identified that the 2005 helicopter crash, which was the subject of one of the previous information signs, was connected to a local resident Lieutenant Matthew Goodall who died in the accident. Review by council officers confirmed that:
 - Information about Lt Goodall was not included on the previous boardwalk signs.
 - Lt Goodall grew up in Blakehurst and died in the 2005 Sea King crash while on a mission to deliver aid to the earthquake-affected island of Nias, Indonesia.
 - Four other memorials to the 2005 Sea King crash are located:
 - (i) Sea King Memorial, Department of Defence Russell Offices, Australian Capital Territory.
 - (ii) 'Tsunami 9' Peace Garden Memorial, Kings Cross.
 - (iii) Memorial at HMAS Albatross, Nowra.
 - (iv) Memorial plaque in Nias, Indonesia.
11. The four submissions about Aboriginal names were received from people who did not identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in the Your Say submission form. In accordance with the Policy and Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy, Aboriginal name proposals are to be led by Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee.
12. In addition to the feedback received via Your Say, four email submissions were received. Two of the submissions were in support of the proposed name. Two of the submissions commented that Dr Cullis has been recognised with a historical marker and suggest that the boardwalk should be named 'Morshead Drive Boardwalk' to reduce confusion and help people understand where it is located. Council officers note that the Policy and the Historical Markers Policy do not prevent a person from having a historical marker as well as a commemorative name.
13. Feedback received during the public exhibition period demonstrated community support for the proposed name and alignment with the requirements of the Place Naming Policy. Accordingly, the name 'Sharyn Cullis Boardwalk' is recommended to Council for approval.
14. Should Council approve the proposed name, it will be formally assigned to the boardwalk through the following steps:
 - (a) Notify the NSW Geographical Names Board to include the name in the Spatial Services' Digital Topographic database and official maps.

- (b) Notify Council's Spatial and Digital Services team to include the name in Council's mapping systems.
- (c) Install physical signage at the site of the boardwalk.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15. There is no budget impact for this report. Should Council approve the proposed name, the cost of signage is within the capital works budget for the new boardwalk.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

16. 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 'Sharyn Cullis Boardwalk' reinforces the area's identity and demonstrates responsiveness to community feedback.

17. Strategic Risk 7: Ineffective Governance

There is a risk of ineffective governance if the naming process does not comply with Council's Place Naming Policy or broader regulatory requirements, as inconsistent application of policies and procedures could undermine Council's governance framework and expose the organisation to non-compliance. To mitigate this risk, the recommendations in this report ensure full compliance with the Place Naming Policy and the established decision-making framework, which aligns with the requirements of the NSW Geographical Names Board. This approach demonstrates sound governance, transparency, and adherence to legislative standards.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

18. From 26 September 2025 to 26 October 2025, the proposed name 'Sharyn Cullis Boardwalk' was placed on public exhibition on Council's Your Say website. During the public exhibition period there were:
- (a) 385 visits to the Your Say project page;
 - (b) 64 visits to the Your Say survey page;
 - (c) 55 contributors to the survey;
 - (d) 58 submissions to the survey, with some contributors making multiple submissions; and
 - (e) Four submissions were received via email.
19. Council's Advisory Committees were engaged to provide feedback and to share the proposal with their wider community networks.

FILE REFERENCE

D25/322104

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [1](#) Community Consultation Results for Place Naming Proposal - Sharyn Cullis Boardwalk



SurveyTool:		Provide your feedback			25 September 2025 to 26 October 2025		
Tool Status	Draft	Date of contribution	Contributor Details		Survey Response		
Visitors	64		Login (Screen name)	Contributor Summary (Signup form Qs - Detailed breakup on the right >)	How do you feel overall about the name Sharyn Cullis Boardwalk	You can add any additional comments for feedback about name proposal here:	Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?
Contributors	55	Sep 26 25 01:24:39 pm	Anonymous		Very unhappy	The boardwalk was dedicated to those who had fought in the Services. I am not displeased to honour Dr Cullis but another item could be named instead.	Prefer not to say
Registered	3	Sep 26 25 09:36:38 pm	Anonymous		Very happy	Good recognition of an absolutely amazing warrior for our biodiversity	No
Unverified	0	Sep 26 25 10:05:40 pm	Anonymous		Very happy	Very appropriate name.	No
Anonymous	52	Sep 28 25 05:05:44 pm	Anonymous		Neutral	Along this walkway there was a memorial recognizing three young men killed in the Sea King helicopter crash 20 years or so ago. One of the three young men, Lieutenant Matthew Goodall, lived at Connells Point and attended local schools. I sincerely hope that this memorial is retained along this walkway.	No
Admin	0	Sep 29 25 03:35:32 pm	Anonymous		Neutral	It had information about the war planes, etc. I hope they still remain, they were very informative.	No
SUBMISSIONS	58	Sep 30 25 09:59:48 am	Anonymous		Very happy	I agree ... Sharyn Cullis was an amazing environmentalist for our area.	No
		Sep 30 25 06:02:30 pm	Anonymous		Very happy	I remember Sharyn as an incredibly involved community member who had utmost respect for our surroundings and supported her ideas with thorough research and reporting to improve the health and wellbeing of our environment including rivers and green corridors throughout the Georges River region.	No
		Oct 01 25 10:41:30 am	Anonymous		Very happy	It is appropriate that this be named after Dr.Sharyn Cullis a passionate environmentalist and educator who lived in Oatley from 1985 until her passing in 2022 . She devoted a lot of her time to improving the Georges river and surrounds.	No
		Oct 01 25 02:55:13 pm	Name & Details redacted	Name & Details redacted	Unhappy	Having worked with Sharyn on the Georges River combined Council's Committee (Now River Keeper) , Oatley Flora Fauna Society and Friends of Oatley she was always bringino up the health of the river and surrounding land. questionino these The Oatley Bay Memorial Boardwalk provided memorial information to users of the Boardwalk of peace time maritime accidents involving loss of life. To the best of my knowledge as a resident of 10 years of the Bay Vista strata complex is that these information boards had been the purpose of the Memorial status since the Boardwalk was originally constructed. The rename the Boardwalk now would seem to imply those events of Maritime history and note can now be wiped from our memory. My suggestion is that the seating area next to the Oatley Bay Boat Ramp, which already has been established	No
		Oct 02 25 02:58:11 pm	Anonymous		Very happy	Sharyn Cullis was an outstanding advocate for the George's River. I think it would be very fitting to name this Boardwalk after her.	No
		Oct 02 25 04:38:33 pm	Anonymous		Very happy	There can be no other but Sharyn Cullis	No
		Oct 02 25 04:56:12 pm	Anonymous		Very happy		
		Oct 02 25 05:18:27 pm	Anonymous		Very happy	This is a fitting tribute to a passionate advocate for our community. It's also great to see some local spots named for important women, who are sadly under-represented in place names in our area, even in contemporary decision making, rather than this being an historical oversight. I thoroughly endorse the boardwalk being named Sharyn Cullis Boardwalk	No
		Oct 02 25 08:48:34 pm	Anonymous		Very happy	Sharyn dedicated her life to the environment. How wonderful to honour her in this way.	No
		Oct 02 25 09:03:13 pm	Anonymous		Unhappy	I have no idea who this person is. I am sure Dr Cullis is great and I am sorry for her passing, but I thought we had moved on from naming things after deceased Europeans. I would prefer it was named after the traditional owners of this country, or named after how the custodians of country used to call that part of the area.	No
Demographics Graphs Below							

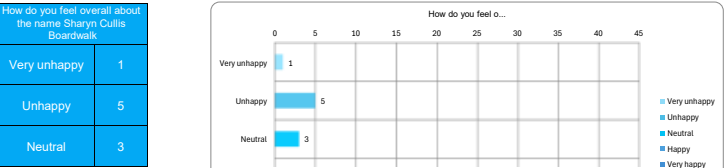
Oct 02 25 09:23:11 pm	Anonymous	Very happy	Dr Sharyn Cullis was wonderful. This is very well deserved. Lovely she has such a beautiful location carrying her name.	No
Oct 02 25 10:24:12 pm	Anonymous	Very happy	Recognising members of our community who direct their passion for the benefit of others and the environment is important. I remember chatting with Sharyn very close to this site one sunny day while out walking. I didn't realise at the time it would be for the last time.	No
Oct 02 25 10:24:39 pm	Anonymous	Very happy	Important recognition of an incredible local woman	No
Oct 03 25 12:54:26 am	Anonymous	Very happy	Sharyn deserves this recognition.	No
Oct 03 25 05:48:34 am	Anonymous	Happy	If "protect the drinking water catchment from longwall mining" could be added to the title, Sharon would love it!	No
Oct 03 25 06:26:23 am	Anonymous	Very happy	Sharyn was a great environmentalist and advocate for the preservation of our natural heritage. She worked tirelessly to protect the river and nature for the community and future generations. Naming the boardwalk in her honour would be a fitting tribute.	No
Oct 03 25 06:52:42 am	Anonymous	Very happy	Naming the boardwalk is a helpful contribution to placemaking. Choosing a name that would honour such a well known, respected and lifelong contributor to our local community and the environment is essential. I can't think of a better name than the Sharyn Cullis Boardwalk	No
Oct 03 25 06:59:52 am	Anonymous	Very happy	She gave so much to her Community and deserves to be recognised for her passion and devotion	No
Oct 03 25 07:12:55 am	Anonymous	Very happy		No
Oct 03 25 08:36:17 am	Anonymous	Very happy		No
Oct 03 25 09:20:51 am	Anonymous	Very happy	do it!	
Oct 03 25 10:19:04 am	Anonymous	Very happy	Great idea. Sharyn is most deserving of this recognition	No
Oct 03 25 10:48:43 am	Anonymous	Very happy	Sharyn was the modern day Myles Dunphy. A true wildlife and environment educator and protector. She was still active as an environmentalist right up until the time of her passing. That's true dedication that deserves recognition.	No
Oct 03 25 11:07:15 am	Anonymous	Very happy		No
Oct 03 25 05:20:20 pm	Anonymous	Happy	Good to have local people remembered for thier contribution to the area.	No
Oct 03 25 07:19:57 pm	Anonymous	Very happy		No

Oct 04 25 11:38:49 am	Anonymous		Very happy	Dr Sharyn Cullis achieved so much during her nearly 70 years on our beautiful planet. She fought for so many environmental causes - particularly along the Georges River - with special emphasis on improving the water quality of the river and preserving the ESFA that is now seemingly under threat yet again with the state gov't's LMR. Not since Myles and Milo Dunphy have we had a more prominent advocate for nature preservation based in Oatley or a more deserving recipient for memorialisation via boardwalk naming than Sharyn. May more interest in Sharyn and her many causes convince others to	No
Oct 04 25 12:42:09 pm	Anonymous		Happy		No
Oct 04 25 04:18:05 pm	Anonymous		Happy	We are lucky to have had Sharyn Cullis working tirelessly on environmental issues for the Georges River region over decades. Her dedication to Streamwatch and endeavours to protect native fauna must be admired and acknowledged as a wonderful example to future generations.	No
Oct 04 25 04:40:55 pm	Anonymous		Very happy	Sharyn was also a member of Sandy Pt dragons. Twice a month we would go fore a paddle cleaning up rubbish in the river and the beaches. Follow by morning tea. Sadly missed	No
Oct 04 25 06:33:08 pm	Anonymous		Very happy	Sharyn fought for over 45 years to improve the health of the Georges River and surrounds. It is entirely appropriate to honour her in this way as the Council is named after the River she camphor.	No
Oct 04 25 09:53:07 pm	Name & Details redacted	Name & Details redacted	Unhappy	I think it would be great to also have the aboriginal place name somewhere along the board walk. I'm happy with Sharyn and her contributions but what about the traditional custodians of the land? Talking about the history of the area we live in, where are the Aboriginal place names in Oatley Bush park? I would love to see this implemented more in our local area.	No
Oct 05 25 12:28:22 pm	Anonymous		Very happy	I knew Sharyn both as a teacher and educator. In both roles she had amazing achievements and the naming role is well deserved. Something you might not know is that she organised and regularly cleaned up Gerges River with Sandy Point dragon boat club.	No
Oct 05 25 02:28:10 pm	Anonymous				No
Oct 05 25 04:04:05 pm	Anonymous		Very happy		No
Oct 05 25 05:46:16 pm	Anonymous		Very happy	Should have been named after her before she passed. Absolute champion for the environment and such a sad loss.	No
Oct 05 25 07:54:29 pm	Anonymous		Very happy	Well deserved	Yes
Oct 05 25 07:56:43 pm	Anonymous		Very happy	👍👍👍	No
Oct 05 25 10:12:40 pm	Anonymous		Very happy	Sharyn did a lot for the environment and this is a nice way to pay tribute to her legacy.	No
Oct 06 25 03:32:08 pm	Name & Details redacted	Name & Details redacted	Neutral	To the best of my knowledge, the Oatley Bay Memorial Boardwalk was the original name of this facility. It is used by countless residents and other walkers through the area. To remove the reference to "Oatley Bay" being the designated location of the Boardwalk would be confusing to many walkers. It would it seem to be more appropriate that the Boardwalk be retitled - "Oatley Bay Sharyn Cullis Memorial Boardwalk". From my conversations with other GRC residents it is clear only a limited number of residents would seem to be aware of the identitv of Dr. Cullis and her membersho of the Oatley Flora	No
Oct 10 25 11:12:23 am	Anonymous		Very happy	I think this is a great way to remember Sharyn's work in the area.	No
Oct 10 25 11:37:56 am	Anonymous		Very happy	She worked tirelessly for the local environment.	No

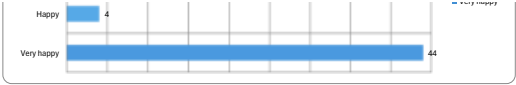
Oct 10 25 12:15:01 pm	Anonymous	Very happy	I think the name is very appropriate	No
Oct 10 25 01:10:02 pm	Anonymous	Very happy	To date, there has been no one more impactfully protective of the flora, fauna and water health of the Georges River, especially around Oatley and Lugarno. I hope Dr Sharyn Cullis' legacy manifests across our LGA, but SPECIFICALLY on the Moores Reserve boardwalk; haunting the degenerates who poisoned the trees surrounding the boardwalk this time last year. The "Sharyn Cullis Boardwalk" name is a beautiful gesture. RIP Dr Sharyn Cullis.	No
Oct 10 25 02:40:10 pm	Anonymous	Unhappy	It would be great to name the walk after an aboriginal elder or person of the past to reflect our true history. However the proposed name suits too.	No
Oct 10 25 07:19:14 pm	Anonymous	Very happy	Absolutely yes. Sharyn was an amazing woman. It's a very fitting tribute. A big vote of "Yes" from me!!	No
Oct 11 25 05:34:52 pm	Anonymous	Unhappy	I strongly feel the board walk would be best named after the aboriginal warrior named Pemulwuy who lived on the Georges River area and was murdered by colonialists for protecting his people.	No
Oct 11 25 09:02:00 pm	Anonymous	Very happy		No
Oct 12 25 02:07:48 pm	Anonymous	Very happy		No
Oct 13 25 03:24:21 pm	Name & Details redacted	Very happy	I have often used this boardwalk and look forward to it being rebuilt and reopened. I knew Sharyn Cullis and have deep respect for her informed and passionate support of worthwhile environmental campaigns. I think it would be very suitable to name this boardwalk in memory of Sharyn and strongly support this proposal.	No
Oct 17 25 04:51:57 pm	Anonymous	Very happy	Sharyn Cullis Boardwalk is a most suitable name for this new boardwalk. As spelled out in the many supporting documents for the Historical Marker nomination/award, in the report to Council on this proposal, and in this consultation background "Dr Sharyn Cullis was a passionate environmentalist, educator, and researcher who lived in Oatley from 1985 until her passing in 2022. She made extraordinary contributions to protecting the Georges River and its surrounding environment throughout her life. The proposed 'Sharyn Cullis Boardwalk' location reflects Dr. Cullis's deep connection to the Georges River area."	No
Oct 22 25 05:02:13 pm	Anonymous	Very happy	This is a fitting tribute to Dr Cullis, and recognises the huge amount of work she did throughout her life towards research, education, raising awareness and campaigning for our Georges River and our environment..	No
Oct 25 25 08:33:15 pm	Anonymous	Very happy	I definitely this proposal. Sharyn was a strong advocate for the environment, particularly the Georges River and its surrounds. Among many other activities, she campaigned for the protection of and eventual creation of the Dharawal NP in the upper Georges River catchment, a wonderful achievement. She was an active member of the Georges Riverkeeper (as it is now called) and led groups in Streamwatch and river health monitoring, measuring the health of the river. She was also an enthusiastic educator, campaigning for and then becoming the Principal of the Georges River Environmental Education	No

Survey Responses Graph

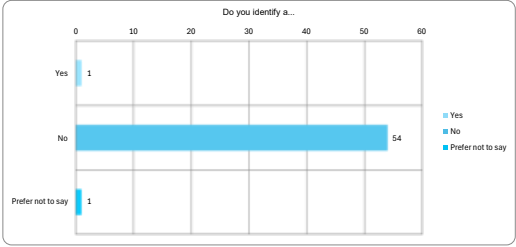
*special characters like '&' will be removed from options



Happy	4
Very happy	44



Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?	
Yes	1
No	54
Prefer not to say	1



Item: COM050-25 Community Grants 2025-2026 Round 1

Author: Grants and Project Officer

Directorate: Community and Culture

Matter Type: Committee Reports

RECOMMENDATION:

That the funding recommendations resulting from Georges River Council Community Grants 2025-2026 Round 1, as detailed in Attachment 1 of this report, be adopted.

COM050-25

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Georges River Council holds an annual program of Community Grants funding to partner with community groups and help meet identified community needs, as outlined in the Georges River Council Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035.
2. The budget for Community Grants 2025-2026 Round 1 is \$145,000.
3. This report seeks approval for the allocation of community grant funding to not-for-profit community groups and community organisations to meet program objectives and address priority community needs in the Georges River Council local government area.
4. In Community Grants 2025-2026 Round 1, 26 eligible applications for funding were received, with request amounts totalling \$321,171.
5. Funding is recommended for either full or partial support for 13 applications, with a total proposed allocation of \$145,000, assessed in accordance with the Georges River Council Grants and Donations Policy (2025) and consistent with the program objectives and assessment criteria outlined in the Policy.
6. The funding recommendations are detailed in Attachment 1 of this report.

BACKGROUND

7. The Georges River Community Grants Program allocates funds to meet program objectives and address priority community needs under Section 356 of the *Local Government Act (1993)* in an effective and equitable manner, based on the individual merits of each request.
8. These objectives, along with eligibility criteria and the assessment process, are governed by the Georges River Council Grants and Donations Policy (2025), adopted by Council on 23 June 2025 (CCL049-25).
9. The total allocated budget for outgoing grants and donations is \$300,000 in 2025-2026, which includes funding for the Community Grants Program.

Grant/Donation Program	Budget Allocated	Recommended
Community Grants 2025-2026 Round 1	\$145,000	\$145,000
Community Grants 2025-2026 Round 2	\$129,000	

Micro Grants 2025-2026	\$12,000	
Quick Response Donations 2025-2026	\$5,000	

10. \$9,000 has been allocated to support Council's grant programs through capacity building initiatives. These capacity building initiatives include grant writing and project development workshops delivered by external facilitators, and Council-led orientation and peer-to-peer reflection workshops, information sessions, and the development of support materials for community applicants. These initiatives involve operational costs including facilitators, resources, catering and venue hire.
11. Community Grants 2025-2026 Round 1 opened on 7 July 2025 and closed on 15 August 2025. The round was open for six weeks.
12. Council received 26 eligible applications, with funding requests totalling \$321,171.
13. Applications for funding were considered across two categories: Major Projects (up to \$25,000) and Small Projects (up to \$10,000).
14. Applications were assessed against a range of criteria including:
 - (a) the demonstrated community need of each project;
 - (b) the social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of each project;
 - (c) the organisation's capacity to manage funds; and
 - (d) the organisation's capacity to deliver and evaluate the project successfully.
15. Consideration was also given to projects that featured strategic alignment with the Community Strategic Plan and other Council plans and strategies, including the Social Justice Charter, Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026, Libraries 2030 - Georges River Library Strategy and Create Georges River Cultural Strategy.
16. As this round and its application form were advertised before the adoption of Council's new Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 on 23 June 2025 (CCL053-25), applications were required to propose alignment with, and were assessed against, the previous Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032, to ensure equity of assessment for all applicants. Community Grants 2025-2026 Round 2 will be aligned to the new Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035.
17. An assessment panel of Council officers assessed the 26 eligible applications between 16 September 2025 and 18 September 2025.
18. The panel recommended either full or partial support for 13 applications with a total proposed funding allocation of \$145,000. This consisted of five (5) projects in the Major Projects category to the value of \$89,850, and eight (8) projects in the Small Projects category to the value of \$55,150.
19. No recommended applicants have outstanding audited financial statements, as per the requirement for organisations receiving grants, donations, sponsorships and/or subsidies above \$15,000 from Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

20. The total recommended funding allocation for Community Grants 2025-2026 Round 1 is \$145,000.
21. Recommended allocations are equal to the Georges River Council Community Grants Program Round 1 budget allocation of \$145,000.

22. Successful grant applicants will be reminded of the requirement for audited financial statements for organisations with documented grants, donations, sponsorships and/or subsidies above \$15,000.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

23. 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.* Council faces a reputational risk if a project not aligned with Council's plans and strategies is awarded a grant. This is mitigated through a rigorous assessment process where all applications are assessed against the criteria outlined in Council's Grants and Donations Policy (2025) and Community Grants 2025-2026 Round 1 Guidelines.
24. 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.* Georges River Council's Grants and Donations programs support initiatives and projects that build the social, cultural, environmental, and economic life of the area. Council recognises and respects the vital contribution of community and business in developing and delivering projects that contribute to a vibrant and sustainable community. Through these programs, Council provides financial and in-kind support for a diverse range of projects that mitigate the risk of the erosion of social cohesion.
25. If Council proposes to amend the officers' recommendations for Community Grants funding, Council should indicate a reason in accordance with the criteria in the Grants and Donations Policy (2025).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

26. Council's community engagement for Community Grants 2025-2026 Round 1 included information sessions, individual grant meetings, externally facilitated workshops, and online grant writing training.
27. Thirty-five (35) potential grant applicants engaged with the Grants and Project Officer through individual grant meetings to discuss grant project ideas, the application process, and eligibility criteria. Meetings were scheduled for 30 minutes and took place in-person, by phone or online.
28. Additionally, five (5) information sessions were held while the grant round was open to build grant skills, knowledge and capacity. Three sessions were held in-person at Hurstville Library and Clive James Library Kogarah. Two sessions were held online via Zoom. Sessions were held at a variety of times, within and outside of business hours. Fifty-nine (59) people registered to participate across all information sessions.
29. Council also offered two complementary grant writing training workshops delivered by external facilitators. Non-Profit Training's workshop focused on the foundations of project development and grant writing while The Grants Guy's workshop allowed participants to ask project-specific advice of an experienced grant writing professional. Fifty (50) people registered to participate in the booked out workshops.
30. Council continues to offer free grant writing training, provided in perpetuity on Council's website. The training is a practical step-by-step guide with tools and checklists to apply for grants. Participants strengthen grant application skills, building community capacity to apply for grants with any potential funder. The 45-minute online training is provided by Win the Grant.

31. Community Grants 2025-2026 Round 1, and capacity building information sessions, workshops, and individual grant meetings were promoted via:
- (a) Council's website - Community Grants, Micro Grants, Grants Help Hub and What's On pages;
 - (b) Council's social media platforms;
 - (c) Council's Community e-newsletter;
 - (d) advertisements in the St George & Sutherland Shire Leader newspaper;
 - (e) advertisements in the St George and Sutherland Shire human services e-newsletter (SGS News);
 - (f) one entry in the Councillor Information Bulletin;
 - (g) regular Grants Newsletters throughout the Round open period, distributed to opt-in subscribers;
 - (h) an email to Council's current Advisory Committee members; and
 - (i) an email to the professional networks of the Community Capacity Building team.
32. Unsuccessful grant applicants have the option to request feedback from Council's Grants and Project Officer, to build grant writing capacity for future grant applications.
33. All successful grant recipients are invited to further capacity building events, including an Orientation Workshop on receipt of funding and a Reflection and Storytelling event at the conclusion of the grant cycle.

FILE REFERENCE

D25/281239

ATTACHMENTSAttachment [↓](#)1 Community Grants 2025-2026 Round 1 - Summary of Applications

Ref	App ID	Organisation	Category	Project	Project Description	Assessment Panel Comments	Total amount requested	Panel recommended funding amount
1	CG 25-26 R110	Narwee Baptist Community Broadcasters Ltd	Major Projects	New Youth Radio Program by Local Young Musicians	A new radio program produced by local young musicians about the local music scene. It will highlight emerging artists, share stories of musical development, and foster community engagement with the region's music culture.	The panel recommends full funding	\$ 15,150.00	\$ 15,150.00
2	CG 25-26 R115	Sutherland Shire Family Services Inc. trading as The Family Co.	Major Projects	Kids Cove - An After School Kids Club	An after school kids club for children aged 7-10, focused on building social skills, boosting confidence, fostering friendships, and supporting emotional regulation.	The panel recommends full funding	\$ 23,540.00	\$ 23,540.00
3	CG 25-26 R116	Stride Mental Health Ltd trading as headspace Hurstville	Major Projects	Therapeutic Small Group: Healing and Growth with Dungeons and Dragons	Facilitators teach social skills and provide wellbeing outcomes through weekly therapeutic group sessions of collaborative roleplaying game Dungeons & Dragons.	The panel recommends full funding	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
4	CG 25-26 R127	Project Youth	Major Projects	Project Container	A 20-foot container to be placed at Penny's Crisis Refuge, creating a dedicated space for young people experiencing homelessness to take appointments and engage recreationally.	The panel does not recommend funding	\$ 13,420.00	\$ -
5	CG 25-26 R122	St Vincent de Paul Society NSW	Major Projects	Hurstville Vinnies Support Centre Material Assistance	Providing food, material aid, and financial assistance to individuals and families in crisis within the Georges River LGA.	The panel does not recommend funding	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -
6	CG 25-26 R113	Jubilee Community Services Inc.	Major Projects	Funding Towards the Purchase of a Community Bus	The purchase of a new community bus to replace an ageing vehicle, for a community service organisation.	The panel does not recommend funding	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -
7	CG 25-26 R131	Learning Links	Major Projects	Links at School: Empowering Children to Communicate and Thrive	Placement of a speech pathologist at Hurstville Public School for two terms, delivering weekly evidence-based support to children with speech, language, and communication challenges.	The panel recommends full funding	\$ 21,660.00	\$ 21,660.00
8	CG 25-26 R134	Happy Singing Tribe	Major Projects	May Flowers for Mothers Concert 2026 and 2027	A community singing event featuring intergenerational choirs, stage performances, musical storytelling, floral-themed activities, and tributes to honour mothers and maternal figures.	The panel recommends partial funding	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 9,500.00
9	CG 25-26 R139	Blakehurst Primary School P and C Association	Major Projects	Share Our Space Upgrade	Transforming an unused garden space into a welcoming, accessible area featuring native plants and thoughtfully designed pathways.	The panel does not recommend funding	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -
							\$ 193,770.00	\$ 89,850.00
13	CG 25-26 R114	Sensory Minds Inclusion Centre	Small Projects	Autism Awareness and Inclusion	Providing a series of autism-related information and education presentations for the community, including autism talks for families and service providers, Transition to School Evenings and Fathers Information Evenings.	The panel recommends full funding	\$ 6,754.00	\$ 6,754.00
14	CG 25-26 R18	Morris Children's Fund Inc.	Small Projects	Music Therapy In Aid Of Children With A Disability	A program for a specialist teacher working with special needs schools to be placed in St George Hospital, using music as a medium to unlock the students' hidden potential and capabilities.	The panel does not recommend funding	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
15	CG 25-26 R19	The Magnificals Chamber Orchestra Inc.	Small Projects	A Musical Soiree: Around the World in 80 Minutes	A western classical and traditional Asian music concert, with an accompanying art exhibition and dances, providing equal professional performance opportunities to musicians who are mothers.	The panel recommends full funding	\$ 4,840.00	\$ 4,840.00
16	CG 25-26 R117	Georges River Association Inc.	Small Projects	2026 Georges River Photo Contest	A photo contest to celebrate the region's natural beauty and cultural diversity through community photography.	The panel does not recommend funding	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -
17	CG 25-26 R123	CanRevive Inc.	Small Projects	Supporting Cancer Recovery with Chinese and Western Dietary Wisdom	Supporting Chinese individuals affected by cancer through culturally and linguistically tailored dietary education, combining Traditional Chinese Medicine and modern nutrition to promote recovery, healthy eating, and overall wellbeing.	The panel recommends full funding	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 7,800.00
18	CG 25-26 R11	Nepalese Community Hurstville Inc.	Small Projects	Cricket for a Cause	The development of a cricket team and playing opportunities for local Nepali youth.	The panel does not recommend funding	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -
19	CG 25-26 R14	Southern Sydney Folk Club Inc.	Small Projects	Public Address System for Southern Sydney Folk Club	The purchase of a Public Address System (PA) for concerts and player nights.	Note: Alexis Drevikovskiy not present on panel due to conflict of interest. The panel recommends full funding	\$ 4,996.00	\$ 4,996.00
20	CG 25-26 R133	St George Men's Shed Inc.	Small Projects	Installation of Security Cameras	The upgrade of a CCTV system for a local Men's Shed.	The panel does not recommend funding	\$ 2,508.00	\$ -

21	CG 25-26 R118	Janaranjani Inc.	Small Projects	JR Broadcasters Annual Meet and Senior Citizens Meet	The introduction of local seniors to multicultural radio broadcasting, and youth mentoring opportunities.	The panel does not recommend funding	\$ 4,300.00	\$ -
22	CG 25-26 R119	Cass Care Ltd	Small Projects	Multicultural Senior Connections in Georges River	A seniors social group for Indonesian and other multicultural residents, involving culturally tailored activities, volunteering, and community programs.	The panel recommends partial funding	\$ 9,800.00	\$ 5,307.00
23	CG 25-26 R125	The Uniting Church in Australia - The Kogarah Storehouse	Small Projects	Speed to Succeed	Internet system upgrade.	The panel recommends full funding	\$ 6,653.00	\$ 6,653.00
24	CG 25-26 R129	Shopfront Arts Co-op Ltd	Small Projects	Creative Futures: Launching Young People into Sustainable Arts Careers	A year-long employment pathway program providing 100 young people with flexible, practical entry points to develop sustainable arts careers.	The panel recommends full funding	\$ 9,750.00	\$ 9,750.00
25	CG 25-26 R130	Australian Chinese Heritage Paper Arts Club Inc. Association	Small Projects	Ten Thousand Horses Running/Ten Thousand Horse Galloping Ahead	A combined art project featuring an exhibition, performances, workshops and public art celebrating the Lunar New Year of the Horse.	The panel does not recommend funding	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
26	CG 25-26 R135	Share SMR Inc.	Small Projects	Sit and Strengthen: Inclusive Chair Exercises for Older Adults	Weekly chair-based exercise classes for older adults, promoting strength, balance, and social connection.	The panel does not recommend funding	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
27	CG 25-26 R137	My Local Catmmunity	Small Projects	My Local Catmmunity Website	The development of a multilingual, user-friendly website promoting responsible cat ownership, offering education on care, rehoming, support services, and the promotion of Council initiatives, such as desexing programs.	The panel does not recommend funding	\$ 9,500.00	\$ -
28	CG 25-26 R138	Connells Point Sailing Club Inc.	Small Projects	Diversity Inclusion Sailing	Capacity building to engage and welcome diverse communities to a local sailing club, including scholarships to reduce barriers for participation.	The panel does not recommend funding	\$ 9,600.00	\$ -
29	CG 25-26 R16	Australian Macedonian Welfare and Wellbeing NSW	Small Projects	Seniors Wellbeing and Oral History Project	An oral history storytelling project for Macedonian, Serbian and Croatian seniors, sharing and celebrating cultural heritage and promoting health and wellbeing.	The panel recommends partial funding	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,050.00
							\$ 127,401.00	\$ 55,150.00
TOTAL RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING							\$	145,000.00

Item: **COM051-25 Public Exhibition of the Community Engagement Strategy 2025-2035**

Author: Community Engagement Lead

Directorate: Office of the General Manager

Matter Type: Committee Reports

COM051-25

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council note the review and findings of the Community Engagement Strategy 2023-2033 in this report.
- (b) That Council endorse the draft Community Engagement Strategy 2025-2035 to proceed to public exhibition for a period of 60 days inviting public comment.
- (c) That Council receive a further report following public exhibition outlining community comment/feedback.
- (d) That the General Manager be delegated authority to make minor administrative changes to the Strategy, if required.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Council has completed a review of the Community Engagement Strategy 2023-2033, involving staff consultation, directorate feedback, and benchmarking with comparable councils.
2. The internal review process identified specific opportunities for improvement and addresses these through enhanced stakeholder mapping, project engagement guidance, and updated legislative compliance.
3. The draft Community Engagement Strategy 2025-2035 positions Council to deliver consistent, meaningful engagement while meeting NSW Office of Local Government requirements and exceeding contemporary best practice standards.
4. The review findings and draft revised Community Engagement Strategy 2025-2035 are included with this report for recommendation to proceed to public exhibition, exhibiting for a period of 60 days.

BACKGROUND

5. The Office of Local Government requires all NSW Councils to review their Community Engagement Strategy within three months of an ordinary Council election. Following the September 2024 election, Council resolved in December 2024 to commence this review from July to October 2025 after the endorsement of the Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035.
6. The existing Community Engagement Strategy 2023-2033 provides a solid foundation but requires strategic updates. Key improvement areas include updated planning timeframes, strengthened representation of stakeholders and advisory bodies, improved guidelines for Council projects and capital works, and overall refinements to clarify how, when, and why Council engages the community on different matters.
7. This review has now been completed with findings and recommendations incorporated into the draft Community Engagement Strategy 2025-2035.

8. The review was conducted through comprehensive staff engagement including workshops, surveys, directorate manager feedback, and benchmarking with other councils, with detailed consultation with Inner West Council and City of Canterbury Bankstown Council.
9. Following the consultation findings, the draft Strategy 2025-2035 incorporates these key changes:
 - (a) Enhanced Stakeholder Mapping: Following the Office of Local Government's "Good, Better, Best" approach, includes comprehensive stakeholder matrices identifying cohorts, specific engagement strategies, and advisory committee showcase
 - (b) Project Engagement Guide: Addresses the identified gap in practical guidance through project categorisation by type and complexity, specific engagement levels and methods for each category, clear timeframes and communication approaches, and integration of both mandated and non-mandated activities
 - (c) Legislative Compliance Updates: Including planning exhibition requirements Council-related Development Application periods, and updates to Part C Category C 'Notification Requirements for Other Local Development'.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. The review was delivered through existing internal resources, with no additional funding required.
11. Public Exhibition and planned engagement will be delivered through existing internal resources.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

12. Strategic Risk 6: Reputation

Community engagement is a central component to many Council matters and is guided by Council's Community Engagement Strategy and Community Engagement Policy. There is a risk to Council's reputation due to perceived inconsistency or perceived lack of civic participation without this strategy providing clear and relevant guidance. The draft Community Engagement Strategy 2025-2035 has been developed to meet Office of Local Government requirements and best engagement practices as established by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) and the engagement framework.

13. Strategic Risk 7: Ineffective Governance

Council must adopt a Community Engagement Strategy in line with Office of Local Government requirements, being based on social justice principles, identify stakeholders, outline engagement methodology and allow sufficient timeframes for engagement. It is also responsible for Councils Community Participation Plan, which must provide timeframes and notification advice for planning and development matters as outlined by the Local Government Act 1993 and Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act). Not having updated and clear strategy guidance exposes Council to not meeting these requirements. The draft Community Engagement Strategy 2025-2035 has been reviewed and developed to meet the Office of Local Government criteria.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

14. Community engagement will include:
 - (a) Georges River Your Say project page, detailing:
 - (i) What is the draft Community Engagement Strategy 2025-2035;
 - (ii) Council's wider engagement framework;

- (iii) Why Council is reviewing the Community Engagement Strategy;
 - (iv) What are the key changes;
 - (v) How to access the document online and in-person; and
 - (vi) How feedback can be submitted to Council.
- (b) Printed copies made available at:
- (i) Georges River Civic Centre, corner of MacMahon and Dora Streets, Hurstville.
 - (ii) Clive James Library and Service Centre, Kogarah Town Square, Belgrave St, Kogarah.
- (c) Survey to understand wider community engagement preferences.
- (d) Communication across Council's digital and print platforms.
- (e) Engagement with Council's Advisory Committees.

FILE REFERENCE

D25/345922

ATTACHMENTSAttachment [1](#) Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2025-2035



Community Engagement Strategy

2025-2035



Acknowledgement of Country

Georges River 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. Council recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as an integral part of the Georges River community and values their social and cultural contributions.

We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who live, work and meet on these lands.

DRAFT





Protecting your privacy

We take privacy very seriously and when you provide us with information about yourself, we will never publish your personal data publicly without your consent.

We will also take all reasonable and appropriate steps to protect the privacy of individuals as required by relevant legislation. We will ensure we use correct collection notices and privacy statements on all online and hard copy consultation materials that capture any identifying personal information. The way information is collected, stored, and used will also comply with the requirements of the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*.

More information on Georges River Council's commitment to privacy can be found here:

<https://www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/Footer/Privacy>

Chúng tôi nói ngôn ngữ của quý vị. Muốn nói chuyện có thông dịch viên miễn phí, hãy gọi số 131 450. Yêu cầu họ gọi cho Hội đồng Georges River qua số 02 9330 6400.

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Introduction

The Georges River Council Community Engagement Strategy sets out our commitment to engage with the community. It establishes guiding principles to ensure community engagement is purposeful, timely, genuine, inclusive, and transparent.

Community engagement plays a vital role in shaping local outcomes and is an important way for us to gather valuable information to assist in better decision making.

Council has developed this strategy to clearly guide how and when we engage with our community.

This strategy has been informed by feedback from a wide range of individuals and groups across the Georges River Local Government Area (LGA). This feedback has provided us with a clear understanding of the community's expectations and the desired level of engagement with Council.

We engage with our community to develop the Community Strategic Plan and in turn use the learnings from that engagement to improve our Community Engagement Strategy.

Reforms to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) require Councils across NSW to prepare Community Participation Plans (CPPs). This Engagement Strategy addresses the requirements set out by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

This document is a publicly accessible document that provides:

Part A - Our engagement approach and framework to guide how and when we engage with our community. It is based on our Social Justice Charter and the community priorities in the Community Strategic Plan. It also considers the requirements of both the *EP&A Act 1979* and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Part B - Our Planning and engagement timeframes, outlines the minimum statutory exhibition periods and timeframes required for plan-making and development applications.

Part C - Notification Plan outlines the notification requirements for different types of development applications.

This strategy is supported by an internal Council Staff engagement toolkit.

Our Responsibility

This document meets Council's legislative requirement under the *Local Government Act 1993* to provide a Community Engagement Strategy and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to prepare a Community Participation Plan. The *Local Government Act* identifies community participation as a guiding principle of local government and stipulates that community engagement should be based on social justice principles. The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* encourages effective engagement with the community to provide meaningful opportunities for participation in planning matters



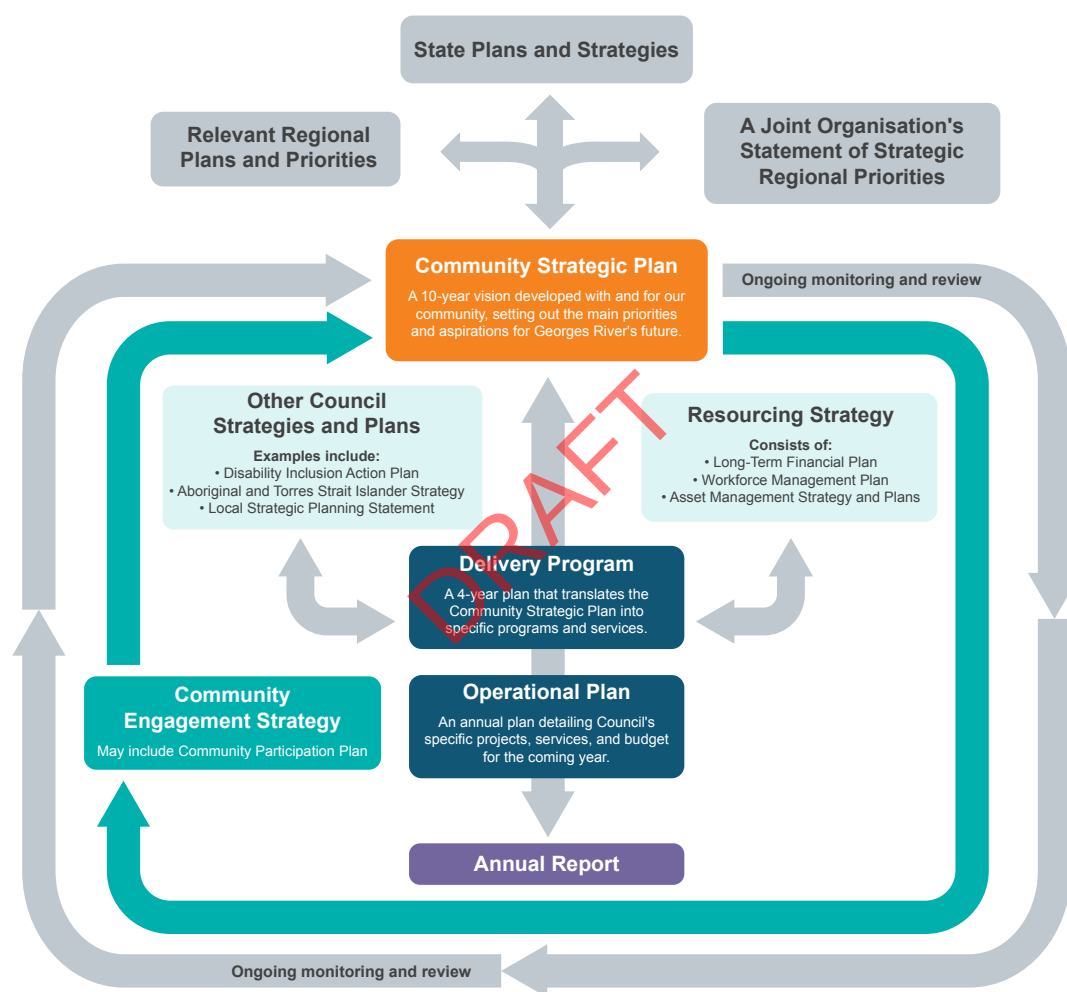
Figure 1 - Community Engagement Requirements

Sources: www.olg.nsw.gov.au, www.iap2.org, www.planning.nsw.gov.au, www.legislation.nsw.gov.au

Understanding Council's Planning Framework

Georges River Council makes decisions through a structured planning framework that connects community vision to daily operations. This Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework ensures community input shapes everything from long-term strategic direction to annual budget priorities.

Figure 1: The integrated Planning and Reporting framework



Community Strategic Plan

A 10-year vision developed with and for our community, setting out the main priorities and aspirations for Georges River's future.

Delivery Program

A 4-year plan that translates the Community Strategic Plan into specific programs and services.

Operational Plan

An annual plan detailing Council's specific projects, services, and budget for the coming year.

Why this matters to you

Every engagement activity we undertake, from local park consultations to major strategic planning, follows the principles and processes outlined in this strategy while fitting within the broader IP&R framework.

This framework means:

- **Your input has impact** - It influences how we allocate resources and prioritise projects
- **Transparency** - You can see how your feedback connects to decisions and spending
- **Accountability** - We report back on how we're delivering against community priorities

State and Regional Context

While we focus on local community needs, our planning also considers:

- NSW State Government priorities and requirements
- Regional strategies and coordination with neighbouring councils
- Legislative requirements that guide local government





PART A

Our engagement approach & framework

Part A outlines our general engagement approach - including project types, engagement methods, and guidelines.

For legal timeframes, see **Part B** (CPP) and **Part C** (Development Application notifications)



How we engage

Who is this strategy for?

This strategy is of interest to all individuals and groups who live, work, study or visit the Georges River Local Government Area (LGA) or are affected by Council's decision-making processes within Georges River.

We actively encourage our community to get involved in community engagement.

What is community engagement

Community engagement is the act of informing, consulting, involving, collaborating, and empowering individuals and groups on relevant topics, issues or decisions that may affect their everyday lives. This might include issues specific to homes, businesses, or neighbourhoods. This may involve sharing information using a variety of channels and seeking community feedback in person or online.

Why is community engagement important?

Community engagement is the foundation to good governance. It allows us to identify and address local ideas, concerns, and opportunities by involving the public in relevant processes that affect them and their community.

Community engagement does not replace the decision-making functions of Council, rather it informs and guides it.

The benefits of community engagement include:

1. **Better project and service delivery outcomes.**
2. **Improve quality of policy being developed.**
3. **Strengthen relationships with individuals and community groups.**
4. **Processes to ensure Council is meeting local needs.**
5. **Opportunities to discuss complex and emerging issues.**
6. **Opportunities for a diversity of voices to be heard.**

Our approach to community engagement

Community engagement is at the heart of everything we do. We believe that involving our community in decisions that affect them leads to better outcomes for everyone. Whether we're planning for the future, designing new facilities, or reviewing policies, your voice matters.

Our engagement approach balances two key elements: meeting our legal responsibilities and going beyond the minimum requirements to ensure meaningful participation.

Understanding our engagement requirements

Statutory Engagement

Some engagement is legislatively required. The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and the Local Government Act 1993 set minimum standards for community participation on certain matters such as:

- Development applications and planning proposals
- Community Strategic Plans and Council strategies
- Land reclassification and Plans of Management
- Budget and fee changes

For these matters, we follow strict legal requirements for notification periods, advertising methods, and submission processes. These requirements are detailed in Parts B and C of this strategy.

Non-Statutory Engagement

Beyond legal requirements, we choose to engage with our community on many other matters. This includes:

- Policy development and service improvements
- Infrastructure and facility upgrades
- Community programs and initiatives
- Strategic planning and visioning

For these matters, we determine the most appropriate level of engagement based on the potential impact on the community and the level of community interest in the topic.

Our Engagement Framework

We use the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) framework as the foundation for our engagement approach. This framework helps us match the right level of engagement to each project, ensuring that community participation is meaningful and purposeful.

	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
What it means	Providing balanced, objective information to help community understand decisions, services, and projects	Seeking community feedback on proposals, policies, and decisions before they are finalised	Working with community throughout the process to ensure concerns and ideas are understood	Partnering with community in developing alternatives and identifying preferred solutions	Placing final decision-making authority in the hands of the community
Our role	Keep you informed with timely, accurate information about matters that affect you	Listen to your concerns and feedback, and consider your input in our decision-making	Actively seek your participation and demonstrate how your input influenced the outcome	Work together to develop solutions that reflect community priorities	Support and implement decisions made by the community through formal processes
Community's role	Receive information and ask questions for clarification	Provide feedback, share concerns, and contribute ideas and suggestions	Participate actively, contribute expertise, and help shape solutions	Share and help develop recommendations	Make the final decision within the defined scope and parameters
Common methods	- Website updates - Social media - Newsletters - Public notices - Information sessions	- Surveys - Written submissions - Your Say platform - Public meetings - Pop-up sessions	- Workshops - Pop-up sessions - Advisory Committees - Information sessions	- Co-design workshops - Advisory Committees - Targeted stakeholders - Pop-up sessions	- People's Choice award - Participatory budget simulations - Voting for your elected officials

Choosing the right level of engagement

We recognise that different projects or matters require different levels of engagement, and we tailor our approach to match the significance and impact of each decision.

We determine the appropriate level of engagement by considering:

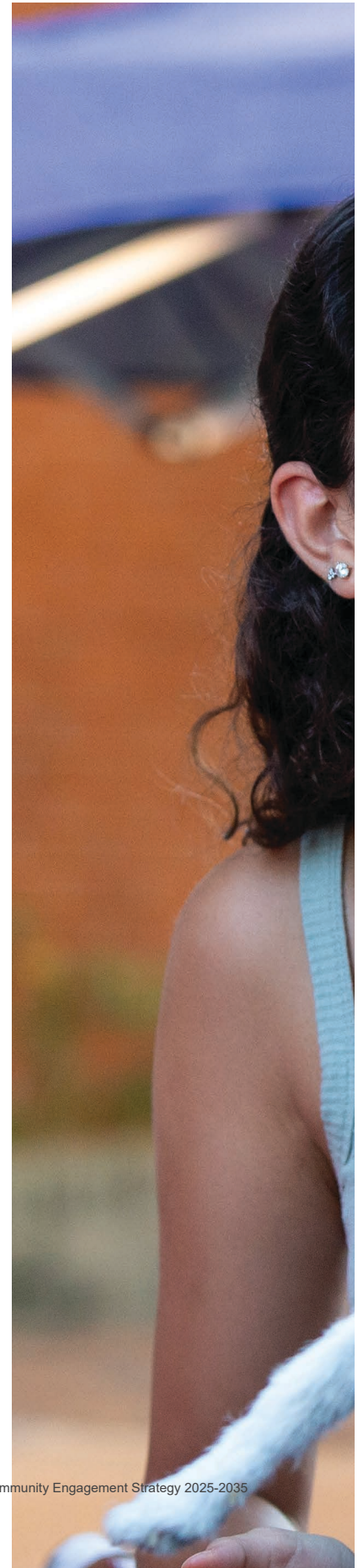
- **Community impact:** How significantly will this decision affect communities' daily lives?
- **Community interest:** How much interest has the community shown in this type of issue?
- **Complexity:** How complex is the decision or technical the subject matter?
- **Resources available:** What time and resources are available for engagement?
- **Decision scope:** What aspects of the decision can genuinely be influenced by community input?

Communication Tools and Channels

We use a variety of communication methods so community can access information and participate in ways that work for them. We select the most appropriate combination of these tools based on the engagement level required, the target audience, and the nature of the project or decision. Our communication tools include both traditional and digital methods.

Digital Channels
Your Say Georges River platform
Council website
Council social media platforms
Online newsletters
Online projects map
Traditional Methods
Direct mail
Flyers, brochures, fact sheets and posters
Newspaper advertisements
Quarterly Community Magazine
Media releases/statements
Onsite signage
Information displays at libraries and customer service centers
Council meeting outcomes
Face-to-Face Engagement
Pop-up information stalls
Community workshops and forums
Advisory Committee meetings
One-one-one appointments
Council events

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Our engagement commitment to you

This strategy is supported by five overarching principles which will guide and inform our approach to all community engagement.

Engagement principles

These principles have been informed by Council's:

- Community vision and values from the Community Strategic Plan;
- Principles of participation, equity, respect and empowerment from the Social Justice Charter;
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy;
- Child Protection Action Plan and Youth Participation Framework;
- Environmental Resilience Action Plan;
- Customer Experience Strategy; and
- Georges River Cultural Strategy;

These principles are:

1. Community engagement is **purposeful**. We will ensure that we know why and who we are engaging so that community engagement is purposeful and meaningful.
2. Community engagement is **timely**. We will engage early and provide various opportunities for the community to comment and provide feedback.
3. Community engagement is **genuine**. We will be clear about your level of influence and state why we are seeking your participation.
4. Community engagement is **inclusive**. We will provide information that is accessible for all.
5. Community engagement is **transparent**. We will update you on how your feedback has helped shape decision-making.



A guide to project engagement

The below table shows our general guidelines for different kinds of projects. Each project will also follow its own detailed engagement plan that considers its unique situation. Specific timeframes for public exhibition and notification of planning matters are set out in Part B and Part C of this Strategy. These are indicated by an Asterisk (*).

Project	Sub-Category and Examples	Engagement Level	
STRATEGIES & POLICIES	Large Strategic Planning Documents <i>Community Strategic Plan, Local Strategic Planning Statement, Master Plans</i>	Consult/Involve/ Collaborate*	
	Corporate Planning <i>IPR Documents (Delivery Program, Operational Plan, Resourcing Strategy), Code of Meeting Practice</i>	As legislatively required*	
	Policy Development <i>Council Policies, Guidelines, Terms of Reference</i>	Consult*	
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT	Planning & Development (EP&A Act) <i>Planning Proposals, Development Control Plans, LEP Amendments, Contribution Plans</i>	As legislatively required*	
	Land Management <i>Plans of Management, Land Reclassification, Property Disposals</i>	Consult/Involve + Public Hearing*	
	Environmental Studies <i>Biodiversity and Foreshore Studies, Environmental Impact Studies</i>	Consult/Involve	
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS	Major Infrastructure <i>Major road projects, Stormwater infrastructure and management, Major community or recreational facility upgrades</i>	Consult/Involve	
	New Infrastructure <i>Construction of new infrastructure - skate park and change of scale playgrounds, Park and Open space Improvements, Streetscape Projects</i>	Consult/Involve	
	Infrastructure Renewal <i>Maintenance & Repairs, Minor Upgrades,, Standard Renewals, Footpath Programs</i>	Inform	
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	Strategic Traffic Studies <i>Parking Studies, Traffic Impact Assessments, Transport Plans, Road Safety Studies</i>	Consult/Involve	
	Traffic Devices & Changes <i>Traffic Calming, Parking Changes, Speed Limits, Traffic Light Installations</i>	Consult	
COMMUNITY SERVICES	Major Service Changes <i>Library or Customer Experience Service changes, Venue or Facility Hire changes</i>	Involve	
	Program Development <i>Community campaigns or initiatives, Terms of Reference</i>	Consult/Involve	
COMMUNITY IMPACT	Campaigns and Strategy Development <i>Plan and strategy development for social cohesion Community safety advocacy, campaigns and programs</i>	Consult/Involve	
ROUTINE OPERATIONS	Routine Operations <i>Scheduled Maintenance, Regular Service Delivery, Standard Operations, Log-it Fix-it</i>	Inform	

Engagement Method Examples		How we may communicate
	Multi-stage consultation • Community workshops • Pop-up sessions • Advisory Committee meetings • Your Say project page • Interactive tools • Submissions • Surveys and feedback forms	Media release • Letterbox drop • Social media • e-Newsletters • Newspaper advertisements • Posters/signage • Libraries/ Customer Experience in person • Rates notice • Website banners
	Early ideas gathering and formal exhibition • Public access to documents • Advisory Committee meetings • Your Say project page • Submissions • Surveys and feedback forms	Media release • Social media • e-Newsletters • Newspaper advertisements • Posters/signage • Libraries/Customer Experience in person • Rates notice • Website banners
	Formal exhibition periods • Public access to documents • Your Say project page • Surveys and feedback forms	Social media • e-Newsletters • Posters/signage • Libraries/ Customer Experience in person • Stakeholder communications
	Statutory exhibition • Public access to documents • Your Say project page • Formal submissions • workshops • Pop-up sessions	Newspaper advertisements • Site notices • Direct property letters • Website publication • Government Gazette (where required)
	Public exhibition • Community consultation • Public hearings • Formal submissions • Stakeholder meetings	Newspaper advertisements • Site notices • Affected property notification • Website publication • Public hearing notices
	Formal exhibition periods • Public access to documents • Your Say project page • Surveys and feedback forms	Media release • Social media • e-Newsletters • Newspaper advertisements • Posters/signage • Libraries/Customer Experience in person • Rates notice • Website banners
	Multi-stage consultation • Community workshops • Pop-ups • One-on-one appointments • Advisory Committee meetings • Your Say project page • Interactive tools • Online project map update	Media release • Letterbox drop • Social media • e-Newsletters • Newspaper advertisements • Posters/signage • Libraries/ Customer Experience in person • Rates notice • Website banners
	Early ideas gathering and consultation • Pop-up sessions • Stakeholder meetings • Your Say project page • Surveys and feedback forms • Online project map update	Media release • Local letterbox drops • Site signage • Social media • e- Newsletters • Newspaper advertisements • Libraries/ Customer Experience in person • Rates notice • Website banners
	Direct notification • Information provision • Progress updates • Completion notices • Online project map update	Local letterbox drops • Site signage • Social media updates • e-Newsletters
	Onsite meetings • Stakeholder meetings • Your Say project page • Interactive tools • Submissions • Surveys and feedback forms • Technical briefings	Affected area letterbox drops • Social media • Stakeholder communications • Media release • Social media • e-Newsletters • Newspaper advertisements
	Community notification • Onsite meetings • Your Say polls • Local Transport Forum	Local letterbox drops • Affected property notifications • Social media • Website updates • Local signage
	Multi-stage consultation • Community workshops • Pop-up sessions • Advisory Committee meetings • Your Say project page • Interactive tools • Submissions • Surveys and feedback forms	Media release • Social media • e-Newsletters • Newspaper advertisements • Posters/signage • Libraries/Customer Experience in person • Rates notice • Website banners
	User surveys • Focus groups • Advisory input • Your Say feedback • Participant workshops	Community networks • Social media • Direct communications • Cultural groups • Program participants
	Multi-stage consultation • Community workshops • Pop-up sessions • Advisory Committee meetings • Your Say project page • targeted CALD and multicultural initiatives • youth and children initiatives • Interactive tools • Submissions • Surveys and feedback forms	Media release • Social media • e-Newsletters • Newspaper advertisements • Posters/signage • Libraries/Customer Experience in person • Rates notice • Website banners
	Standard notifications • Service updates • Progress communications • Completion advice • Real-time updates • Online project map update	Website updates • Social media • Service notifications • Direct communications • Customer service responses



Our Community

Georges River is a diverse community, comprising residents from a range of cultural backgrounds, ages, and abilities.

As the population of Georges River continues to grow and evolve, we will adapt our engagement approach to be responsive to changing demographic and community needs.

The snapshot on the following pages provides an overview of key demographic statistics relevant to this strategy. It also provides a summary of the expected changes in population and households over the next 20 years.

Population

161,593

Estimated in 2024

176,747

In 2036 (projected)

Gender



49.3%

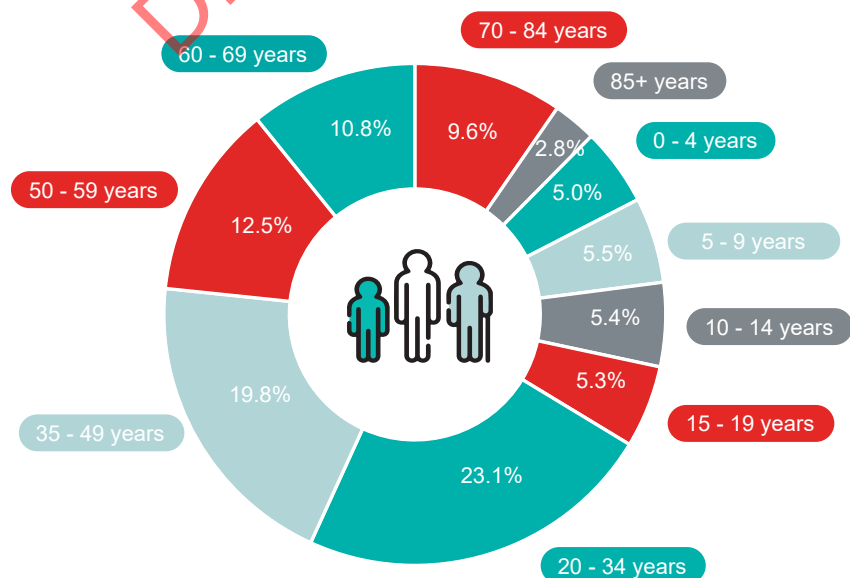
Male



50.7%

Female

Age of Residents

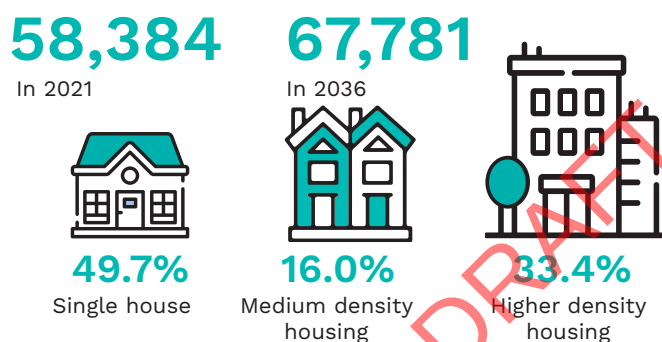


Data sourced from Community Profile.ID using statistics gathered from the 2021 census data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics

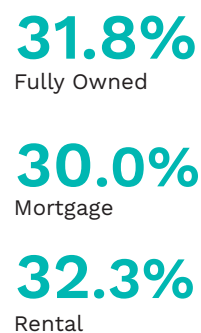
Household Composition



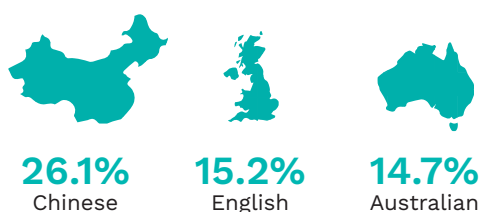
Total number of dwellings



Tenure



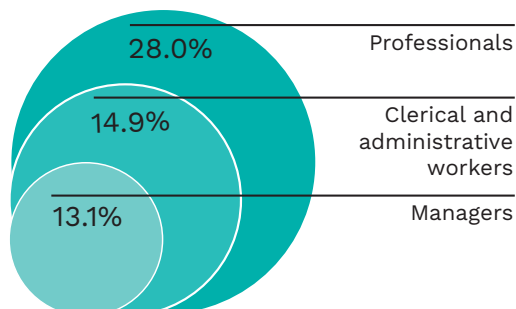
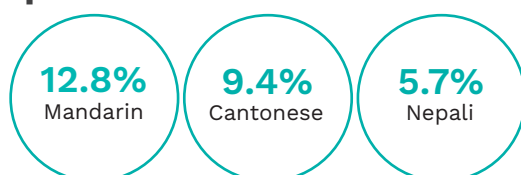
Ancestry



Employment



Languages other than English spoken at home







Our Stakeholders

A stakeholder is any person, group, or organisation that has an interest in what Council does or is affected by Council's decisions and actions.

In simple terms, stakeholders are people who care about what happens in their community or are impacted by the services, projects, and policies that Council develops.

Stakeholders can be: **Groups include:**

People who live in the area

Residents, ratepayers, and families

People who work in the area

Like business owners, employees, and service providers

People who visit the area

Tourists, shoppers, and people using Council facilities

Organisations and groups

Schools, community groups, government agencies, and sporting clubs

- Residents and ratepayers
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Members
- People living with a Disability
- People from CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) Backgrounds
- Seniors
- Young People
- Councillors
- State and Federal Departments and Agencies
- State and Federal Members of Parliament
- Business Community and Industry
- Schools and Education Providers
- Emergency and Essential Services
- Volunteers
- Non-Government Organisations and Community Groups
- Sporting and Special Interest Groups
- Service and Facility Users
- Neighbouring Councils
- Visitors to the area

Working with our diverse community

The following table shows how Council can approach different stakeholder groups and what strategies guide our engagement with them.

Stakeholder	How We Reach These Groups	Guided By
Children, Young People and Families (0-24 years plus families)	- Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) - Council's Early Learning Services - Local schools and TAFE - Local youth services such as 3Bridges Youth Zone through the St George Youth Network inter-agency - Schools and school staff through the SGYN meetings, email, visits - Internal cadetships and work placement - Youth Week (GRYFest) - Children's programming through Libraries and Hurstville Museum & Gallery - Child Safe Champions	- Social Justice Charter - Early Learning Services Strategy - Child Safe Code of Conduct - Child Safe Action Plan - YAC Action Plan - Children and Youth Participation Framework, Child Safe Code of Conduct, Child Safe Action Plan
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities	- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee - Local Aboriginal Land Councils - Cultural events, programs and celebrations - Community organisations and networks	- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy - Social Justice Charter - Create Georges River Cultural Strategy - The Uluru Statement from the Heart
People from CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) Backgrounds	- Multicultural Advisory Committee Community events and multicultural festivals Community organisations and networks - Translated materials	- Social Justice Charter - Create Georges River Cultural Strategy - Better Together anti-racism campaign
People living with a Disability	- Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee • Disability service providers - NDIS provider networks - Disability Interagency Network - St George and Sutherland Shire Dementia Alliance	- Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) - Social Justice Charter - Dementia-Friendly Action Plan
Seniors and older adults	- Seniors Advisory Committee - Seniors Festival and Seniors Week - Community organisations and networks - St George Prevention of Abuse of Older People Collaborative - St George and Sutherland Shire Sector Support and Development - St George and Sutherland Shire Dementia Alliance	- Social Justice Charter - Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) - Dementia-Friendly Action Plan

This list provides a guide to the main stakeholder groups in Georges River. It is not a complete list of every person or group in our community. Some people may belong to one group, some groups, or different groups that are not listed here.

Council's engagement principles will continue to guide how we work with all members of our community, whether they are listed here or not.

Stakeholder	How We Reach These Groups	Guided By
Business and industry	- Economic Leadership Group - Business Chamber South partnership - Committee for Sydney membership - Night Time Industries Association membership - Resilient Sydney membership - Economic Development Australia membership - Economic Society Australia membership - Small Business Month - Business Unite	- Economic Development Strategy (draft) - Economic Development Action Plan (draft) - Night Time Economy Study - Advocacy Register - Events and Festival Charter and Guidelines - Community Strategic Plan
Residents, ratepayers and property stakeholders	- Rates notices - Property owner consultations - Development notifications - Your Say Georges River - Letterbox drops - Community eNews - Community Magazine - Social Media - Council and Committee meetings - Public Forums - Council stall at Major events	- Community Strategic Plan - Customer Experience Strategy - Customer Experience Charter - Social Media Policy and Community Guidelines
Environmental, Advocacy and Special Interest Groups	- Georges Riverkeeper - Bushcare volunteering - Historical Societies - Local Progress Associations - Organisations and community groups - Heritage Advisors	- Environmental Resilience Action Plan - Community Strategic Plan
LGBTQIA+ community	- ADS LGBTQIA+ Working Group - Pride Book Club - Community organisations and networks	- Social Justice Charter - Community Strategic Plan
Sports and Recreation	- Local sporting groups and clubs - Sports Advisory Committee - At our venues and facilities	- Community Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Acquisition Area Strategy - Create Georges River Cultural Strategy - Community Strategic Plan
NSW State Government and Australian Government Departments and Agencies	- Local Transport Forum - Floodplain Risk Management Committee - Federal and State funding applications - Office of Local Government	- Community Strategic Plan - Delivery Program and Operational Plan

About our advisory committees

Georges River Council's Advisory Committees provide valuable community input into Council's decision-making processes. These committees comprise community members with lived experience and expertise who meet regularly to advise on policies, programs, and services.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee

Members: Up to 12

Frequency: Monthly meetings

Maximum Term: 4 years (2-year terms, renewable once)

New Term: January 2026

Purpose/Description:

- Provides vital link between Council and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community
- Respects community rights to self-determination and empowerment
- Advises on culturally appropriate policies and programs

Focus Areas:

- Develop Cultural Protocols Guide for Council operations
- Capture and share local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories through engaging formats
- Celebrate locally relevant dates of significance in partnership with neighbouring Councils
- Capture oral history

Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee

Members: Up to 10

Frequency: Quarterly meetings

Maximum Term: 2 years

New Term: January 2026

Purpose/Description:

- Provides feedback and advice on policies, plans and services
- Supports people with disability in Georges River community
- Ensures accessibility considerations in Council decision-making

Focus Areas:

- Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) implementation
- International Day of People with Disability coordination
- Improving accessibility across Georges River area



Multicultural Advisory Committee

Members: Up to 10

Frequency: Quarterly meetings

Maximum Term: 2 years

New Term: January 2026

Purpose/Description:

- Provides feedback and advice on policies, plans and services
- Supports multicultural communities in Georges River
- Promotes cultural diversity and inclusion initiatives

Focus Areas:

- Better Together anti-racism campaign development
- Improving access to information in community languages
- Multicultural community events and celebrations

Seniors Advisory Committee

Members: Up to 15

Frequency: Quarterly meetings

Maximum Term: 2 years (no more than two consecutive terms)

New Term: August 2025

Purpose/Description:

- Advisory body comprising seniors and senior representatives
- Represents interests of seniors in Georges River LGA
- Advises on age-friendly policies and services

Focus Areas:

- Addressing social isolation among seniors
- Information and awareness of support services and initiatives
- Seniors Festival and Seniors Expo coordination

Youth Advisory Committee

Members: Up to 15

Frequency: Quarterly meetings

Maximum Term: 2 years (renewable if still eligible)

New Term: Ongoing recruitment

Purpose/Description:

- Advisory body for young people aged 12-24 years
- Provides platform for youth voice in Council decisions
- Leads youth-oriented events and advocacy initiatives

Focus Areas:

- GRYFest annual event coordination
- Youth mental health and wellbeing programs
- Community engagement and civic leadership development

Sports Advisory Committee

Members: Up to 15

Frequency: Quarterly meetings (Thursdays)

Maximum Term: 1 years (renewable)

New Term: Annual recruitment

Purpose/Description:

- Views of local sporting bodies
- Advises on sporting matters
- Disseminates information from Council to clubs

Focus Areas:

- Dissemination and discussion of Council strategies affecting sport
- Advocacy for community sporting needs
- Cross-code collaboration to optimise facility use

All Advisory Committee members are appointed through Expression of Interest processes. Meeting schedules may be adjusted based on Council business needs and community priorities.

The feedback loop

An important part of community participation is demonstrating and reporting back on how feedback has been incorporated into the final decision or outcome. Closing the loop is important in maintaining an open and transparent engagement process.

We will ensure the community understands how their input was considered and the reasons for the final decision. We will also inform the community of the expected timeframes for providing feedback.



INFORM

When providing you with information, we will:

- provide details on how you can get in touch with Council if you have any further questions.
- respond to any questions in a timely manner.



CONSULT

When consulting with you, we will:

- provide a summary of the outcomes to demonstrate how your feedback has informed the outcome and decision-making process.
- acknowledge input and explain outcome



INVOLVE

When involving you, we will:

- provide a summary of the outcomes to demonstrate how your feedback has informed the outcome and decision-making process.
- celebrate contribution and outline how the insights shaped the outcome and the next steps.



COLLABORATE

When collaborating with you, we will:

- work with you to identify and summarise the outcomes of collaboration, and in the development of some recommendations.
- explain how the outcomes will be considered as part of the decision-making process.
- reflect on joint process, outline shared collaboration.



EMPOWER

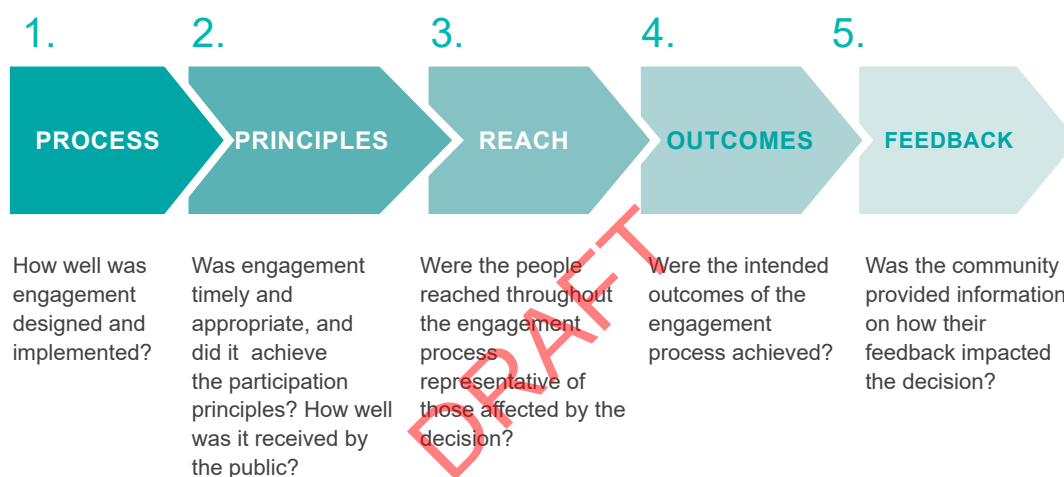
When you are empowered, you will:

- identify and summarise the outcomes of the process and make final decisions.
- reinforce the autonomy / trust, offer support and celebrate your ownership.

Monitoring and evaluation

This strategy has been informed by evidence- based best practice as well as a review of current organisational practices and will be reviewed periodically to evaluate our community engagement activities and improve our practice.

The following approach is used to evaluate our community engagement activities.





PART B

Planning and engagement time frames

(CPP Requirements)



What is a Community Participation Plan?

A **Community Participation Plan (CPP)** sets out how and when Council will engage with the community on planning matters.

It is a legislative requirement under the **Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979** (EP&A Act) and **Local Government Act 1993** that provides clarity and consistency for community participation in Council's planning functions.

It explains what **public exhibition** means, who can make submissions, and how the holiday exclusion between **20 December** and **10 January** applies.

For project engagement methods and guidelines, see **Part A**. For **notification requirements for development applications**, see **Part C**.

What is Public Exhibition?

Public exhibition is when Council puts draft documents, plans, policies, or proposals out for everyone to see and comment on for a set time. During this time, you can:

- Look at all the documents
- Understand what changes are taking place
- Write to Council with your views
- Go to information sessions or workshops if they're available

Public exhibition makes sure Council's decision-making is open and gives everyone a chance to have their say before final decisions are made.

Exceptions to timeframe guidelines

Time between **20 December** and **10 January** (inclusive) doesn't count toward exhibition periods. This makes sure people have an opportunity to participate when they're not on holidays.

Council also thinks about important cultural celebrations, school holidays, and major local events when planning when to ask for community input.

Other instances where timeframes may change

While we set minimum timeframes, Council can:

- Give longer exhibition periods for complex or controversial matters
- Provide multiple chances to have your say on significant projects
- Change timeframes based on community needs and how complex the project is

Submissions

Anyone can make a submission during a public exhibition period, regardless of whether they were formally notified. This includes:

- Residents and property owners within the area
- Businesses and community organisations
- People who work, study, or visit the area
- Advocacy groups and special interest organisations
- Other government agencies and councils

How to make a submission

We will include instructions on how to make a submission when we exhibit plans. These channels include:

Online submissions

- Submit through Your Say Georges River

Written submissions

- Send your submission via email to mail@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au
- Via post, addressed to the General Manager, Georges River Council, PO Box 205, Hurstville BC NSW 1481

When you make a submission, personal details are not published in public reports. Submissions may be made public under the Government Information (Public Access) Act. Along with submissions during the public exhibition period, we also consider:

- Technical assessments by qualified planning professionals
- Environmental impact studies and specialist reports
- Government agency advice from relevant departments
- Planning legislation and policy requirements
- Strategic planning objectives and community goals

Important

If you make a submission and have made political donations, a Political Donations and Gifts Disclosure Statement must be completed. A form is available on Council's website: www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/Development/Development-Applications/Disclosing-Political-Gifts-and-Donations

Engagement timeframes for plan-making

The mandatory community participation requirements are outlined in the table below. These requirements reflect the minimum public exhibition periods for plan making as specified in Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Type of plan	Description	Exhibition requirements	Engagement framework
Draft Community Participation Plans	Sets out how Council will engage with their communities across their statutory planning functions.	28 days Please refer to Schedule 1 of the EP&A Act.	● ● ●
Draft Local Strategic Planning Statements	Sets out Council's 20-year vision for land- use and the special character and values that are to be preserved and how change will be managed into the future.	28 days Please refer to Schedule 1 of the EP&A Act.	● ● ● ●
Draft Development Control Plans	A Development Control Plan (DCP) provides planning and design guidelines to support the planning controls in the Local Environmental Plan.	28 days Please refer to Schedule 1 of the EP&A Act.	● ● ●
Draft Contribution Plans	A contribution plan outlines how Council will collect contributions of money, land or both from developers to provide for local infrastructure needed by the relevant development.	28 days Please refer to Schedule 1 of the EP&A Act.	● ● ●
Planning Proposals for Local Environmental Plans subject to a report to the Georges River Local Planning Panel (GRLPP)	Planning Proposals are referred to the Georges River Local Planning Panel prior to Council reporting in accordance with Directions from the Minister for Planning.	The Planning Proposal will be referred at to the Georges River Local Planning for advice before Council considers whether or not to forward it to the Minister for Planning for a Gateway Determination. Please refer to s3.34 and s9.1 of the EP&A Act.	●
Planning Proposals for Local Environmental Plans Subject to Gateway Determination	A Planning Proposal is the first step in preparing a Local Environmental Plan (LEP), which outlines the designated land use and development controls.	28 days unless specified differently in the Gateway Please refer to Schedule 1 of the EP&A Act.	● ● ●

KEY Inform ● Consult ● Involve ● Collaborate ●

Engagement timeframes for Development Applications and other matters

The mandatory community participation requirements are outlined in the table below. These requirements reflect the minimum public exhibition for Development Applications and other matters as specified in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Please refer to Schedule 1, Division 3 for other provisions relating to public exhibition or mandatory notification requirements for applications and Division 4 for mandatory notification requirements for applications and decisions.

Further details about specific notification requirements for certain types of Development Applications are contained in Part C.

Type of plan	Description	Exhibition requirements	Engagement framework
Application for development consent (other than for complying development certificate, for designated development or for State significant development)	A Development Application (DA) is a formal request for consent from Council to carry out a proposed development.	14 days or: a. if a different period of public exhibition is specified for the application in the relevant community participation plan—the period so specified, or b. if the relevant community participation plan specifies that no public exhibition is required for the application—no public exhibition. Refer to Part C.	  
Application for development consent for designated development	Designated Development refers to developments that are high-impact developments (e.g. likely to generate pollution) or are located in or near an environmentally sensitive area (e.g. a wetland).	28 days	  
Application for integrated development	Development requiring both development consent and one or more State agency approvals, permits, and/or licenses	28 days	  
Application for other advertised development	Integrated development requiring approvals under Heritage Act 1977, Water Management Act 2000, or Protection of Environment Operations Act 1997	30 days	  

KEY  Inform  Consult  Involve  Collaborate

Type of plan	Description	Exhibition requirements	Engagement framework
Application for development consent for State significant development	State significant development is development that is declared under Division 4.7 of the EP&A Act	28 days	  
Application for modification of development consent that is required to be publicly exhibited by the regulations	An application to modify a development consent is made under Section 4.55 of the EP&A Act. Section 4.55 refers to the part of the Act that allows a development consent to be modified, as long as the development is substantially the same.	The period (if any) determined by the consent authority in accordance with the relevant community participation plan. Refer to Part C.	  
Application for Council Related Development Application	A Council-related Development Application is a development application for which the Council is the consent authority (whether lodged by or on behalf of Council) or the landowner, lessee, licensee, or has a commercial interest in the land that is the subject of the application.	All council-related development applications will be publicly exhibited for a minimum of 28 days. If a management strategy for the proposal is required, it will be publicly exhibited with the application and will remain publicly available on the NSW Planning Portal and Council's website.	  
Environmental impact statement obtained under Division 5.1	An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a publicly available document that provides information on a project, including its environmental impacts and mitigation measures, and is used to inform development consent decisions.	28 days.	  
Environmental impact statement for State significant infrastructure under Division 5.2	As above, relating specifically to State significant infrastructure.	28 days.	  
Re-exhibition of any amended application or matter referred to above required by or under this Schedule	A Development Application (of any type) that is required to be re- exhibited.	The period (if any) determined by the person or body responsible for publicly exhibiting the application or matter. Refer to Part C.	  

KEY  Inform  Consult  Involve  Collaborate

Engagement timeframes under the Local Government Act 1993

Type of Plan	Description	Exhibit Timeframe	Engagement Framework
Community Strategic Plan	10-year community vision and outcomes	28 days	  
Delivery Program	Operational actions to implement the Strategic Plan	28 days	 
Operational Plan	Annual budget and activities aligned to Delivery Program	28 days	 
Resourcing Strategy	Workforce, asset and financial planning	28 days	 
Code of Meeting Practices	Rules for Council meetings	42 days	 
Fees & Charges	Fees & Charges	28 days	 
Councillor Expenses & Facilities	Policy on Councillor allowances and facilities	28 days	 
Plans of Management	Management frameworks for community-classified land	42 days	 
Reclassification of Community Land	Change classification of public land	28 Days + public hearing	 





PART C

Notification plan



Neighbour Notification and Advertising of Development Applications

Aims

The primary aims of Part C are to:

- Enable public participation in the consideration of Development Applications.
- Provide a process for property owners and residents to make submissions.
- Provide a process when notification is required.
- Set out the matters Council will consider when forming its opinion as to whether or not the enjoyment of adjoining and neighbouring land may be detrimentally affected by a development after its completion.
- Ensure notification of landholders who may be affected by a Development Application even though they do not own adjoining land.
- Define the circumstances when notification is not required.

Land to which this part applies

This applies to all land within the Georges River Council to which the *Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021* and *Hurstville Local Environmental Plan 1994* apply, (with certain exceptions as outlined in this Part) for the notification of applications for:

Development consent (other than designated and State significant development).

Modification of development consents under Section 4.55 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

Review of determination under Division 8.2 and Section 8.9 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

Persons to be notified and applications to be advertised

The category listings below differentiate the following:

Category A

Development Applications which will not be notified

Category B

Notification requirements for Minor Development

Category C

Notification requirements for other Local Development

Category D

Development Applications requiring advertising

Category A

Applications which will not be notified

(a) The following types of development will not be notified:

- The proposed development is classified as exempt or complying development under *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008*;
- Applications for strata, stratum or company title subdivision; and
- Applications for works in drainage easements (i.e. pipe laying).

(b) In addition to those land uses listed in (a) above, the following types of development (Development Types / Land Uses) in Table 1 are excluded from notification subject to meeting the Criteria listed in Table 1.

- A letter will be forwarded to adjoining property owners advising that a Category A Development Application has been received and determined for development types such as single storey secondary dwellings and new dwelling houses.
- Letters will not be forwarded to adjoining property owners for development types such as minor structures and internal alterations to any building.

Note: All potential impacts of the development will be assessed by Council officers in relation to the relevant DCP and LEP. Developments which are fully compliant or only feature a negligible non-compliance are unlikely to generate an adverse impact.



Table 1: Development / Land Uses where Notification / Advertising will not be required

Development / Land Uses	Criteria
Demolition of buildings	Subject to the building not being: - a State listed heritage item; or - a heritage item in Schedule 5 of the <i>Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021</i>; or - a building in a heritage conservation area.
Torrens Title Subdivision or Consolidation	Subject to the application not creating a new lot, except in the case of subdivision of an existing dual occupancy development.
Applications to modify a consent under S4.55(1) of the <i>Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979</i> (EP&A Act)	Where the application will not significantly alter the intensity or likely adverse impact of the proposed development.
Applications for new signage	Subject to the signage not being: - illuminated; and - located in a residential zone.
Change of use	Subject to the change of use: - not being in a residential zone; and - not relying on the provisions of Division 4.11 – Existing Uses of the EP&A Act; and - not being for any of the following land uses: - Pub - Sex services premises - Registered club - Centre-based child care facility - Restricted premises - Funeral home - Place of public worship - and - the proposed operating hours of the business are between 6:00am – 10:00pm.
New secondary dwellings	Subject to: - full compliance with the relevant DCP or LEP; and - not exceeding a maximum height of building of 4.5m. Note: Council may consider notification of new secondary dwelling developments where the proposal is deemed to adversely impact the amenity of adjoining properties.
Additions to dwelling houses	Subject to the additions being single storey and complying fully with the setback requirements in the relevant DCP.

Development / Land Uses	Criteria
New single storey dwelling houses and single storey alterations and additions to dwellings	Subject to: - The subject property not being situated within: - the Foreshore Scenic Protection Area (FSPA) of the <i>Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021</i>; or - the foreshore locality identified in Part 6.5 – Foreshore Locality Controls of the <i>Georges River DCP 2021</i>; - and - full compliance with the maximum height and FSR in the relevant LEP; and - full compliance with the relevant DCP.
Outbuildings, swimming pools, landscape works and ancillary structures (e.g. awnings, cabanas, sheds, detached garages, carports, retaining walls, decks)	Subject to: - the use being in a residential zone and associated with a residential use; and - full compliance with the relevant DCP; and - not exceeding a maximum height of building of 4.5m; and - pool coping levels of no greater than 500mm measured at any point from natural ground level.
Home business or Home occupation	Subject to the proposed use being contained in a dwelling or in a building ancillary to a dwelling and complies with the definition under the relevant LEP.
Minor structures in public reserves (e.g. amenities block)	Only where the proposal has a minimal impact on any adjoining residential development.
Alterations to industrial or commercial premises	Subject to the proposed development having minimal impact on any adjoining residential development and the proposal complies fully with car parking requirements under the relevant DCP or other policy.
Internal alterations to any building	Subject to the development not significantly altering the intensity or likely adverse impact of the proposal.
Other minor Development Applications	Subject to there being minimal impact on any adjoining residential development.
Applications for review under Division 8.2 and Section 8.9 of the EP&A Act	Where there are no significant amendments to the plans or significant new information has been submitted.

Note: For new single storey dwelling houses and single storey alterations and additions to dwellings any non-compliance with the relevant DCP will re-categorise the DA to a Category B (Notification Requirements for Minor Local Development) Development Application.

Category B

Notification Requirements for Minor Local Development

- a. The following notification is required for Development Applications defined as minor local development as listed below:
 - i. New dwellings in the Foreshore Scenic Protection Area (FSPA) of the *Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021*; or the foreshore locality identified in Part 6.5–Foreshore Locality Controls of the *Georges River DCP 2021*;
 - ii. New dual occupancies (attached or detached);
 - iii. New secondary dwellings (granny flats) and outbuildings greater than 4.5m height;
 - iv. New two storey dwelling houses and two storey alterations and additions to dwellings;
 - v. New semi-detached dwellings, or new small lot housing;
 - vi. New Torrens Title subdivisions (excluding subdivision of approved dual occupancy developments); and
 - vii. Any other development that Council considers should be notified.
- b. A written notice will be forwarded to the owners and occupiers of land on either side of the proposal, the property at the rear and one (1) property on either side of the rear and three (3) properties generally opposite (across any road, except for a classified road e.g. Princes Highway, King Georges Road). Refer to **Figure 1**.

- c. The owners and occupiers of other neighbouring land and other strata units of the subject site may be notified if in the opinion of Council, the proposed development is likely to result in an adverse impact for those owners or occupiers.
- d. In the case of Strata Titled properties, a notice will be forwarded to the Owners Corporation, or an Association (under the *Community Land Development Act 1989*), as well as the owners and occupiers of each strata unit.

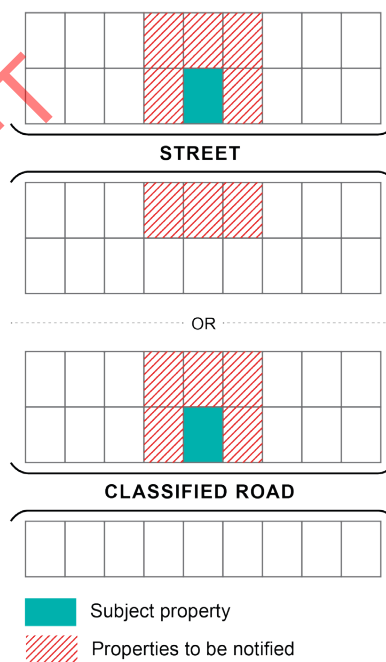


Figure 1: Category B Notification Requirements

Category C

Notification Requirements for Other Local Development

For other development not listed in Category B, notification requirements are defined in and subject to Notification Set One and Notification Set Two.

Notification Set One

Notification requirements for the following developments are indicated as follows:

Development Type
New attached dwellings
New multi-unit housing
New residential flat buildings
New mixed use premises and shop top housing
New seniors housing developments
Tourist and visitor accommodation
New buildings in a Business or Light Industrial Zone
Affordable rental housing and boarding
Council-Related Development Applications

- A written notice will be forwarded to the owners and occupiers of land located two (2) properties on either side of the proposal, the property at the rear and one (1) property on either side of the rear and three (3) properties generally opposite (across any road). Refer to **Figure 2**.
- The owners and occupiers of other neighbouring land and other strata units of the subject site may be notified who, in the opinion of Council, may be impacted by the proposal.

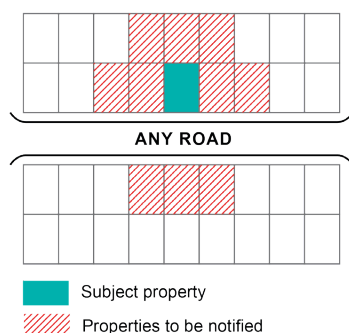


Figure 2: Category C **Set 1** Notification Requirements

Notification Set Two

Notification requirements for the following developments are indicated as follows:

Development Type
Pub
Registered Club
Centre-based child care facilities;
Restricted Premises
Funeral Home
Place of Public Worship

- A written notice will be forwarded to the owners and occupiers of the properties within a **75 metre** radius measured from the boundary of the development application site. Refer to **Figure 3**.



Figure 3: Category C **Set 2** Notification Requirements

Category D

Development Applications Requiring Advertising

- a. The following Development Applications will be advertised:
 - i. Demolition and/or alteration of a building or land that is or contains a heritage item or is a building in a Heritage Conservation Area listed in Schedule 5 of the *Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021*;
 - ii. New hospitals or major works to existing hospitals;
 - iii. New educational establishments or major works to existing educational establishments;
 - iv. New places of public worship or intensification of existing places of public worship;
 - v. New seniors housing developments, or major works to senior housing developments, and group homes;
 - vi. New pubs and registered clubs or major intensification of existing pubs and clubs; and
 - vii. Any development required to be advertised under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act*, Regulations or any other Environmental Planning instrument.
- b. All applications requiring advertising will also be subject to the notification requirements as outlined in **Category C** above.
- c. A notice will be placed in a local paper (the St George and/or Sutherland Shire Leader) and will provide the address of the application and a brief description of the application.
- d. Due to the sometimes protracted period of time required to schedule advertisements in newspapers and to avoid delays, the notice is for information purposes only and will not offer a 14 day period for submissions. Notification will still be undertaken to affected neighbours in accordance with this Community Engagement Strategy.
- e. The notice will advise citizens to visit Council's website or administration centre to view the application. Where legislation requires particular proposals to be advertised in a newspaper in a specific manner, the requirements of the relevant legislation will be followed instead of this Strategy.



General requirements for all categories

Site Notice and Site Sign

- a. A site notice / site sign will only be placed on sites for new dual occupancy and new semi-detached dwelling developments in **Category B**, and all developments in **Category C** and **Category D**.
- b. The notice must be erected by Council on the land to which the Development Application relates.
- c. The notice must contain:
 - i. Lettering which is clear, legible and able to be read from a public road, public place or public reserve;
 - ii. A statement that the application has been lodged;
 - iii. The name of the applicant;
 - iv. A brief description of the Development Application;
 - v. The dates the Development Application is on notification;
 - vi. A statement specifying that any person may make a submission in writing to Council in relation to the Development Application;
 - vii. A statement outlining that any submissions are available for viewing by the applicant or any other person with a relevant interest in the application; and
 - viii. Directions to Council's webpage and specifically to online tracking.

Section 4.55 Modifications

Where Council receives an application under Section 4.55 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to modify a development consent where the proposed modification would have more than a minor increased impact on any neighbouring property, Council will notify:

- The owners of land and any other person who has previously lodged a submission to the original or previous application to which the S4.55 application relates; and
- Any other owners of land, who, in the opinion of Council, may be impacted by the proposal and any amendments or variations to that application.

Notification Period for Development Applications

- a. A period of 14 calendar days, excluding public holidays, will be allowed for persons to inspect an application and make a submission. The inspection period may be extended by Council if warranted by the circumstances of the case.
- b. In the case of nominated integrated development or threatened species development, any period specified by the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2021*.
- c. To account for the holiday period associated with Christmas and New Year, from 15 December to 15 January the following year, the period to inspect an application and make a submission will be extended to 21 calendar days, excluding public holidays.

- d. Applications for places of public worship along with development considered to be contentious by the Director (such as child care, seniors living, school facilities and other development proposals) that are received between the 15 November and 2 January are to be notified as soon as possible and the exhibition period to be extended for a minimum 28 days after 15 January.
- e. To account for the holiday period associated with Easter, the period to inspect an application and make a submission will be extended to 21 calendar days, excluding public holidays. The holiday period for Easter is defined as the week before and the week after the Easter Long Weekend.
- f. An additional period of 7 calendar days, excluding public holidays, will be granted for persons to inspect and make a submission on an application for a development type subject to Notification Requirements Set 2 in Part C Category C of this document. This extension is applied in addition to the timeframes outlined in (a), (c) and (e) above.
- g. Council will not determine a Development Application before the notification period has expired.
- h. Development Applications that have been notified are available to view on Council's website: georgesriver.nsw.gov.au
- i. Development Applications may also be inspected electronically at Council from Monday to Friday during business hours and submissions can be made by any one during the notification period.
- b. A copy of the notification plan and/or copies of other parts of the application plans (as permitted by copyright laws) can be obtained by any person under the provisions of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.
- c. Any person, whether or not they were notified of a development may make a submission to an application.
- d. Council will consider all submissions, but not take into account matters extraneous to those prescribed within the DCP, other policies of Council, or the relevant Acts and Regulations. Personal disputes between neighbours will not be considered.
- e. Where a submission in the form of a petition is received, the petition should specify the details of the contact person to whom all correspondence must be addressed. A letter or email sent to that contact person is taken to be a letter to all signatories on that petition.
- f. Council will not acknowledge the receipt of submissions, but will notify all submitters of any Local Planning Panel or Council meeting. All persons who made submissions (and head petitioners) will be advised in writing of Council's or the Panel's decision after the application is determined.

Amendments prior to determination

Where Council receives amended plans prior to determination, Council:

- a. Will re-notify the application if, in the opinion of the Council officer, the amendments are considered to result in significant additional environmental impacts.
- b. Will reduce the notification period if, in the opinion of the Council officer, all persons affected by the change(s) have been given an opportunity to make a submission.
- c. May limit the extent of the notification to those persons who, in the opinion of the Council officer, may be affected.

Who can inspect plans and make a submission?

- a. Any person, whether or not entitled to be given formal notice under the provisions of this Plan, may at any time during the notification period, inspect free of charge, the details or plans of a Development Application.

Class 1 development appeals in the Land and Environment Court

Provisions for notification of amended plans in Class 1 development appeals in the Land and Environment Court:

- a. In Class 1 development appeals the Court, rather than Council, is the consent authority.
- b. If amended plans are submitted as part of a confidential conciliation conference and the Council's experts consider that they adequately address Council's concerns and can be approved, the amended plans will not be re-notified. This is because the resident objectors are not a party to the proceedings and the experts, in making their assessment, will have regard to the matters for consideration specified in Section 4.15 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, including any submissions made.
- c. If the applicant is granted leave by the Court to rely on amended plans during the course of an appeal, the amended plans will be re-notified by Council if required under this Community Engagement Strategy to the extent that the Court, in its discretion, determines that re-notification takes place.

Notes:

- Amended plans submitted during the course of proceedings will often not require notification under the Community Engagement Strategy because the amended development will result in no significant additional environmental impacts.

- The Court's Conciliation Conference Policy and Site Inspection Policy both provide that Council should ensure that:

"People who made submissions to the Council have a full understanding of the proposal (including recent amendments) so that any concerns expressed on-site are relevant".



Georges River 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. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who live, work and meet on these lands.

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**Language
Assistance**

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Item: COM052-25 Hurstville Library Temporary Closure

Author: Manager, Cultural Engagement and Library Services

Directorate: Community and Culture

Matter Type: Committee Reports

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive and note the planned delivery of alternative library services and community engagement initiatives during the temporary closure of Hurstville Library from 1 December 2025 to 14 February 2026, ensuring continued access to priority services for community members throughout the upgrade period.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Hurstville Library will be temporarily closed from 1 December 2025 to 13 February 2026 to facilitate essential fire system improvements. The closure period has been strategically scheduled to minimise disruption, aligning with the end of the HSC period, the summer school holidays, and Council's annual shutdown. Due to the nature of the works, public access to the library will not be possible during this time.
2. To ensure continued access to priority library services, Council will deliver a range of alternative service points in the Hurstville area, with consideration for vulnerable community members and those who rely on library resources for learning, connection, and digital access. These include a Pop-Up Library at the Georges River Civic Centre, scheduled programs at the Blackshaw Gould Community Pavilion, and Summer Club activities at Westfield Hurstville.
3. A targeted communication plan will inform the community before, during, and after the closure, culminating in a celebratory reopening on Library Lovers Day on 14 February 2026, which will feature a new public artwork at the library entrance as well as drop-in activities across the day to showcase library collections and creative learning opportunities.

BACKGROUND

4. The public areas and staff workroom of Hurstville Library occupy the Council-owned Lot 4 in Strata Plan SP64498. A schedule of building-wide works to implement essential fire system improvements, including the installation of a sprinkler system in each of the strata lots, is currently being undertaken by a specialist contractor appointed by the strata Building Management Committee (BMC).
5. The estimated time required for work in the public library space is eleven weeks, which includes additional time for contingencies. Due to the disruptive nature of the building works, the library is required to close to ensure there is no risk to the public. The contractor will require full access to the space to work safely with bulky materials and to protect the library collections as they go.
6. The compulsory works have been strategically scheduled across an eleven-week period from 1 December 2025 to 14 February 2026 to minimise community impact. The identified timeline is after the busy HSC period and is aligned with the long school holiday break between terms as well as the designated Council shut down period.
7. During the temporary closure of Hurstville Library, a range of alternative library service delivery points will be established in the Hurstville area to ensure continued access

to priority services. These temporary activations are designed to maintain service continuity and minimise disruption during the upgrade period by fostering community connection, learning, and inclusion, particularly for vulnerable residents, students, and those without access to digital resources at home. Services will also continue at Council's four other libraries at Kogarah, Oatley, Penshurst and South Hurstville, and online through the library's digital collection. The alternative library service delivery points in the Hurstville area are as follows:

- Pop-Up Library at Georges River Council Civic Centre;
- Scheduled Library Programs at Blackshaw Gould Community Pavilion; and
- Summer Club Programs at Westfield Hurstville.

Pop-Up Library in Georges River Civic Centre

8. A temporary Pop-Up Library will be established in the Customer Service area of the Georges River Council Civic Centre, located at the corner of MacMahon and Dora Streets, Hurstville. This temporary service point is designed to maintain access to key resources and support regular library use while upgrade works are underway. This service will operate during the same opening hours as Hurstville Library and will offer a convenient access point for the community during the closure period. Customers will be able to speak with library staff, collect reservations, borrow from a limited range of collections, and access essential digital services including public computers, Wi-Fi, printing, copying, and scanning.
9. The available collection at the Pop-Up Library will focus on high-demand and accessible items, including:
 - Popular new releases and recently returned titles;
 - Quick reads;
 - Newspapers;
 - Children's books; and
 - DVDs.

Scheduled Programs at Blackshaw Gould Pavilion

10. The scheduled term-based programs as well as the school holiday activities that would ordinarily occur at Hurstville Library will be presented at the nearby Blackshaw Gould Community Pavilion at the corner of Dora and Gordon Streets, in the Hurstville Oval precinct. The range of programs, workshops and activities to provide learning, support creativity and social connection for various age groups. These programs aim to maintain community engagement and provide meaningful opportunities for participation during the library's temporary closure. Activities include:
 - Children's Rhymetimes;
 - Youth Zone workshops and creative workshops for adults, teaching creative media skills including music, podcasting and photography;
 - English conversation classes;
 - Boomerang bag making;
 - Board game and video game sessions; and
 - STEM programs for children including science and plant-based activities.

Occasional Summer Club Programs at Westfield Hurstville

11. Georges River Libraries will join the entertainment program schedule at Westfield Hurstville's Summer Club, located in the rooftop dining area during December 2025 and January 2026. These appearances will provide a valuable opportunity to engage with young people and families during the school holidays as well as reach new audiences in the popular food and entertainment precinct. These activations will include:
- Children's storytimes and craft sessions on 11 and 18 December 2025
 - Youth summer reading sessions on 8 and 15 January 2026

Scheduled Reopening of Hurstville Library

12. Hurstville Library is scheduled to reopen on Library Lovers Day, Saturday 14 February 2026. The reopening celebration will feature the unveiling of new public artwork at the library entrance as well as drop-in activities across the day to showcase library collections and creative learning opportunities. The reopening event will celebrate Hurstville Library's ongoing role as a vibrant hub for community learning, creativity and engagement. Highlights will include:
- Green screen filming in the Media Lab, recording sessions in the South Booth and hands on activities with the digitisation station;
 - Virtual reality experiences and escape room games; and
 - Children's rhymetime, craft activities and scavenger hunts.

Communication Plan

13. A communication plan has been implemented to inform the community about the temporary close of Hurstville Library, the alternative service points that will be available during the closure and news about the library reopening. The identified communication platforms are the Council and library websites, the Council What's On page, Community eNews, library newsletters, social media, as well as public notices in the Leader and on-site at the libraries. There are three key communication phases as follows:
- Lead up to closure – summarising key dates alternate service points and frequently asked questions.
 - During the closure – promoting alternative service points, summer holiday programs and online access to digital collections; and
 - Reopening – promoting the reopening of Hurstville Library and the schedule of programs.
14. Physical messaging will be provided at key sites to provide information and to assist wayfinding for people who have missed the other communication channels.
- Information posters – installed at Hurstville Library, the Georges River Council Civic Centre and at Blackshaw Gould Community Pavilion; and
 - Wayfinding trail – footpath stickers indicating the direction of travel and distances between Hurstville Library, the Georges River Council Civic Centre and Blackshaw Gould Community Pavilion.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15. No budget impact for this report. The identified service points, programs and refresh of Hurstville Library are within the allocated operational budget and staffing resources.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

16. Strategic Risk 6 – Reputation

The temporary closure of Hurstville Library to complete essential fire safety works carries a reputational risk for Council if not effectively managed. The community may perceive the temporary closure as a reduction in Council's commitment to providing accessible and reliable library services, potentially leading to dissatisfaction or loss of confidence. To mitigate this, Council will proactively communicate the purpose, timeframe, and benefits of the work being done, while ensuring continued access to library services through a temporary Pop-Up Library and external activations in Hurstville. This approach demonstrates Council's commitment to safety, transparency, and the ongoing delivery of essential community services during the upgrade period.

17. Strategic Risk 8 – Social Cohesion

Georges River Libraries play a vital role in supporting community connection, learning, and inclusion, particularly for vulnerable residents, students, and those without access to digital resources at home. The temporary closure of Hurstville Library may impact these groups and reduce opportunities for social interaction and participation. To mitigate this risk, Council will provide a temporary Pop-Up Library at the Georges River Civic Centre and at additional external activations in Hurstville as outlined in this report. These measures will ensure that the Hurstville community continues to have access to learning, connection, and support opportunities, maintaining social inclusion and wellbeing throughout the upgrade period.

18. Strategic Risk 12 – Business Continuity

During the temporary closure of Hurstville Library, the community may feel there is a temporary reduction in access to library services in Hurstville and could express dissatisfaction at not being able to use their local library. To mitigate these impacts, Council will temporarily relocate priority library services, collections, and staff to nearby Georges River Civic Centre and provide additional external activations in Hurstville.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

19. Communication to the broader Georges River community about the temporary close of Hurstville Library has commenced and will continue to be undertaken in accordance with the communication plan outlined above. In the lead up to closure phase, targeted communication to priority stakeholders was undertaken, including library members, local schools, Council Advisory Committees and Georges River Councillors via the Councillor Information Bulletin.
20. Community engagement and satisfaction with library services during the temporary close of Hurstville Library will be measured through utilisation data across the various service points as well as feedback received through Council's communication channels including face to face, email, phone, happy or not kiosks and through post-program surveys.

FILE REFERENCE

D25/350597

ATTACHMENTS

Nil