

## **AGENDA**

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### **Community and Culture Committee**

**Monday, 09 March 2026**

**Committee meetings commence at 6.00pm and  
run consecutively**

**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:** COM005-26 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 9 February 2026

**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 9 February 2026, be confirmed.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment [↓](#)1 Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 9 February 2026

COM005-26

## MINUTES

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### Community and Culture Committee

Monday, 9 February 2026

Dragon Room  
Georges River Civic Centre  
Hurstville

UNCONFIRMED



GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL

## **PRESENT**

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

The Mayor, Councillor Elise Borg, Councillor Kathryn Landsberry (Chairperson), Councillor Matthew Allison, Councillor Elaina Anzellotti, Councillor Gerard Hayes, Councillor Christina Jamieson, Councillor Nancy Liu, Councillor Peter Mahoney, Councillor Natalie Mort and Councillor Ben Wang.

### **COUNCIL STAFF**

General Manager – David Tuxford, Director Community and Culture – Kristie Dodd, Director Assets and Infrastructure – Bryce Spelta, Director Environment and Planning – Joseph Hill, Director Business and Corporate Services – Danielle Parker, Manager, Office of the General Manager – Vicki McKinley, Manager Sport and Community Facilities – Margaret Le, Manager Cultural Engagement and Library Services – Justin Yeomans, Manager Community Impact – Estelle Marque, Acting Manager Early Learning and Child Safety – Justine Inglis, Executive Services Officer – Nickie Paras (Minutes), General Counsel - James Fan, Executive Assistant to General Manager – Sue Matthew, Chief Audit Executive – Steven Baker, Executive Manager City Futures – Kent Stroud, Head of Technology – Garuthman De Silva and Team Leader Technology Business Support – Mark Tadros, Technology Services Officer – Brendan Thorpe.

## **OPENING**

The Chairperson, Councillor Landsberry, opened the meeting at 6:36pm.

## **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:** Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Mort

That an apology on behalf of Deputy Mayor, Councillor Stratikopoulos, Councillor Pun, Councillor Arthur, Councillor Dimoski and Councillor Gao be accepted and a Leave of Absence granted.

### **Record of Voting**

For the Motion: The Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Hayes, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Wang

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

**Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary Interest – Councillor Mahoney** disclosed a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary Interest in item **COM002-26 Quarterly Community Property Report - 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025** for the reason that he is a member of the Kogarah Bay Progress Association. Councillor Mahoney will remain in the meeting and take part in the consideration of this item.

**Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary Interest – Councillor Jamieson** disclosed a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary Interest in item **COM003-26 T25/011 Ken Rosewall Tennis Centre – Management Agreement** for the reason she went to school with the sister of the current Ken Rosewall management team and was asked for special consideration. Councillor Jamieson will remain in the meeting and take part in the consideration of this item.

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**COM001-26 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 10 November 2025**  
(Report by Manager Office of the General Manager)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Mort, Councillor Allison

That the Minutes of the Community and Culture Committee Meeting held on 10 November 2025, be confirmed.

### Record of Voting

For the Motion: The Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Hayes, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Wang

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

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**COM002-26 Quarterly Community Property Report - 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025**  
(Report by Coordinator Community Property and Venues)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Liu, Councillor Mort

That Council receive and note the Quarterly Community Property Report for the period 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025.

### Record of Voting

For the Motion: The Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Hayes, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Wang

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

### PROCEDURAL MOTION

#### MOVE TO CLOSED CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

At this stage of the meeting the time being 6:47pm the Chair, Councillor Landsberry, advised that the meeting would move into a Confidential Closed Session in accordance with Section 10A of *The Local Government Act 1993*.

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

#### **COM003-26 T25/011 Ken Rosewall Tennis Centre - Management Agreement** (Report by Head of Procurement and Contracts)

*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.*

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.

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.

#### **MOTION:** Councillor Mort, Councillor Allison

That in accordance with Section 10A Clause 2 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council enter into a Confidential Closed Session to discuss the confidential attachments to item **COM003-26 T25/011 Ken Rosewall Tennis Centre - Management Agreement**.

### Record of Voting

For the Motion: The Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Hayes, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Wang

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

**PROCEDURAL MOTION  
RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

**MOTION:** Councillor Mort, Councillor Jamieson

That the meeting revert to Open Session, the time being 7:02pm.

**Record of Voting**

For the Motion: The Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Hayes, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Wang

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

**COM003-26 T25/011 Ken Rosewall Tennis Centre - Management Agreement**  
(Report by Head of Procurement and Contracts)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Mort, Councillor Jamieson

- (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 T25/011 Ken Rosewall Tennis Centre - Management Agreement, and resolve to enter into negotiations with the parties that submitted a Tender to Council 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 there was no conclusive outcome of the tender process. By resolving to enter into negotiations with the parties that submitted a Tender to Council it is anticipated that a satisfactory outcome will be achieved on demonstrated capacity and ability to provide services under an operational management agreement with a competitive commercial income paid to Council.
- (c) That Council authorise the General Manager to undertake negotiations and any other documentation required to give effect to the resolution.
- (d) That a further report be provided to Council detailing the outcome of the negotiation process and a recommendation to award or future options.
- (e) That Council notify all Tenderers that Council declined to accept any of the Tenders.

**Record of Voting**

For the Motion: The Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Hayes, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Wang

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

**CCL135-25 DEFERRED FROM THE 8 DECEMBER 2025 COUNCIL MEETING - Closed  
Circuit Television in Georges River**  
(Report by Coordinator Community Capacity Building)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Mort

That Council:

- (a) Receive and note the suite of community safety initiatives, including the Community Safety Education Program, environmental design and Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV), that are ongoing and responsive to evolving community needs, enhancing actual and perceived sense of safety in the community.
- (b) Maintain, but not increase, the existing provision of CCTV in Mortdale, Narwee, Penshurst and Oatley Park, based on local crime data and consultation with St George Police Area Command (PAC), and in response to NM095-22 and NM021-24.
- (c) Endorse the CCTV Assessment Tool (Attachment 2) for the evaluation of future requests for CCTV in public spaces.
- (d) Note that if funding became available for additional CCTV, Hurstville and Kogarah City Centres should be prioritised based on the CCTV Assessment Tool.
- (e) Note that new and upgraded CCTV infrastructure requires funding sought through operational budget bids or grant applications, covering initial asset purchase and installation costs, ongoing maintenance costs, and replacement or upgrade of CCTV assets at end of life.
- (f) Endorse the Draft Closed Circuit Television Operations Policy (draft Policy) to go on public exhibition for a period of no less than 28 days.
- (g) Note that a future report will come to Council with the outcome of the community consultation regarding the draft Policy.

#### Record of Voting

For the Motion: The Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Hayes, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Wang

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

#### COM004-26 Place Naming Policy Review - Results of Community Consultation (Report by Manager, Cultural Engagement and Library Services)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Mort, The Mayor, Councillor Borg

- (a) That Council acknowledge the results of the community consultation for the revised draft Place Naming Policy.
- (b) That Council endorse the minor changes that have been made to the revised draft Place Naming Policy based on the results of the community consultation.
- (c) That point 2.5.2. b) of the draft Policy be updated as follows: *The name is considered offensive, discriminatory, derogatory or brings Council into disrepute.*
- (c) That Council adopts the revised draft Place Naming Policy.

#### Record of Voting

For the Motion: The Mayor, Councillor Borg, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Allison, Councillor Anzellotti, Councillor Hayes, Councillor Jamieson, Councillor Liu, Councillor Mahoney, Councillor Mort, Councillor Wang

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

**CONCLUSION**

The Meeting was closed at 7:19pm.

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Chairperson

UNCONFIRMED

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Item:** COM006-26 Report of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee meeting held on 26 February 2026

**Author:** Manager Office of the General Manager

**Directorate:** Office of the General Manager

**Matter Type:** Committee Reports

COM006-26

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee recommendations for items SAC002-26 to SAC005-26 as detailed below, be adopted by Council.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The following Committee recommendations for items SAC002-26 to SAC005-26 are submitted to Council for determination.

The recommendations were made by the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee at its meeting on 26 February 2026.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**SAC002-26 CARSS PARK AQUATIC FACILITY**  
(Report by Executive Manager City Futures)

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Mort, Councillor Landsberry.

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

**SAC003-26 SPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL WORKS UPDATE**  
(Report by Manager City Technical Services)

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Mort, Councillor Landsberry.

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

**SAC004-26 FEEDBACK FROM SPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP - 13 NOVEMBER 2025 - SPORTING AMENITIES AND STORAGE FACILITIES**  
(Report by Coordinator Community Property and Venues)

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** Member Smerdely, Member Widders.

That, the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee:

- (a) receive and note the outcomes of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory workshop held on 13 November 2025;
- (b) note that Council officers will conduct broader community consultation on the proposed mixed management model for sporting amenities and storage facilities; and
- (c) note that a future report will go to Council on the outcome of the community consultation.

**SAC005-26 SPORT, COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND EVENTS UPDATE**  
(Report by Manager Sport, Community Facilities and Events)

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** Member Smerdely - Football St George, Councillor Mort

That the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee receive and note the presentation from the Manager Sport and Community Facilities and the Executive Manager City Presentation & Operations outlining an overview of Sport and Recreation facilities across the local government area.

**FILE REFERENCE**

D26/58415

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment [↓](#)1 Minutes of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee meeting held on 26 February 2026

COM006-26

## MINUTES

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### Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee

Thursday, 26 February 2026

6:00 PM

Georges River Civic Centre  
Hurstville - Dragon Room

UNCONFIRMED



GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **COUNCILLOR MEMBERSHIP**

Councillor Oliver Dimoski (Chairperson)  
Councillor Kathryn Landsberry  
Councillor Natalie Mort

### **COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP**

Jeffrey Barrett – St George Cycling Club  
Ross Bernays – Oatley Rugby Club  
Caroline Braddick - - St George Touch Football  
Warren Driscoll – St George Junior Rugby Club  
Jodie Gatehouse – St George District Rugby League Football Club  
Kevin Greene – Cricket NSW (Apology)  
Kim Mok - Australian Chinese Soccer Association  
Oleksandr Reipolskyi - Southern Cross Tennis  
Nicholas Smerdely – Football St George  
Mark Smith – Swimming Metro South East Inc. (METSEA)  
Tanya Smith – Golf NSW  
Paul Thanos - St George Basketball Association  
Sal Torrisi – St George City FA (Absent)  
Dale Widders – St George Australian Football Club  
Kris Wylie - Cricket (St George District Cricket Association)

### **GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL STAFF**

David Tuxford - General Manager  
Kristie Dodd - Director Community and Culture  
Bryce Spelta, Director Assets and Infrastructure  
Tom Heath – Manager City Technical Services  
Greg Knight – Executive Manager City Presentation and Operations  
Peter Gray – Head of City Sport Maintenance  
Margaret Le - Manager Sport and Community Facilities  
Andrew Williams – Coordinator Community Property and Venues  
Luke Galle - Coordinator Sport and Recreation  
Naomi Bryant – Head of Operations  
Melinda Gray-Schwarz - Senior Venue and Recreation Officer  
Chris Stojanovski - Technology Business Support Officer  
Shannon Tomarchio - Personal Assistant to the Manager Sport and Community Facilities  
Marisa Severino – Executive Services Officer

### **COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE**

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

## **OPENING**

The Chairperson, Councillor Dimoski, opened the meeting at 6.00pm.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Chairperson, Councillor Dimoski acknowledged the Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation, who are the Traditional Custodians of all lands, waters and sky in the Georges River area. He paid his respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who live, work and meet on these lands.

## **APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**MOTION:** Councillor Mort, Councillor Landsberry.

That apologies on behalf of Kevin Greene be accepted and a leave of absence be granted.

## **Record of Voting**

For the Motion: The Mayor, Councillor Borg, Chair Dimoski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Member Barrett - St George Cycling Club, Member Bernays - Oatley Rugby and Sporting Club, Member Braddick - St George Touch Association, Member Driscoll – St George Junior Rugby League, Member Gatehouse - St George District Rugby League Football, Member Mok - Australian Chinese Soccer Association, Member Reipolskyi - Southern Cross Tennis,, Member Smerdely - Football St George, Member Smith – Swimming Metro South East Inc (METSEA), Member Smith – Golf NSW, Member Thanos - St George Basketball Association, Member Widders - St George Australian Football Club, Member - Cricket (St George District Cricket Association).

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

## **ABSENCES**

Sal Torrisi – St George City FA.

## **NOTICE OF WEBCASTING**

The Chairperson, Councillor Dimoski advised staff and the public that the meeting is being recorded for minute-taking purposes and is also webcast live on Council's website, in accordance with section 5 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice. This recording will be made available on Council's Website.

## **CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE**

Council's Code of Meeting Practice prohibits the electronic recording of meetings without the express permission of Council.

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**SAC001-26 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee Meeting held on 13 November 2025**  
(Report by Manager Sport, Community Facilities and Events)

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Landsberry, Member Smerdely.

That the Minutes of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee Meeting held on 13 November 2025, be confirmed.

### Record of Voting

For the Motion: The Mayor, Councillor Borg, Chair Dimoski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Member Barrett - St George Cycling Club, Member Bernays - Oatley Rugby and Sporting Club, Member Braddick - St George Touch Association, Member Driscoll – St George Junior Rugby League, Member Gatehouse - St George District Rugby League Football, Member Mok - Australian Chinese Soccer Association, Member Reipolskyi - Southern Cross Tennis,, Member Smerdely - Football St George, Member Smith – Swimming Metro South East Inc (METSEA), Member Smith – Golf NSW, Member Thanos - St George Basketball Association, Member Widders - St George Australian Football Club, Member - Cricket (St George District Cricket Association).

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

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**SAC002-26 Carss Park Aquatic Facility**  
(Report by Executive Manager City Futures)

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Mort, Councillor Landsberry.

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

### Record of Voting

For the Motion: The Mayor, Councillor Borg, Chair Dimoski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Member Barrett - St George Cycling Club, Member Bernays - Oatley Rugby and Sporting Club, Member Braddick - St George Touch Association, Member Driscoll – St George Junior Rugby League, Member Gatehouse - St George District Rugby League Football, Member Mok - Australian Chinese Soccer Association, Member Reipolskyi - Southern Cross Tennis,, Member Smerdely - Football St George, Member Smith – Swimming Metro South East Inc (METSEA), Member Smith – Golf NSW, Member Thanos - St George Basketball Association, Member Widders - St George Australian Football Club, Member - Cricket (St George District Cricket Association).

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

**SAC003-26 Sporting Infrastructure Capital Works Update**  
(Report by Manager City Technical Services)

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** Councillor Mort, Councillor Landsberry.

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

### Record of Voting

For the Motion: The Mayor, Councillor Borg, Chair Dimoski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Member Barrett - St George Cycling Club, Member Bernays - Oatley Rugby and Sporting Club, Member Braddick - St George Touch Association, Member Driscoll – St George Junior Rugby League, Member Gatehouse - St George District Rugby League Football, Member Mok - Australian Chinese Soccer Association, Member Reipolskyi - Southern Cross Tennis,, Member Smerdely - Football St George, Member Smith – Swimming Metro South East Inc (METSEA), Member Smith – Golf NSW, Member Thanos - St George Basketball Association, Member Widders - St George Australian Football Club, Member - Cricket (St George District Cricket Association).

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

### **SAC004-26 Feedback from Sports Advisory Committee Workshop - 13 November 2025 - Sporting Amenities and Storage Facilities** (Report by Coordinator Community Property and Venues)

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** Member Smerdely, Member Widders.

That, the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee:

- (a) receive and note the outcomes of the Georges River Council Sports Advisory workshop held on 13 November 2025;
- (b) note that Council officers will conduct broader community consultation on the proposed mixed management model for sporting amenities and storage facilities; and
- (c) note that a future report will go to Council on the outcome of the community consultation.

### Record of Voting

For the Motion: The Mayor, Councillor Borg, Chair Dimoski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Member Barrett - St George Cycling Club, Member Bernays - Oatley Rugby and Sporting Club, Member Braddick - St George Touch Association, Member Driscoll – St George Junior Rugby League, Member Gatehouse - St George District Rugby League Football, Member Mok - Australian Chinese Soccer Association, Member Reipolskyi - Southern Cross Tennis,, Member Smerdely - Football St George, Member Smith – Swimming Metro South East Inc (METSEA), Member Smith – Golf NSW, Member Thanos - St George Basketball Association, Member Widders - St George Australian Football Club, Member - Cricket (St George District Cricket Association).

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

### **SAC005-26 Sport, Community Facilities and Events Update** (Report by Manager Sport, Community Facilities and Events)

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** Member Smerdely - Football St George, Councillor Mort

That the Georges River Council Sports Advisory Committee receive and note the presentation from the Manager Sport and Community Facilities and the Executive Manager City Presentation

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& Operations outlining an overview of Sport and Recreation facilities across the local government area.

**Record of Voting**

For the Motion: The Mayor, Councillor Borg, Chair Dimoski, Councillor Landsberry, Councillor Mort, Member Barrett - St George Cycling Club, Member Bernays - Oatley Rugby and Sporting Club, Member Braddick - St George Touch Association, Member Driscoll – St George Junior Rugby League, Member Gatehouse - St George District Rugby League Football, Member Mok - Australian Chinese Soccer Association, Member Reipolskyi - Southern Cross Tennis,, Member Smerdely - Football St George, Member Smith – Swimming Metro South East Inc (METSEA), Member Smith – Golf NSW, Member Thanos - St George Basketball Association, Member Widders - St George Australian Football Club, Member - Cricket (St George District Cricket Association).

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

**CONCLUSION**

The Meeting was closed at 7.03pm

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Chairperson

UNCONFIRMED

**Item:** COM007-26 Report of the Beverley Park Steering Committee meeting held on 4 March 2026

**Author:** Executive Services Officer

**Directorate:** Office of the General Manager

**Matter Type:** Committee Reports

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Beverley Park Steering Committee recommendations for items BPSCC002-26 to BPSCC003-26 as detailed below, be adopted by Council.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The following Committee recommendations for items BPSCC002-26 to BPSCC003-26 are submitted to Council for determination.

The recommendations were made by the Beverley Park Steering Committee at its meeting on 4 March 2026.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS****BPSCC002-26 BEVERLEY PARK GOLF CLUB FINANCE REPORT**

(Report by Manager Sport, Community Facilities and Events)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Committee receive and note the finance report to January 2026 for Beverley Park Golf Club.

Accepted.

**BPSCC003-26 PUBLIC ROUNDS REPORT**

(Report by Manager Sport, Community Facilities and Events)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Committee receive and note the public rounds report from March 2025 to February 2026.

Accepted.

**FILE REFERENCE**

D26/60759

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment [↓](#)1 Minutes of the Beverley Park Steering Committee meeting held on 4 March 2026

## MINUTES

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### Beverley Park Steering Committee

Wednesday, 04 March 2026

12:00 PM

TEAMS Meeting

UNCONFIRMED



GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL

## **PRESENT**

Mayor, Councillor Elise Borg (Chair)  
Councillor Thomas Gao  
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Sam Stratikopoulos (not present)  
Kristie Dodd – Director, Community and Culture  
Danielle Parker – Director Business and Corporate Services  
Bryce Spelta – Director Assets and Infrastructure  
Margaret Le – Manager Sport Community Facilities & Events  
Shaun Smith – General Manager, BPGC  
Joe Bondin – President, BPGC (Apology)  
Peter Thomas – Treasurer, BPGC  
John Easton – Course Superintendent, BPGC

## **GEORGES RIVER COUNCILSTAFF**

David Tuxford – General Manager  
Kristie Dodd – Director, Community & Culture  
Margaret Le – Manager Sport and Community Facilities  
Danielle Parker – Director Business and Corporate Services  
Scott Henwood – Chief Financial Officer  
Luke Galle – Coordinator Stadium, Sport and Recreation  
Naomi Bryant – Head of Operations  
Shannon Tomarchio – Personal Assistant Sport and Community Facilities

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mayor, Councillor Elise Borg (Chair)  
Councillor Thomas Gao  
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Sam Stratikopoulos (not present)  
Shaun Smith – General Manager, BPGC  
Joe Bondin – President, BPGC (Apology)  
Peter Thomas – Treasurer, BPGC  
John Easton – Course Superintendent, BPGC

## OPENING

The Chairperson, the Mayor, Councillor Borg, opened the meeting at 12.02PM.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson, the Mayor, Councillor Borg acknowledged the Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation, who are the Traditional Custodians of all lands, waters and sky in the Georges River area. I pay my respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who live, work and meet on these lands.

## APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were apologies for Joe Bondin, President of Beverley Park Golf Club.

## REQUEST TO ATTEND VIA AUDIO VISUAL LINK

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

## CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

Council's Code of Meeting Practice prohibits the electronic recording of meetings without the express permission of Council.

## DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

**The Mayor, Councillor Borg** disclosed a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary interest in all items **BPSCC001-26 to BPSCC003-26**, for the reason that she lives in Beverley Park nearby the Beverley Park Golf Course. The Mayor, Councillor Borg will remain in the meeting and take part in the considerations on these items.

Councillor Thomas Gao, disclosed a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary interest being that John Easton who is a Beverley Park Golf Club committee member is a personal friend.

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**BPSCC001-26 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Beverley Park Steering Committee Meeting held on 3 December 2025**

(Report by Manager Sport, Community Facilities and Events)

### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Beverley Park Steering Committee Meeting held on 3 December 2025, be confirmed.

Accepted.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**BPSCC002-26 Beverley Park Golf Club Finance Report**

(Report by Manager Sport, Community Facilities and Events)

### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee receive and note the finance report to January 2026 for Beverley Park Golf Club.

Accepted.

## **BPSCC003-26 Public Rounds Report**

(Report by Manager Sport, Community Facilities and Events)

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Committee receive and note the public rounds report from March 2025 to February 2026.

Accepted.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

1. Review of Club's membership model

**Action: Beverley Park Golf Club and Manager Sport and Community Facilities to meet to discuss communication plan for future membership model**

2. Unauthorised vehicle access on 7 February 2026

3. 12<sup>th</sup> Tee Tree Assessment Undertaken

**Action: Manager Sport and Community Facilities to check the process for notification to the public when tree removal takes place on public land.**

**Action: Manager Sport and Community Facilities to review the Lease Agreement in relation to who is responsible for the cost of the works to be undertaken for tree removal to improve public safety.**

4. Draft Plan of Management for Beverley Park Golf Course – Council's consultant preparing the draft Plan following direction provided by Council staff. Draft Plan anticipated in 2026 for community consultation.

5. Ageing Water Tanks

**Action: Manager Sport and Community Facilities to check who is the owner of the asset and bring this information back to the next scheduled committee meeting, including information in relation to whether these assets are included in the Plan of Management.**

### **CONCLUSION**

The Meeting was closed at 12.37pm.

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Chairperson

**Item:** COM008-26 Adoption of the Community Engagement Strategy 2026-2036

**Author:** Community Engagement Lead

**Directorate:** Office of the General Manager

**Matter Type:** Committee Reports

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- (a) That Council receive and note the findings of the Public Exhibition, for the draft Community Engagement Strategy 2026-2036 as outlined in this report.
- (b) That Council endorse the draft Community Engagement Strategy 2026-2036.
- (c) That the General Manager be delegated authority to make minor administrative amendments to the Strategy, if required.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. The draft Community Engagement Strategy 2025-2035 was publicly exhibited from 19 November 2025 to 19 January 2026.
2. The Strategy incorporates feedback from community and staff consultation, aligns with Office of Local Government guidelines and the Engagement Institute Engagement Framework, and includes minor administrative updates such as multilingual translation instructions and typographical corrections.
3. The final draft Community Engagement Strategy 2026-2036 is returned to Council for recommendation for adoption, with delegation to the General Manager to make minor amendments.

**BACKGROUND**

4. 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.
5. At the November 2025 Community and Culture Committee and Council Meeting under COM051-25, the findings of the review were presented to Council, with a recommendation to endorse an updated draft Community Engagement Strategy 2025-2035 for public exhibition.
6. Public Exhibition commenced Wednesday 19 November 2025 and closed Monday 19 January 2026.
7. The Public Exhibition was hosted on Council's Your Say platform. During the exhibition period, a total of 121 visits to the project page and 24 downloads of the draft Community Engagement Strategy 2025-2035 were recorded, as outlined in the Community Engagement section of this report. No submissions from the public were received during the exhibition period.
8. Feedback from the earlier exhibition of the Community Engagement Policy 2024, where comments were more relevant to the Strategy, were incorporated into the final draft Community Engagement Strategy 2026-2036. This included requests for the Strategy to reference the Council Related Development Application Policy in Part B Planning

Timeframes, clearer advice on how Council engages the community with practical examples, and better guidance on stakeholder engagement.

9. Findings from the internal review of the Community Engagement Strategy 2023-2033 have also been incorporated into the final draft Community Engagement Strategy 2026-2036. 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.
10. These updates include enhanced stakeholder mapping, a detailed project engagement guide, and legislative compliance updates. Minor administrative updates such as multilingual translation instructions and typographical corrections have also been applied to the final draft Community Engagement Strategy 2026–2036.
11. Incorporating previous consultation outcomes, internal review findings, and administrative updates the final draft Community Engagement Strategy 2026–2036 is provided for Council's endorsement.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. Within budget allocation. Public Exhibition was delivered through existing internal resources.

## RISK IMPLICATIONS

### 13. **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 Community Engagement Strategy 2026-2036 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.

### 14. **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 2026-2036 has been reviewed and developed to meet the Office of Local Government criteria.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

15. Community engagement was conducted including:
  - (a) Georges River Your Say project page, that detailed:
    - (i) What the draft Community Engagement Strategy is;
    - (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 were 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) Feedback submission form and survey to understand wider community engagement preferences.
- (d) Communication across Council’s digital and print platforms:
- (i) Inclusion in the St Geroge Leader
  - (ii) Inclusion in December consultation media release
  - (iii) Inclusion in December consultation social media carousel
  - (iv) Inclusion in Council's eNews fortnightly email
  - (v) Inclusion in Council’s Your Say Newsletter
  - (vi) Information sheets available at Council Civic Centre and Libraries



St Geroge Leader ad December 3 2025 edition



Excerpt from Media Release published 8 December 2025



Information at Georges River Council Civic Centre distributed 19 November 2025



Excerpt from Social Media Carousel – 2 December 2025



#### Public Exhibition and Planning Feedback

Following the 17 November Council meeting, the following draft documents are now on public exhibition:

- Community Engagement Strategy 2025-2035
- Interactions with Children and Young People Policy
- Councillor Induction and Professional Development Policy

The updated Community Engagement Strategy explains how Council involves the community in decisions, ensuring all voices are heard. It includes guidelines on when feedback is sought and how residents are notified about development applications.

Also on exhibition:

- Carss Bush Park and Todd Park Masterplan and Plan of Management
- Planning Proposal for part of Moore Park in Beverly Park

These plans aim to improve and enhance how these spaces are used now and into the future.

[Learn more](#)

Excerpt from Community eNews 28 November 2025

## FILE REFERENCE

D26/22882

## ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [↓](#)1 Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2026-2036



# DRAFT Community Engagement Strategy 2026-2036

COM008-26 Attachment 1

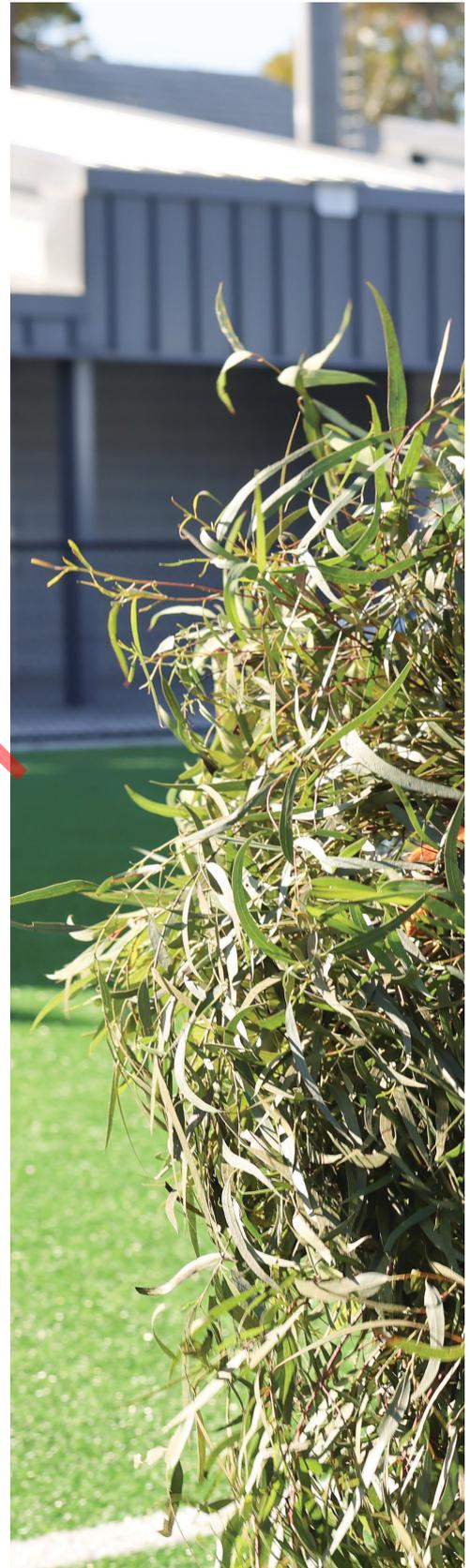


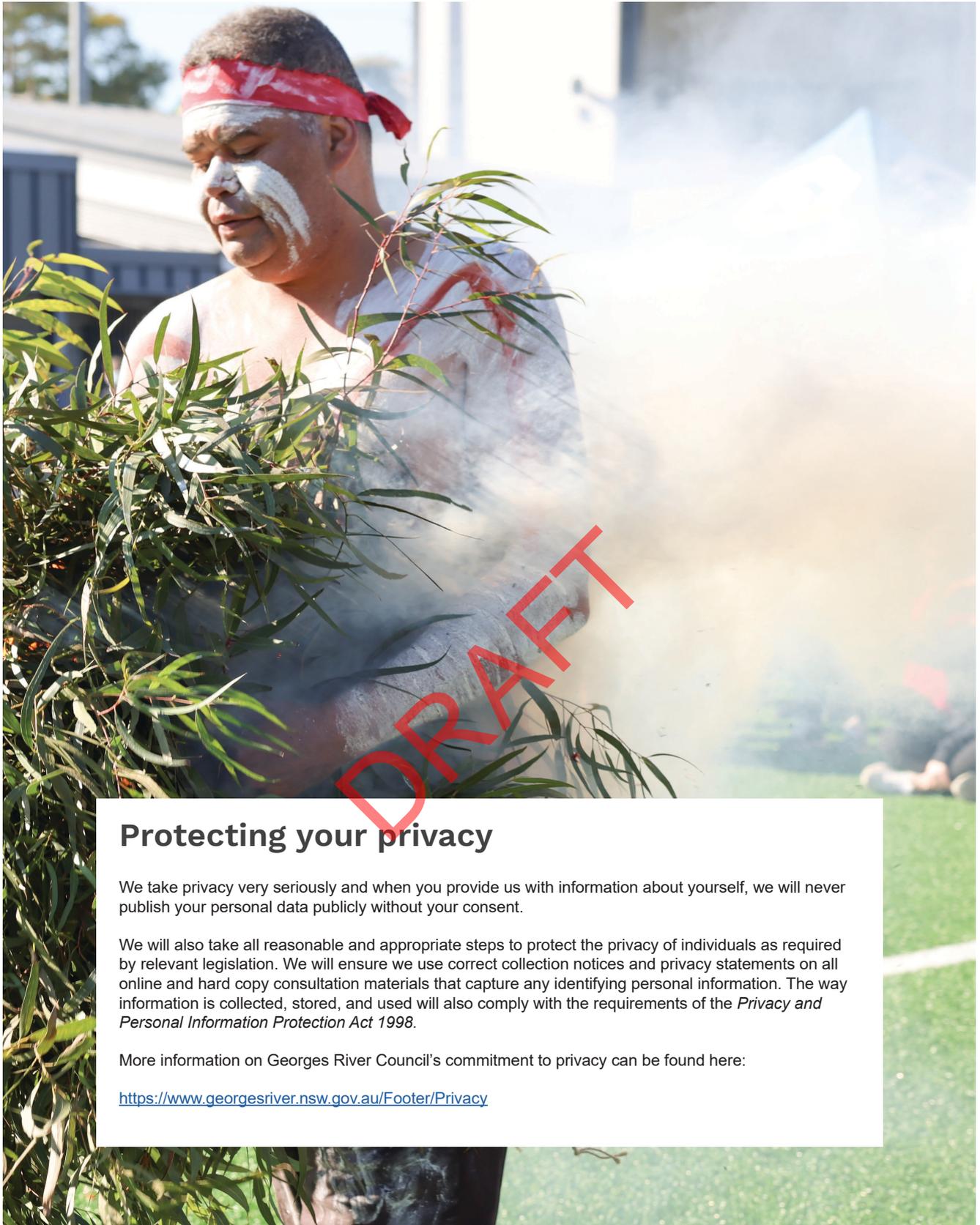
# Acknowledgement of Country

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.

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## 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>

## Accessible Formats and Community Languages

Georges River Council is committed to ensuring community engagement is accessible and inclusive across all communication platforms. If you need information in another language or format, we can help.

### For free telephone interpreting services:

- Call TIS National: 131 450
- National Relay Service: 1300 555 727

If you need this information in other accessible formats, please contact us and we will arrange this for you.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Phone:** 02 9330 6400

**Email:** mail@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au

**Website:** georgesriver.nsw.gov.au

### In person:

Georges River Civic Centre,  
Corner MacMahon and Dora Streets, Hurstville

### Postal Address:

PO Box 205, Hurstville BC NSW 1481

**Hours:** Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm

## Translation into community languages

We speak your language. For free interpreter assistance, call Australia's Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National): **131 450**. Ask them to call Georges River Council: 02 9330 6400.

### Chinese Simplified

欢迎阅读《2026-2036年社区参与战略》(Community Engagement Strategy 2026-2036)。Georges River 地方议会致力于确保我们的社区能够以无障碍且包容的方式积极参与。我们可以帮助您获取中文版信息。如需免费口译协助，请致电口译服务处 (TIS National)，电话：131450。告诉他们您说“Mandarin”，口译员上线后，要求他们致电 Georges River 地方议会，电话：02 9330 6400。如果您需要其他无障碍格式的信息，请与我们联系。

### Chinese Traditional

歡迎查閱《2026-2036年社區參與策略》。喬治河市議會 (Georges River Council) 致力讓來自不同文化背景的市民，均可更容易參與到各項社區事務及活動中。若需要中文版資訊，我們樂意提供協助。如需免費口譯協助，請致電澳洲翻譯與口譯服務中心 (Translating and Interpreting Service, TIS National) 熱線 131450，並請中心職員轉接喬治河市議會，電話為 02 9330 6400。若需要本資訊的無障礙格式版本，請與我們聯繫。

### Greek

Καλώς ήρθατε στη Στρατηγική Κοινωνικής Συμμετοχής 2026-2036. Ο Δήμος Georges River δεσμεύεται να διασφαλίσει ότι η συμμετοχή της κοινότητας είναι προσβάσιμη και χωρίς αποκλεισμούς. Αν χρειάζεστε πληροφορίες στη γλώσσα σας, μπορούμε να σας βοηθήσουμε. Για δωρεάν βοήθεια από διερμηνέα, καλέστε την Υπηρεσία Μετάφρασης και Διερμηνείας της Αυστραλίας (TIS National): 131450. Ζητήστε τους να καλέσουν τον Δήμο Georges River: 02 9330 6400. Αν χρειάζεστε αυτές τις πληροφορίες σε άλλες προσβάσιμες μορφές, επικοινωνήστε μαζί μας.

### Arabic

مرحبًا بك في استراتيجية المشاركة المجتمعية 2026-2036. يلتزم مجلس Georges River البلدي بضمان أن تكون المشاركة المجتمعية متاحة وشاملة للجميع. إذا كنت بحاجة إلى معلومات بلغتك، يمكننا مساعدتك للحصول على مساعدة مجانية من مترجم شفهي، اتصل بخدمة الترجمة التحريرية والشفوية الأسترالية (TIS National: 131450). اطلب منهم الاتصال بمجلس Georges River البلدي: 02 9330 6400. وإذا كنت بحاجة إلى هذه المعلومات بصيغ أخرى مباشرة، يُرجى التواصل معنا.

### Italian

Ti diamo il benvenuto alla Community Engagement Strategy (Strategia di coinvolgimento della comunità) 2026-2036, con la quale il Comune di Georges River mira a garantire una partecipazione accessibile e inclusiva della comunità. Possiamo aiutarti se hai bisogno di informazioni nella tua lingua. Per ottenere assistenza gratuita da parte di un interprete, chiama il Servizio nazionale di traduzione e interpretariato (TIS National) al numero 131450 e chiedi di contattare il Comune di Georges River allo 02 9330 6400. Contattaci se hai bisogno di ricevere queste informazioni in altri formati accessibili.

### Vietnamese

Chào mừng bạn đến với Chiến lược Kết nối Cộng đồng 2026-2036. Hội đồng Thành phố Georges River cam kết đảm bảo việc tham gia cộng đồng dễ tiếp cận và mang tính hòa nhập. Nếu bạn cần thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của mình, chúng tôi có thể giúp đỡ. Để được hỗ trợ thông dịch viên miễn phí, hãy gọi cho Dịch vụ Biên dịch và Thông dịch của Úc (TIS National: 131450). Yêu cầu họ gọi cho Hội đồng Thành phố Georges River: 02 9330 6400. Nếu bạn cần thông tin này ở các hình thức khác dễ tiếp cận, vui lòng liên hệ với chúng tôi.

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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

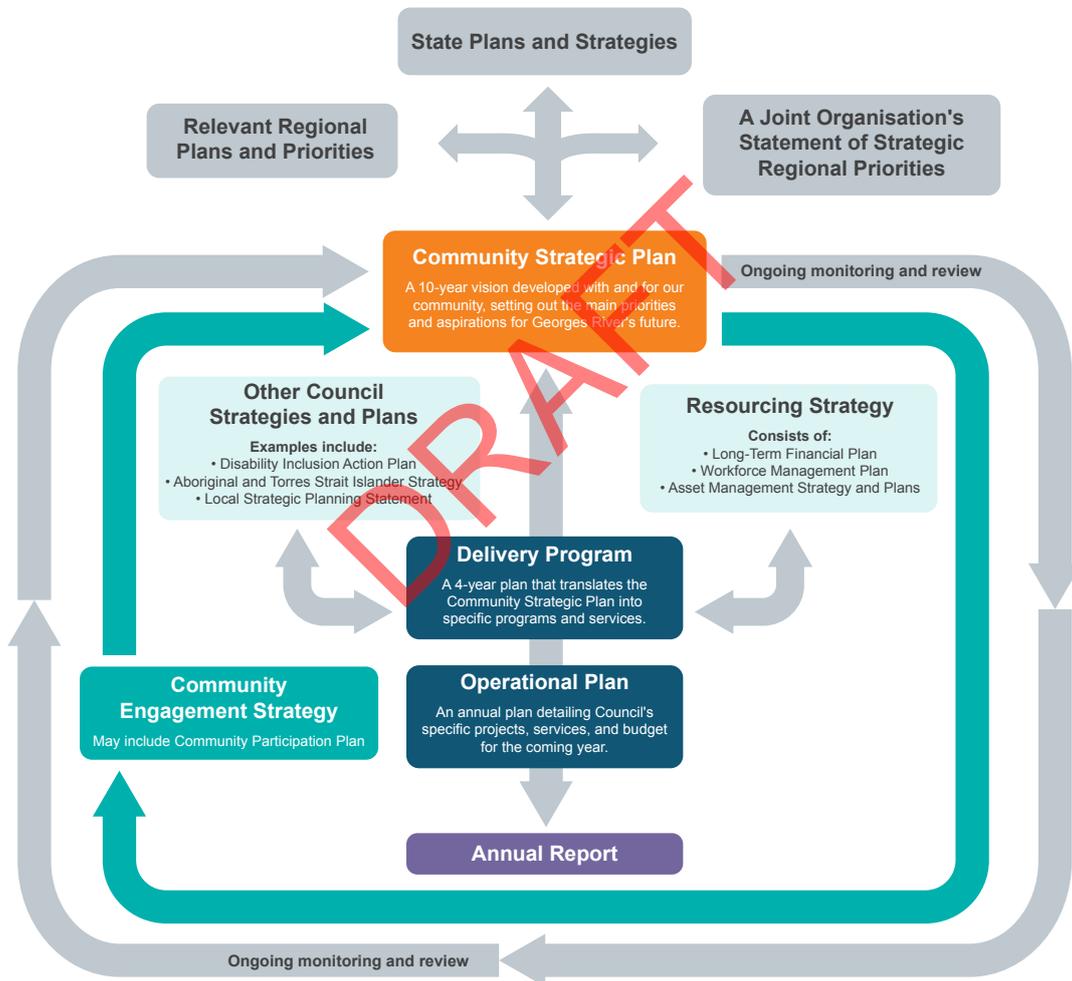


Figure 1 - Community Engagement Requirements  
Sources: [www.olg.nsw.gov.au](http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au), [www.iap2.org](http://www.iap2.org), [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au), [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au)

## 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



## 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.

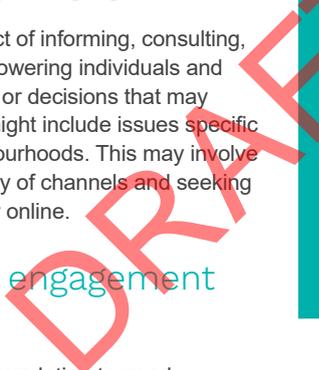
### Why is community engagement important?

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 Engagement Institute (previously the International Association for Public Participation) 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Website updates</li> <li>Social media</li> <li>Newsletters</li> <li>Public notices</li> <li>Information sessions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surveys</li> <li>Written submissions</li> <li>Your Say platform</li> <li>Public meetings</li> <li>Pop-up sessions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshops</li> <li>Pop-up sessions</li> <li>Advisory Committees</li> <li>Information sessions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-design workshops</li> <li>Advisory Committees</li> <li>Targeted stakeholders</li> <li>Pop-up sessions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People's Choice award</li> <li>Participatory budget simulations</li> <li>Voting for your elected officials</li> </ul>

## 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

DRAFT



COM008-26 Attachment 1





## 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 Asterix (\*).

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

How we may engage	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%**

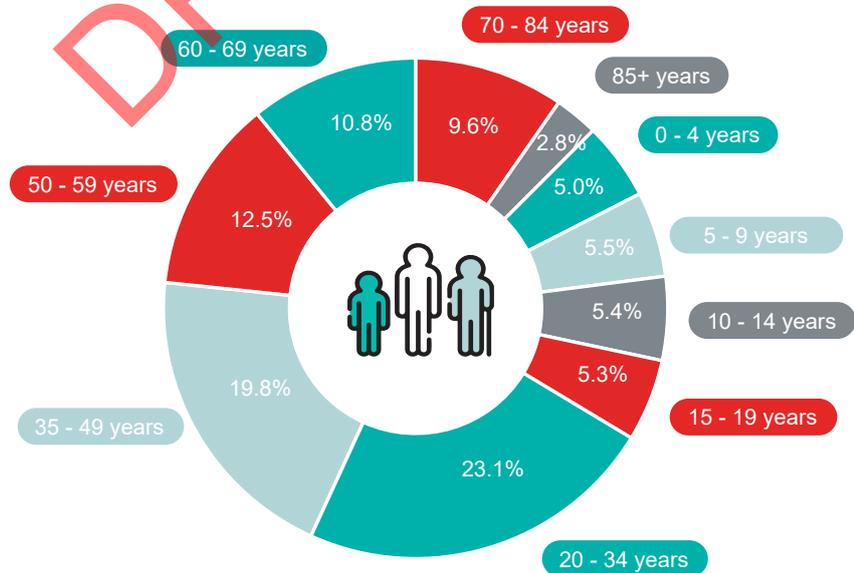
Male



**50.7%**

Female

## Age of Residents

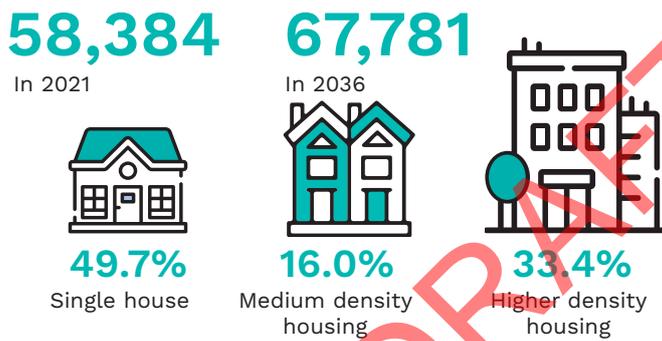


Data sourced from Community Profile.ID using statistics gathered from the 2021 census data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics

### Household Composition



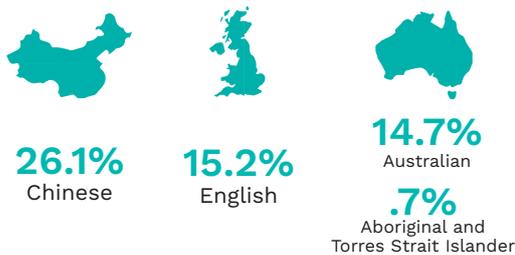
### Total number of dwellings



### Tenure



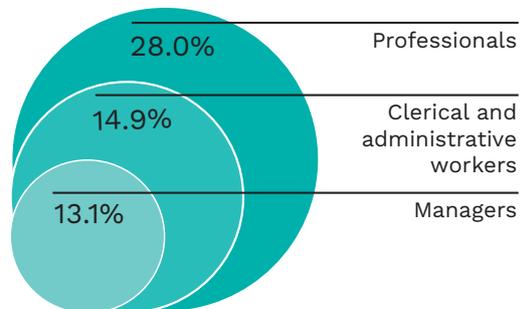
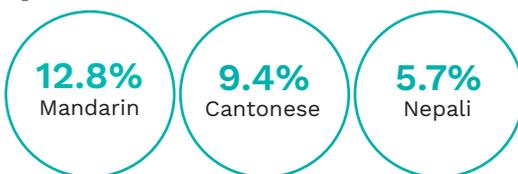
### Ancestry



### 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
<b>Children, Young People and Families (0-24 years plus families)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)</li> <li>Council's Early Learning Services</li> <li>Local schools and TAFE</li> <li>Local youth services such as 3Bridges Youth Zone through the St George Youth Network inter-agency</li> <li>Schools and school staff through the SGYN meetings, email, visits</li> <li>Internal cadetships and work placement</li> <li>Youth Week (GRYFest)</li> <li>Children's programming through Libraries and Hurstville Museum &amp; Gallery</li> <li>Child Safe Champions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Justice Charter</li> <li>Early Learning Services Strategy</li> <li>Child Safe Code of Conduct</li> <li>Child Safe Action Plan</li> <li>YAC Action Plan</li> <li>Children and Youth Participation Framework, Child Safe Code of Conduct, Child Safe Action Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee</li> <li>Local Aboriginal Land Councils</li> <li>Cultural events, programs and celebrations</li> <li>Community organisations and networks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy</li> <li>Social Justice Charter</li> <li>Create Georges River Cultural Strategy</li> <li>The Uluru Statement from the Heart</li> </ul>
<b>People from CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) Backgrounds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multicultural Advisory Committee Community events and multicultural festivals Community organisations and networks</li> <li>Translated materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Justice Charter</li> <li>Create Georges River Cultural Strategy</li> <li>Better Together anti-racism campaign</li> </ul>
<b>People living with a Disability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee • Disability service providers</li> <li>NDIS provider networks</li> <li>Disability Interagency Network</li> <li>St George and Sutherland Shire Dementia Alliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP)</li> <li>Social Justice Charter</li> <li>Dementia-Friendly Action Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Seniors and older adults</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seniors Advisory Committee</li> <li>Seniors Festival and Seniors Week</li> <li>Community organisations and networks</li> <li>St George Prevention of Abuse of Older People Collaborative</li> <li>St George and Sutherland Shire Sector Support and Development</li> <li>St George and Sutherland Shire Dementia Alliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Justice Charter</li> <li>Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP)</li> <li>Dementia-Friendly Action Plan</li> </ul>

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
<b>Business and industry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic Leadership Group</li> <li>Business Chamber South partnership</li> <li>Committee for Sydney membership</li> <li>Night Time Industries Association membership</li> <li>Resilient Sydney membership</li> <li>Economic Development Australia membership</li> <li>Economic Society Australia membership</li> <li>Small Business Month</li> <li>Business Unite</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic Development Strategy (draft)</li> <li>Economic Development Action Plan (draft)</li> <li>Night Time Economy Study</li> <li>Advocacy Register</li> <li>Events and Festival Charter and Guidelines</li> <li>Community Strategic Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Residents, ratepayers and property stakeholders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rates notices</li> <li>Property owner consultations</li> <li>Development notifications</li> <li>Your Say Georges River</li> <li>Letterbox drops</li> <li>Community eNews</li> <li>Community Magazine</li> <li>Social Media</li> <li>Council and Committee meetings</li> <li>Public Forums</li> <li>Council stall at Major events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Strategic Plan</li> <li>Customer Experience Strategy</li> <li>Customer Experience Charter</li> <li>Social Media Policy and Community Guidelines</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental, Advocacy and Special Interest Groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Georges Riverkeeper</li> <li>Bushcare volunteering</li> <li>Historical Societies</li> <li>Local Progress Associations</li> <li>Organisations and community groups</li> <li>Heritage Advisors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Resilience Action Plan</li> <li>Community Strategic Plan</li> </ul>
<b>LGBTQIA+ community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADS LGBTQIA+ Working Group</li> <li>Pride Book Club</li> <li>Community organisations and networks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Justice Charter</li> <li>Community Strategic Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Sports and Recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local sporting groups and clubs</li> <li>Sports Advisory Committee</li> <li>At our venues and facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Acquisition Area Strategy</li> <li>Create Georges River Cultural Strategy</li> <li>Community Strategic Plan</li> </ul>
<b>NSW State Government and Australian Government Departments and Agencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Transport Forum</li> <li>Floodplain Risk Management Committee</li> <li>Federal and State funding applications</li> <li>Office of Local Government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Strategic Plan</li> <li>Delivery Program and Operational Plan</li> </ul>

## 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

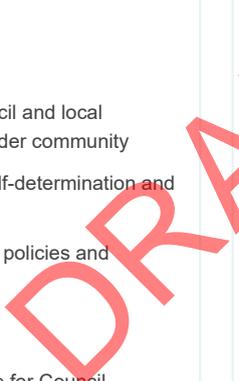
**Members:** Up to 10  
**Frequency:** Quarterly meetings  
**Maximum Term:** 2 years  
**New Term:** January 2026

**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

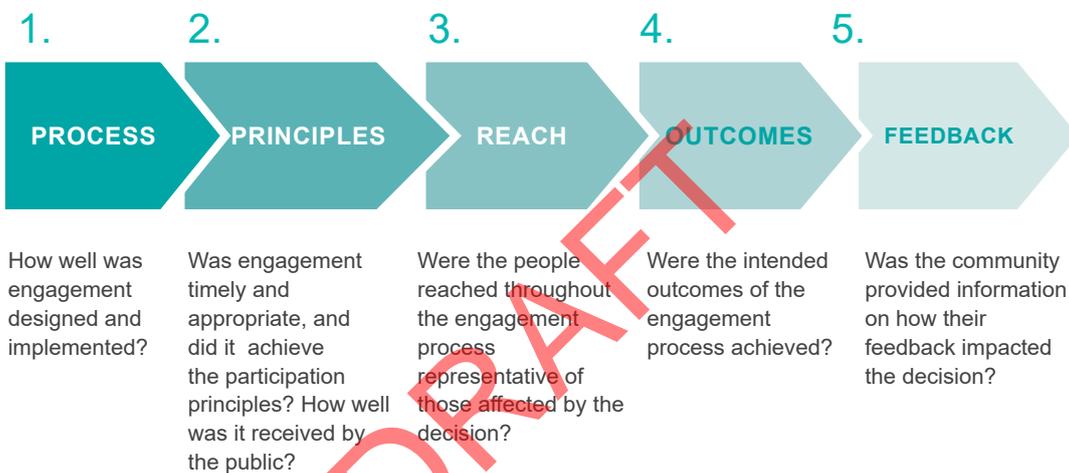
When you are empowered, you will:

- 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.

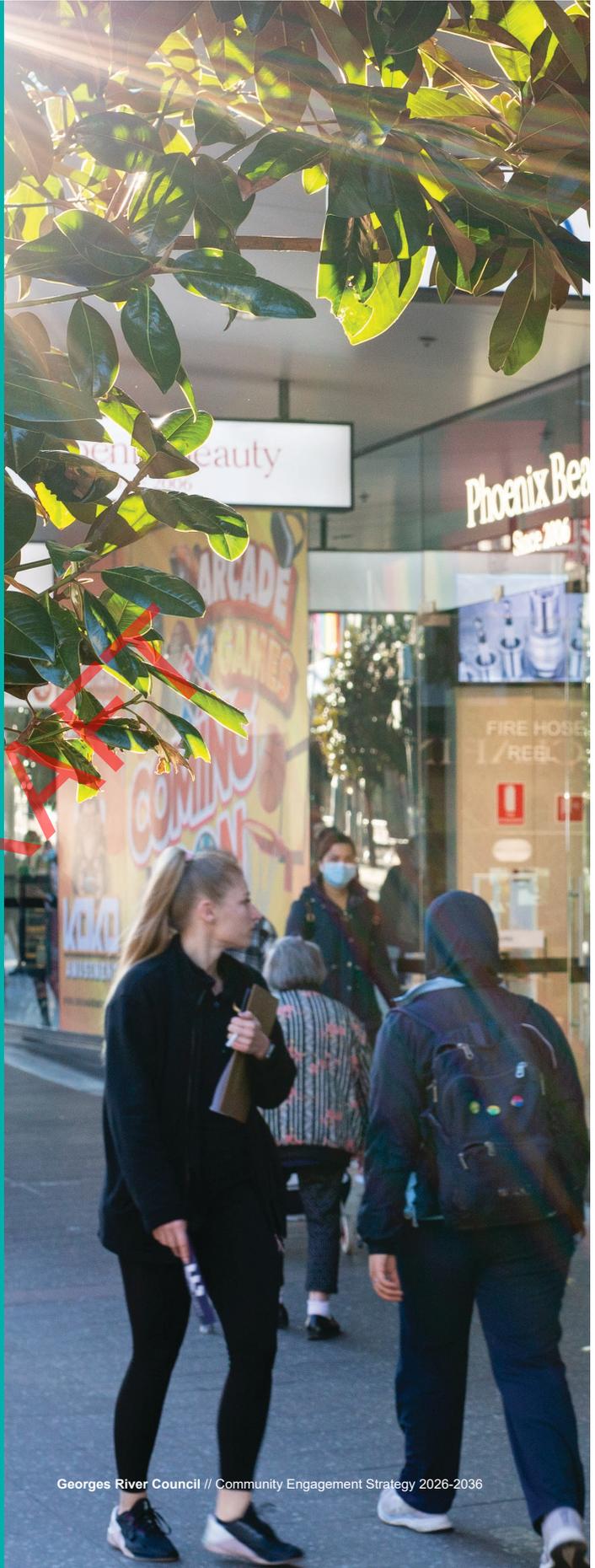




## PART B

# 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](mailto: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](http://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
<b>Draft Community Participation Plans</b>	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.	● ● ●
<b>Draft Local Strategic Planning Statements</b>	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.	● ● ● ●
<b>Draft Development Control Plans</b>	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.	● ● ●
<b>Draft Contribution Plans</b>	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.	● ● ●
<b>Planning Proposals for Local Environmental Plans subject to a report to the Georges River Local Planning Panel (GRLPP)</b>	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.	●
<b>Planning Proposals for Local Environmental Plans Subject to Gateway Determination</b>	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
<b>Application for development consent for State significant development</b>	State significant development is development that is declared under Division 4.7 of the EP&A Act	28 days	
<b>Application for modification of development consent that is required to be publicly exhibited by the regulations</b>	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.	
<b>Application for Council Related Development Application</b>	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.	
<b>Environmental impact statement obtained under Division 5.1</b>	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.	
<b>Environmental impact statement for State significant infrastructure under Division 5.2</b>	As above, relating specifically to State significant infrastructure.	28 days.	
<b>Re-exhibition of any amended application or matter referred to above required by or under this Schedule</b>	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
<b>Community Strategic Plan</b>	10-year community vision and outcomes	28 days	<span style="color: teal;">●</span> <span style="color: grey;">●</span> <span style="color: red;">●</span>
<b>Delivery Program</b>	Operational actions to implement the Strategic Plan	28 days	<span style="color: teal;">●</span> <span style="color: grey;">●</span>
<b>Operational Plan</b>	Annual budget and activities aligned to Delivery Program	28 days	<span style="color: teal;">●</span> <span style="color: grey;">●</span>
<b>Resourcing Strategy</b>	Workforce, asset and financial planning	28 days	<span style="color: teal;">●</span> <span style="color: grey;">●</span>
<b>Code of Meeting Practices</b>	Rules for Council meetings	42 days	<span style="color: teal;">●</span> <span style="color: grey;">●</span>
<b>Fees &amp; Charges</b>	Fees & Charges	28 days	<span style="color: teal;">●</span> <span style="color: grey;">●</span>
<b>Councillor Expenses &amp; Facilities</b>	Policy on Councillor allowances and facilities	28 days	<span style="color: teal;">●</span> <span style="color: grey;">●</span>
<b>Plans of Management</b>	Management frameworks for community-classified land	42 days	<span style="color: teal;">●</span> <span style="color: grey;">●</span>
<b>Reclassification of Community Land</b>	Change classification of public land	28 Days + public hearing	<span style="color: teal;">●</span> <span style="color: grey;">●</span>



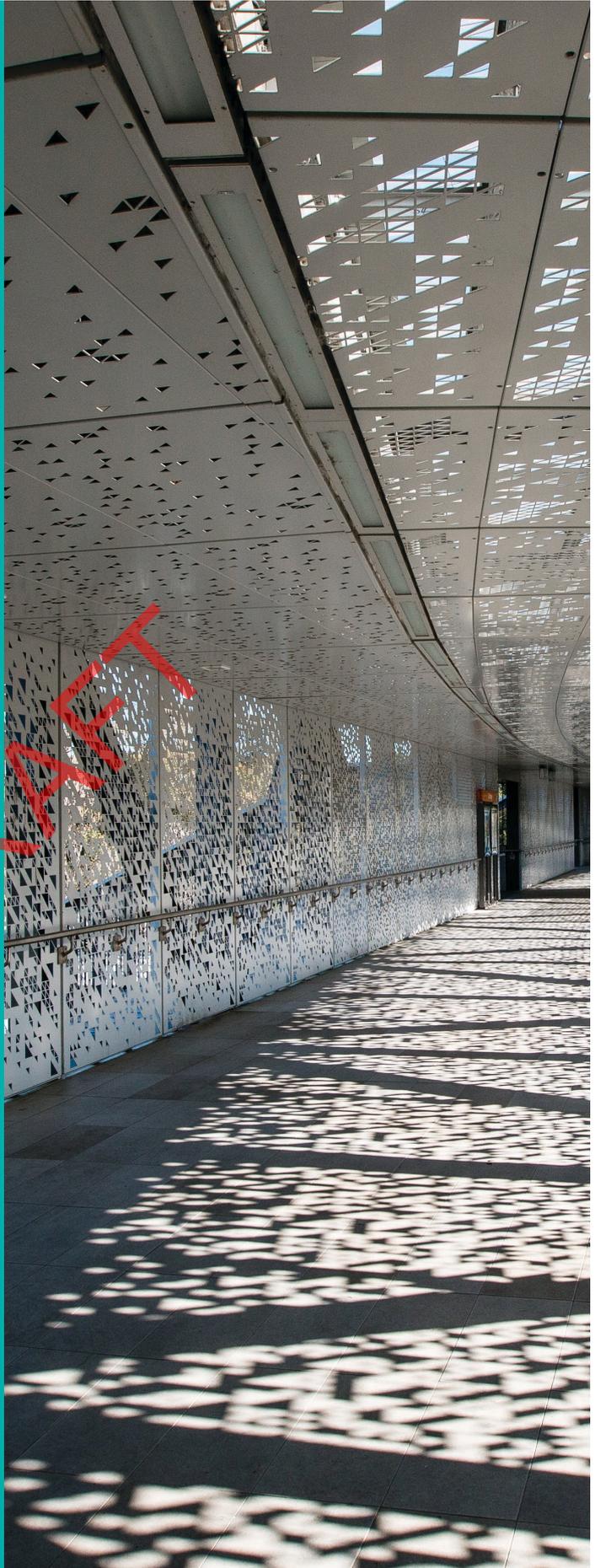


## PART C

# Notification plan

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## 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
<b>Demolition of buildings</b>	Subject to the building not being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a State listed heritage item; or</li> <li>• a heritage item in Schedule 5 of the <i>Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021</i>; or</li> <li>• a building in a heritage conservation area.</li> </ul>
<b>Torrens Title Subdivision or Consolidation</b>	Subject to the application not creating a new lot, except in the case of subdivision of an existing dual occupancy development.
<b>Applications to modify a consent under S4.55(1) of the <i>Environmental Planning &amp; Assessment Act 1979</i> (EP&amp;A Act)</b>	Where the application will not significantly alter the intensity or likely adverse impact of the proposed development.
<b>Applications for new signage</b>	Subject to the signage not being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• illuminated; and</li> <li>• located in a residential zone.</li> </ul>
<b>Change of use</b>	Subject to the change of use: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>not being in a residential zone; and</li> <li>not relying on the provisions of Division 4.11 – Existing Uses of the EP&amp;A Act; and</li> <li>not being for any of the following land uses:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pub</li> <li>• Sex services premises</li> <li>• Registered club</li> <li>• Centre-based child care facility</li> <li>• Restricted premises</li> <li>• Funeral home</li> <li>• Place of public worship</li> <li>and</li> </ul> </li> <li>the proposed operating hours of the business are between 6:00am – 10:00pm.</li> </ol>
<b>New secondary dwellings</b>	Subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• full compliance with the relevant DCP or LEP; and</li> <li>• not exceeding a maximum height of building of 4.5m.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Council may consider notification of new secondary dwelling developments where the proposal is deemed to adversely impact the amenity of adjoining properties.</p>
<b>Additions to dwelling houses</b>	Subject to the additions being single storey and complying fully with the setback requirements in the relevant DCP.

Development / Land Uses	Criteria
<b>New single storey dwelling houses and single storey alterations and additions to dwellings</b>	Subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The subject property not being situated within:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Foreshore Scenic Protection Area (FSPA) of the <i>Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021</i>; or</li> <li>- the foreshore locality identified in Part 6.5 – Foreshore Locality Controls of the <i>Georges River DCP 2021</i>;</li> </ul>                             and                         </li> <li>• full compliance with the maximum height and FSR in the relevant LEP; and</li> <li>• full compliance with the relevant DCP.</li> </ul>
<b>Outbuildings, swimming pools, landscape works and ancillary structures (e.g. awnings, cabanas, sheds, detached garages, carports, retaining walls, decks)</b>	Subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the use being in a residential zone and associated with a residential use; and</li> <li>• full compliance with the relevant DCP; and</li> <li>• not exceeding a maximum height of building of 4.5m; and</li> <li>• pool coping levels of no greater than 500mm measured at any point from natural ground level.</li> </ul>
<b>Home business or Home occupation</b>	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.
<b>Minor structures in public reserves (e.g. amenities block)</b>	Only where the proposal has a minimal impact on any adjoining residential development.
<b>Alterations to industrial or commercial premises</b>	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.
<b>Internal alterations to any building</b>	Subject to the development not significantly altering the intensity or likely adverse impact of the proposal.
<b>Other minor Development Applications</b>	Subject to there being minimal impact on any adjoining residential development.
<b>Applications for review under Division 8.2 and Section 8.9 of the EP&amp;A Act</b>	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.

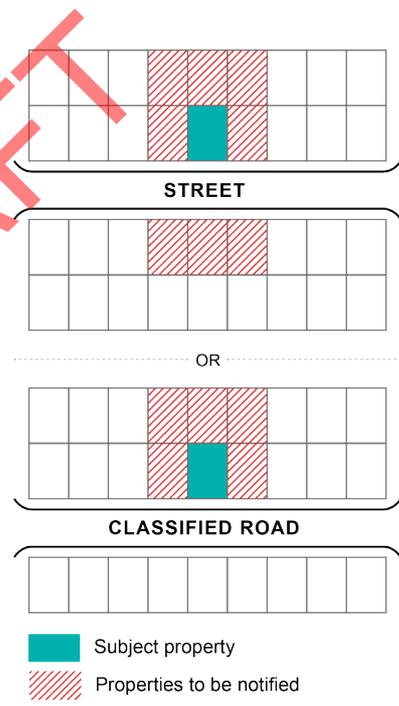


Figure 1: Category B Notification Requirements

## 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

- i. 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**.
- ii. 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.

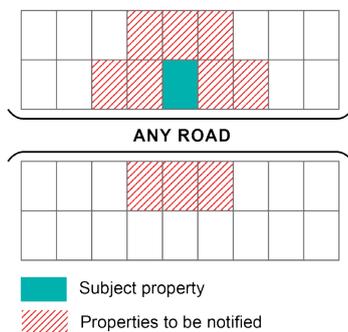


Figure 2: Category C Set 1 Notification Requirements

#### 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

- i. 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.

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## 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](http://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:** COM009-26 Interactions with Children and Young People Policy for Adoption

**Author:** Coordinator Community Capacity Building

**Directorate:** Community and Culture

**Matter Type:** Committee Reports

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- (a) That Council acknowledge the results of community consultation for the revised draft Interactions with Children and Young People Policy.
- (b) That Council adopts the revised draft Interactions with Children and Young People Policy.
- (c) That Council approve a minor amendment to the Library Use and Membership Policy to raise the age that children can use the library unattended from 10 to 12 years old.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. On 25 November 2025, Council endorsed that the draft Interactions with Children and Young People Policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of no less than 60 days (COM048-25).
2. During the public exhibition period (20 November 2025 to 19 January 2026) of the draft Interactions with Children and Young People Policy, feedback was sought from community via Council's community consultation platform, Your Say, and through targeted consultations with Office of the Children's Guardian, local early childhood education and care services, schools, and the local youth sector.
3. One (1) submission was received via Council's community consultation platform, Your Say. Additionally, feedback was sought and received from the Office of the Children's Guardian. The feedback was reviewed and considered for incorporation in the draft Interactions with Children and Young People Policy.
4. Minor amendments were made to the draft Interactions with Children and Young People Policy in response to the feedback received, as detailed in the body of this report.
5. This report seeks Council's adoption of the draft Interactions with Children and Young People Policy as well as a related minor amendment to the Library Use and Membership Policy regarding unattended children.

1.

**BACKGROUND**Child Safe Scheme

6. 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).
7. 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.
8. The Scheme requires that child-related organisations implement the Standards through child safe systems, policies, and processes.

9. 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.

Interactions with Children and Young People Policy

10. 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).
11. The Policy is the overarching document within Council’s Child Safe Framework. It 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.
12. Throughout 2025, the Draft Policy was revised to align with updated legislation and internal child safe practices, and feedback received during preliminary consultation prior to being placed on public exhibition.

Public Exhibition

13. On 17 November 2025, Council endorsed that the Draft Policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of no less than 60 days (COM048-25).
14. While on public exhibition from 20 November 2025 to 19 January 2026, one (1) piece of community feedback was provided via Your Say.
15. Council Officials also sought feedback on the Draft Policy from the Office of the Children’s Guardian’s (OCG) Child Safe Officer (Local Government).

COM009-26

Community Feedback via Your Say	Council Officer Response
<p><i>Communication with children as stated should be non-existent.</i></p>	<p>Council operates five early learning services, coordinates a Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), hosts programs for children and young people within Council’s libraries, and plans and delivers child and youth-oriented events. Prohibiting communication and interaction between Council Officials and children and young people is not possible.</p> <p>Instead, Council’s focus is on building a strong child safe culture whereby all Council Officials are trained to understand what appropriate communication and interaction with children is, and that inappropriate conduct will not be tolerated. Council has implemented a robust Child Safe Framework that ensures that all Council Officials are trained and supported to identify, respond to and report inappropriate child-related conduct.</p>
<p><i>Generally, Council Officials in child-related positions have access to the records of children and young people who they work with. Above officials should not have access</i></p>	<p>The records of community members, including children, that Council manages or has access to are proportionate to the community member’s interaction or</p>

<p><i>to records at all, even if so, it should be bare minimum and if more is required, they should contact another agency maybe Child services or Centrelink, but they should not have access in any circumstances.</i></p>	<p>engagement with Council. Council does not store personal information, or information that other agencies such as the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) or Centrelink might have access to. Council has implemented a robust child safe record-keeping process, whereby access within Council's digital record management system to certain child-related records is restricted.</p>
<p><b>OCG Feedback via Email</b></p>	<p><b>Council Officer Response</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The overall content, guidance and intent is clear and relevant.</i></li> <li>• <i>Update references and legislation table to ensure all titles reflect the most current versions.</i></li> <li>• <i>Note the applications deadline for the National Redress Scheme – 30 June 2027.</i></li> <li>• <i>In section 1.11, remove reference to the Amendment Act 2021 and replace with reference to Section 3A of the Children's Guardian Act 2019 (NSW).</i></li> </ul>	<p>All changes were made and are reflected in the updated version of the Draft Policy.</p>

Amendment to the Library Use and Membership Policy

16. During the public exhibition of the draft Interactions with Children and Young People Policy, alignment with other Council policies was also reviewed. The review identified a change required to the Library Use and Membership Policy (Library Policy) to ensure a consistent approach to child safety as well as the effective management of related risks.
17. The Library Policy provides a framework for free library membership and conditions of use to ensure safe, equitable access to services in accordance with the Library Act 1939 and the Library Regulation 2018. The current Library Policy was updated in November 2024 and is active until November 2027 in line with Council's policy review cycle.
18. The section of the Library Policy that needs to be amended is the rule for unattended children. The current Library Policy allows children who are older than 10 years of age to use the library without the supervision of their parent or carer. It is recommended that the age threshold for unattended children is changed to 12 years old.
19. The proposed change to the Library Policy is consistent with the Interactions with Children and Young People Policy and well as the rules used by the State Library NSW (SLNSW). The SLNSW Unattended Children Guidelines states: 'Children under 12 years of age must not be left unsupervised in the Library'.
20. Accordingly, the following minor amendment to Section 3.2 of the Library Policy is proposed:
  2. *3.2 Unattended children:*
  3. *Children ~~aged 10 years or under~~ under 12 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.*

21. The proposed draft Library Use and Membership Policy, including the amendment to Section 3.2 outlined above, is Attachment 2 to this report.
22. Should Council approve the proposed change, the Library Policy will be updated, along with the relevant procedural documents which support staff interactions with library customers.

4.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

23. No budget impact for this report.

### **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

24. 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.
25. 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.
26. 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.

5.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

27. Following the resolution of Council on 17 November 2025 (COM048-25), the Draft Policy was placed on public exhibition from 20 November 2025 to 19 January 2026, a total of 61 days.
28. The opportunity for community to provide feedback online via Your Say was promoted via:
  - Council's Your Say platform from 20 November 2025 to 19 January 2026;
  - Advisory Committees and the Community Capacity Building team's networks;
  - targeted communications with key stakeholders such as the OCG, local schools, local early childhood education and care services, and the local youth sector;
  - Your Say e-newsletter on 28 November 2025 (3944 recipients), 12 December 2025 (3947 recipients);
  - Council's Community e-newsletter on 28 November 2025 and 16 January 2026 to approximately 20,000 recipients;
  - media release on 8 December 2025;

- advertisement in *The Leader* on 13 December; and
  - inclusion in Council's social media carousel on Facebook and Instagram in November 2025.
29. The Your Say page received 37 visits, and the Draft Policy was downloaded eight times.
30. Public exhibition of the current Library Use and Membership Policy occurred during September 2024 before it was adopted by Council on 25 November 2024 (CCL080-24). A separate period of public exhibition is not proposed for the amendment to Section 3.2 of the Library Policy because that minor change is consistent with the draft Interactions with Children and Young People Policy and State Library NSW guidelines as outlined in this report.

**FILE REFERENCE**

D26/16506

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment [↓1](#) Draft Interactions with Children and Young People Policy - Policy Review - February 2026
- Attachment [↓2](#) Draft Library Use and Membership Policy 2024



# Draft Interactions with Children and Young People Policy

November 2025

### Policy Administration

<b>Dates</b>	Policy approved <b>28/11/2022</b> This policy is effective upon its approval. Policy is due for review
<b>Approved by</b>	Council Meeting <b>28/11/2022</b> Council Resolution <b>CCL09-22</b>
<b>Policy Type</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Policy
<b>Exhibition Period</b>	Not applicable
<b>Policy Owner</b>	Manager Community and Early Learning Services Community and Culture Directorate
<b>References &amp; Legislation</b>	<a href="#"><i>Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Child Protection (Offenders Prohibition Orders) Act 2004</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Children's and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Regulation 2022</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Children's Guardian Act 2019</i></a> <a href="#"><i>National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Children (Education and Care Services) National Law (NSW) No 104a of 2010</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Education and Care Services National Regulations (2011)</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998</i></a>



<b>Related Documents</b>	<p><a href="#"><u><i>Georges River Council Code of Conduct</i></u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u><i>Georges River Council Child Safe Code of Conduct – Council Officials</i></u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u><i>Council's Child Safe Action Plan</i></u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u><i>Child Protection Reporting Framework</i></u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u><i>Children and Youth Participation Framework</i></u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u><i>Working with Children Check Verification Procedure</i></u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u><i>Mandatory Reporter Guide (MRG)</i></u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u><i>Customer Feedback and Complaints Management Policy</i></u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u><i>Customer Experience Charter</i></u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u><i>Royal Commission Final Report Recommendations (2017)</i></u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u><i>NSW Child Safe Standards</i></u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u><i>National Principles for Child Safe Organisations</i></u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u><i>The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990)</i></u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u><i>Information Security Framework Policy</i></u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u><i>Records and Information Management Policy</i></u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u><i>Appropriate Workplace Behaviour Policy</i></u></a></p>
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<b>Document Identifier</b>	Policy #: <b>Pol-087.01</b> Doc # <b>D22/279885</b>
<b>Breaches of Policy</b>	Breaches of any policy will be dealt with and responded to in accordance with adopted codes and/or relevant legislation.
<b>Record Keeping</b>	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 <a href="#">Mandatory Reporter Guide</a> 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. Section 3A of the Children's Guardian Act 2019 (NSW) establishes the Child Safe Scheme, creating a regulatory framework that requires child related organisations in NSW to comply with and implement the ten Child Safe Standards (the Standards). The Standards were developed in response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.
- 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:
- a) respect the confidentiality and privacy rights of all persons;
  - b) 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;
  - c) only access records or information for the purpose of their work;
  - d) never misuse information in any way; and
  - e) 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.
- 2.5.2. Applications for redress under the National Redress Scheme close on 30 June 2027.

## Responsibilities

Position	Responsibility
All Council Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be aware of, and comply with, their responsibilities under the Interactions with Children and Young People Policy.</li> </ul>
Child Safe Champions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for children and young people in line with the Interactions with Children and Young People Policy.</li> <li>Provide staff with access to information and support regarding child safety.</li> <li>Support the development and implementation of policies, procedures and actions that enable Council to meet its objectives as a child safe organisation.</li> </ul>
Information Management and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure recordkeeping practices comply with relevant legislation.</li> <li>Maintain secure information systems for managing child-related records, and ensuring they are compliant and meet security standards.</li> </ul>
People and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the Interactions with Children and Young People Policy is communicated to all new employees as part of the induction process.</li> <li>Ensure breaches of the Interactions with Children and Young People Policy are managed in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures.</li> </ul>
Manager Community and Early Learning Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the Interactions with Children and Young People Policy is included on Council's policy register and record management system.</li> <li>Provide a point of contact about the meaning and application of the Interactions with Children and Young People Policy.</li> </ul>
Director Community and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
General Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Investigate breaches of the Interactions with Children and Young People Policy and enforce compliance.</li> </ul>

### 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

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# Library Use and Membership Policy

2024

## Policy Administration

<b>Dates</b>	Policy approved 25/11/2024 (Version 3) This policy is effective upon its approval. Policy is due for review 25/11/2027
<b>Approved by</b>	Council on 25/11/2024 (CCL080-24)
<b>Policy Type</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Policy
<b>Exhibition Period</b>	02/09/2024 – 30/09/2024
<b>Policy Owner</b>	Manager Cultural Engagement and Library Services Community and Culture Directorate
<b>Related Documents</b>	<a href="#">Georges River Council Library Collection Development Policy</a>
<b>References &amp; Legislation</b>	<a href="#">Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW)</a> <a href="#">Children's Policy Guidelines for NSW Public Libraries (2020)</a> <a href="#">Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Enforcement Act 1995 No 630</a> <a href="#">Copyright Act 1968</a> <a href="#">Library Act 1939 (NSW)</a> <a href="#">Library Council of NSW Privacy Guidelines for NSW Public Libraries</a> <a href="#">Privacy Management Plan 2023</a> <a href="#">Library Regulations 2018 (NSW)</a> <a href="#">Library Collection Development Policy 2024</a> <a href="#">Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026</a> <a href="#">Social Justice Charter 2022-2026</a> <a href="#">Child Safe Code of Conduct-Service Users and Community Interactions with Children and Young People Policy (2022)</a> <a href="#">Children's Guardian Act (2019)</a> <a href="#">Customer Feedback and Complaints Management Policy</a> <a href="#">Customer Experience Strategy 2022</a>
<b>Document Identifier</b>	Policy #: Pol-033.03 Doc #: D24/357627
<b>Breaches of Policy</b>	Breaches of any policy will be dealt with and responded to in accordance with adopted codes and/or relevant legislation.
<b>Record Keeping</b>	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, Georges River Council's Corporate Records Policy and adopted internal procedures.



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## Purpose

The Georges River Library Use and Membership Policy provides the conditions for using Georges River Libraries.

## Scope

This policy applies to every person or organisation who uses Georges River Libraries, including library members and people who are just visiting our library sites.

## Definition of Terms

Term	Meaning
Collection	Physical and digital resources owned by Council or provided to Council under licence to the library including books, magazines, newspapers, DVDs, toys, photographs, eBooks, microfiche, microfilm, CDs, digital technology, and other objects.
Electronic Resources	Digital items that are available online and accessed through the internet including eBooks, audiobooks, digital magazines, journals, databases, films, music, and online courses.
Georges River Libraries	The library services provided by Georges River Council including library spaces, collections, programs, internet services, digital resources, website, and social media.
Library Items	See Collection.
Library Membership Card	A physical card issued by the library or digital library card accessed through the library system.
Identification and Alternative Identification	Current NSW Driver's Licence Alternative identification includes a combination of: Passport, Medicare card, student card, concession card, Centrelink card, Department of Veteran's Affairs card, credit, or debit card
Inconsiderate Behaviour	This includes a disregard for others in the public space, including but not limited to the use of offensive language, harm or inconvenience caused to the rights and safety of others, and accessing online content that is not suitable for children and young people.
People	Includes individuals as well as incorporated or unincorporated organisations.
Child	A person who is under the age of 16 years.
Young Person	A person who is aged 16 years or older but under the age of 18 years.

## Policy Statement

Georges River Council provides welcoming library spaces, collections, and services to support the informational, cultural, recreational, and educational needs of the Georges River community. The libraries are open to all visitors and free library membership is offered to ensure equitable access to the services we provide. Georges River Council is a Child Safe Organisation and is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children who use our libraries.

### 1. Conditions of Library Use

1.1. Library services are provided by Georges River Council on the condition that they are shared respectfully by everyone who uses them.

1.2. Everyone who uses the library must:

- Take care of collections, equipment, rooms, and furniture they use.
- Keep food and drink away from computers and library collections.
- Take responsibility for their actions in the library, including use of the collection, Wi-Fi, equipment, and services.
- Respect the privacy, safety and needs of others in the library.
- Follow directions of library staff.
- Be careful and alert when you use technology online to make sure your personal information stays secure.
- Follow the Child Safe Code of Conduct that is displayed in our libraries.
- Comply with the restrictions to photocopying and other forms of copying that are set out in the Copyright Act 1968.
- Comply with the age restrictions that are set out in the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Enforcement Act 1995 No 630.

1.3. Restrictions:

- Commercial business is not allowed without prior approval of the Manager Cultural Engagement and Library Services.
- Alcohol and illegal drugs are not allowed in the library.
- Inconsiderate behaviour, threats, intimidation, harassment, assault, and any other unlawful activities including online activities, are forbidden.

1.4. People and organisations who do not comply with the conditions of library use may be asked to leave or banned from using the library for a period of time in accordance with the Library Regulation 2018 under the Library Act 1939 (NSW).

## 2. Conditions of Library Membership

### 2.1 Who can apply for membership:

- Library membership is free and available to anyone living in NSW.
- Different types of memberships available are:
  - Online membership - access online resources only.
  - Full membership - online membership can be changed to a full membership in person at any Georges River Library.
  - Temporary full library membership is available to visitors to NSW by applying in person at the library.
- Applications for full library membership by residents of NSW with no fixed address can be done in person at the library by providing alternative identification.
- Applications by people younger than 16 years of age must have a parent or guardian as a guarantor.
- Library membership is available to organisations that are based in and operate within the Georges River Local Government Area and must provide a formal resolution in writing from that organisation, nominating a representative to take membership.

### 2.2 Library members may:

- Borrow, renew, and reserve library items that are available for loan.
- Make a booking of library resources, including rooms and equipment, subject to availability.
- Make suggestions for purchase, subject to the Library Collection Development Policy
- Request an inter library loan of items that are not held in the collection.
- Access the Home Library Service for those unable to visit the library in person due to illness, injury, frailty, or disability.

### 2.3 Responsibilities of library members:

- If borrowing in person you must present your library membership card.

- Report lost or damaged library cards.
- Manage their library account, or account they have guaranteed, including:
  - Items on loan,
  - Returning items by the due date.
  - Payment of charges.
  - Notification of changes to their address and contact details.
  - Checking and reporting damaged library items before borrowing them.

### 3. Child Safety and Wellbeing

3.1 Georges River Libraries are committed to providing safe and welcoming environments, resources, and programs to support the needs of children and young people.

3.2 Unattended children:

- Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Children must never be left in the library alone. A child or young person left unattended in the library may be at risk of significant harm, according to the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW)*.
- Library staff have a duty to report child protection concerns set out in the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW)*

3.3 Access to collections:

- Library staff are available to help children and young people in finding and accessing resources appropriate to their interests and inquiries.
- Library collections and resources are accessible to all library users, including children and young people, with minimal restriction.
- It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to monitor or supervise their children's use of library collections and resources based on age level, family values or beliefs.

3.4 Children and young people using the internet:

- The library supports the rights of everyone, including children and young people, to have free access to online information that suits their interests and inquiries.

- Library staff can help children and young people use digital technology and the internet safely but do not supervise how they use these resources.
- Children and young people without supervision can be at risk of harm when they go online. Parents and guardians are responsible for monitoring what sites they visit and what they see online.

**4. Membership Information and Privacy**

- 4.1 The library collects personal information for the purpose of creating a library membership record and to provide library services. This information is voluntary; however, it is not possible to process membership applications and provide some services without this.
- 4.2 Member information may be disclosed to third parties contracted by Council to provide Resources and information technology services, but only for the purpose of that third party providing those services, and only as permitted by NSW privacy laws.
- 4.3 Personal information collected by the library is managed in accordance with the Georges River Council Privacy Management Plan.

**Responsibilities**

Position	Responsibility
Manager Cultural Engagement and Library Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a point of contact about the meaning and application of this policy.</li> <li>• Ensure policy is included on Council's policy register and record management system.</li> </ul>
Coordinator Library Customer Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the policy when necessary to ensure it is current.</li> <li>• Implement communications, education, and monitoring strategies.</li> </ul>
Library Management Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate breaches and enforce compliance.</li> </ul>

### Version Control and Change History

Version	Amendment Details	Policy Owner	Period Active
<b>KCC</b>	Former Kogarah Council Library Policy discontinued	Manager Library	22/02/2016 – 03/09/2017
<b>1.0</b>	New Georges River Council Library Use and Membership Policy  Approved by Council Resolution CCL205-17	Manager Library Services	04/09/2017 – 02/08/2022
<b>2.0</b>	Review of Policy in line with Council’s Policy review cycle. Amendments to the Policy are outlined in the report presented to the Executive on 24/5/2022 and 2/8/2022	Manager Cultural Engagement and Library Services	02/08/2022 – 25/11/2024
<b>3.0</b>	Review of Policy in line with Council’s Policy review cycle. Amendments to the Policy are outlined in the report presented to the Council on 25/11/2024	Manager Cultural Engagement and Library Services	25/11/2024 – 25/11/2027

**Item:** COM010-26 Event Grants for April 2026

**Author:** Coordinator Events and Sponsorship

**Directorate:** Community and Culture

**Matter Type:** Committee Reports

COM010-26

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council approves the Event Grant application and funding amounts of:

- (a) \$8,140 (\$7,000 financial and \$1,140 in-kind value) to support the Oatley RSL Sub-Branch ‘ANZAC Day Dawn Service and Family Day’ on Saturday 25 April 2026; and
- (b) \$20,000 (\$18,860 financial and \$1,140 in-kind value) to support the Greek Orthodox Parish & Community of Kogarah & District Resurrection of Christ ‘Orthodox Easter’ event on Friday 10 April and Saturday 11 April 2026.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. This report seeks Council approval for two event grants applications, totalling \$28,140, as outlined below:
  - (a) \$8,140 (\$7,000 financial and \$1,140 in-kind value) to support the ‘ANZAC Day Dawn Service and Family Day’ on Saturday 25 April 2026; and
  - (b) \$20,000 (\$18,860 financial and \$1,140 in-kind value) to support the ‘Orthodox Easter’ event on Friday 10 April and Saturday 11 April 2026.
2. These have been assessed in accordance with Council’s Grants and Donations Policy and are recommended for approval.

**BACKGROUND**

3. Georges River Council receives requests from community organisations seeking support for community events and initiatives. In accordance with the Georges River Council Grants and Donations Policy (2025), each application is assessed, and recommendations are presented to Council for consideration.
4. On Thursday 29 January 2026, Council received correspondence from Oatley RSL Sub-Branch Ltd requesting an event grant of \$8,140 in support, in relation to their event application to host the ANZAC Day Dawn Service and Family Day event. This event will be held on Saturday, 25 April 2026 at Oatley Memorial Gardens.

<b>Organisation</b>	Oatley RSL Sub-Branch Limited
<b>Description of Organisation</b>	The Oatley RSL Sub-Branch is dedicated to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for veterans and their families within the Oatley NSW community. We align our mission with the values of RSL NSW, prioritising respect, support, and the well-being of those who have served our nation.
<b>Event Description</b>	The ANZAC Day Dawn Service will commence at 6.00am at Oatley War Memorial in Oatley Memorial Gardens, with an anticipated attendance of 5,000 people. Due to the high numbers,

	<p>the sub-branch will utilise a live- feed screen to ensure visibility to all attendees.</p> <p>Following the service, the annual ANZAC Day BBQ Breakfast will be served at the Oatley memorial gardens by the amazing volunteers from the Oatley and Lugarno Lions Clubs. From 11.00am a family day commences that feature historic Military Vehicle display, community group stands and a historic Aircraft flyover. This is a wonderful opportunity for the whole community to come together, reflect, and honour our veterans while enjoying a day of remembrance and family-friendly activities.</p>
<b>Community Benefit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social and cultural awareness;</li> <li>• Local area promotion; and</li> <li>• Economic development.</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Grant</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screens and related audio-visual equipment; and</li> <li>• Portable toilets.</li> </ul>

5. On 17 February 2026, Council received correspondence from the Greek Orthodox Parish & Community of Kogarah & District Resurrection of Christ, requesting an event grant of (\$18,860 financial and \$1,140 in-kind value. Orthodox Easter celebrations are scheduled to take place on Belgrave Street Kogarah and in Kogarah Town Square on Friday, 10 April and Saturday, 11 April 2026, with an expected attendance of over 1,000 people.

<b>Organisation</b>	The Greek Orthodox Parish & Community of Kogarah & District Resurrection of Christ Limited.
<b>Description of Organisation</b>	The Greek Orthodox Parish & Community of Kogarah & District serves the faithful in Kogarah and the wider St George Area with the canonical blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia.
<b>Event Description</b>	<p>The Greek Orthodox Parish &amp; Community of Kogarah &amp; District will host Greek Orthodox Easter celebrations on Belgrave Street, Kogarah from 10 April to 11 April 2026. Given the cultural significance of this event and the anticipated attendance of more than 1,000 people, the celebrations will also be broadcast by Antenna Pacific.</p> <p>Greek Orthodox Easter is observed not only by the Greek Orthodox community but is also recognised by individuals from a range of cultural and religious backgrounds.</p> <p>This occasion fosters an opportunity for unity and a sense of belonging and optimism for the future among all participants.</p>
<b>Community Benefit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social and cultural awareness;</li> <li>• Economic development; and</li> <li>• Local area promotion.</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Grant</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rental fee;</li> <li>• Audio visual set up and support; and</li> </ul>

- Traffic management and security services.

- Applications were assessed against a range of criteria included in the Event Grant Guidelines 2025-2026, such as:
  - Promote social and cultural awareness;
  - Supports economic development of the local government area; and
  - Promotes the local government area.
- These events are in accordance with Council’s Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035:
  - Pillar 1: Our Community, specifically addressing strategies;
    - Provide and support community events that connect people and reflect the diversity of our communities;
    - Provide a range of accessible services, facilities and programs that respond to social issues and foster community wellbeing;
    - Provide a range of services, programs and facilities that address the needs of local people of all ages, and through all stages of life;
    - Provide programs, services and activities that support knowledge sharing and lifelong learning; and
    - Provide programs and events that promote, support and celebrate local heritage and history.
    - Specifically, the event grants are recommended for approval by Council due to alignment with the Georges River Council’s Events and Festival’s Charter:

Event	Key Features	Alignment with Charter
ANZAC Dawn Service and Family Day	Memorial service bringing people together to share a moment of remembrance, gratitude and reflection. Followed by a family-friendly celebration focused on education and interactive activities.	Connecting all groups through shared remembrance and gratitude. Draws visitors, promotes well-being, encourages respect and enhances social cohesion.
Orthodox Easter	Celebration that shares and educates the community on Orthodox faith and fostering cultural appreciation.	Promotes community well-being, encourages local participation and engagement.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- The total amount for Council’s approval is \$28,140 consisting of:
  - Total financial value: \$25,860; and
  - Total in-kind value of \$2,280

9. A breakdown of the event grant applications received for these events is outlined in table 1 as follows:

**Table 1. Event Grant Applications for April 2026**

Event	Event Date	Requested Amount	Recommended Financial	Recommended In-kind	Recommended Total
ANZAC Dawn Service and Family Day	25 April 2026	\$8,140	\$7,000	\$1,140	\$8,140
Orthodox Easter	10 and 11 April 2026	\$20,000	\$18,860	\$1,140	\$20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$28,140</b>	<b>\$25,860</b>	<b>\$2,280</b>	<b>\$28,140</b>

COM010-26

## RISK IMPLICATIONS

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

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

## FILE REFERENCE

D26/37512

## ATTACHMENTS

Nil

**Item:** COM011-26 **Place Naming: New Community Centre in Peakhurst Park - Results of Community Consultation**

**Author:** Manager, Cultural Engagement and Library Services

**Directorate:** Community and Culture

**Matter Type:** Committee Reports

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- (a) That Council receive and note the results of the community consultation for the proposed name 'Peakhurst Park Community Centre'.
- (b) That Council approve the proposed name 'Peakhurst Park Community Centre' for the new community centre being constructed on lot 2 in DP 114770 on land known as 7a Hedley Street, Riverwood.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. On 8 December 2025, Council endorsed the name 'Peakhurst Park Community Centre' for the new community centre being constructed on Lot 2 in DP 114770 on land known as 7a Hedley Street, Riverwood (CCL133-25).
2. The proposed name was put on public exhibition on Council's Your Say website from 10 December 2025 to 7 February 2026.
3. Community feedback showed strong support for the proposed new facility.

**BACKGROUND**

4. In accordance with the Georges River Place Naming Policy (the Policy), Council is responsible for approving the name of Council owned facilities in the Georges River local government area (LGA).
5. On 8 December 2025, Council endorsed the name 'Peakhurst Park Community Centre'. The proposed name is aligned with the requirements of the Policy, being a functional name which clearly represents the purpose of the facility and assists wayfinding.
6. During the public exhibition period, 18 submissions were received from the community, with 16 via the Your Say Platform and two via email. The submissions are summarised as follows:
  - (a) 11 people were 'very happy' or 'happy' with the proposed name;
  - (b) Three people provided feedback that the facility should have an Aboriginal name;
  - (c) Two people provided feedback recommending alternative names; and
  - (d) Two people provided feedback that did not relate to the naming proposal.
7. The three submissions which recommended Aboriginal names were received from people who did not identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in the Your Say submission form. During consultation, the facility was not identified as a priority for an Aboriginal name by Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee, as required by the Policy. One of the three submissions also suggested that the facility could include Aboriginal artwork, which has been noted by council officers but is not relevant to the current naming proposal.

8. The two submissions suggested alternative names for consideration, 'Peakhurst Community Centre' and 'John Robert Peake Community Centre'. Both names were identified in the report endorsed by Council on 8 December 2025 Council 'Place Naming Proposal – New Facility in Peakhurst Park' (CCL133-25) with the names not recommended because the suggested names would not provide clear wayfinding.
9. The two submissions which provided feedback that did not relate to the name proposal, included comments about the Peakhurst Master Plan and the use of the facility by community organisations.
10. Accordingly, the proposed name 'Peakhurst Park Community Centre' is recommended for approval by Council. Should Council approve the proposed name, it will be formally assigned to the facility through the following steps:
  - (a) Building signs with the proposed name will be installed at the new community facility;
  - (b) Council's Spatial and Digital Services team will include the proposed name in Council's mapping systems; and
  - (c) The NSW Geographical Names Board will be notified to include the proposed name in the Spatial Services' Digital Topographic database and maps.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. There is no budget implication for this report. Should Council approve the proposed name 'Peakhurst Park Community Centre' the cost of signage is included in the project budget.

## RISK IMPLICATIONS

### 12. Strategic Risk 6: Reputation

If a formal name is not assigned to the new community centre, 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 'Peakhurst Park Community Centre' reinforces the area's identity as well as Council's credibility. The recommended name supports general wayfinding and improve potential emergency response outcomes.

### 13. Strategic Risk 7: Ineffective Governance

The adoption of name that do not comply with the Policy or broader regulatory requirements, increases Council's risk of ineffective governance. Inconsistent application of policies and procedures can undermine Council's governance framework and expose the organisation to non-compliance. The recommendations of this report as in accordance with Council's Policy and the decision-making framework for place naming, which aligns with the requirements of the Geographical Names Board of NSW, thereby demonstrating sound governance and adherence to legislative standards. The proposed name is consistent with the Policy as well as the proposed requirements of the revised draft Place Naming Policy which is scheduled for approval at the Council meeting on 9 March 2026.

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

14. The proposed name 'Peakhurst Park Community Centre' was placed on public exhibition on Council's Your Say platform for an extended period from 10 December 2025 to 7 February 2026 to account for the Christmas and New Year holiday period. During the public exhibition period there were:
  - (a) 342 visits to the Your Say project page;

- (b) 20 visits to the Your Say survey page;
  - (c) 16 contributors to the survey; and
  - (d) 2 contributors provided feedback via email.
15. An invitation to provide feedback on the naming proposal was provided to:
- (a) Council's advisory committees, including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee and the Multicultural Advisory Committee.
  - (b) Residents living in the vicinity of 7a Hedley Street, Riverwood via letterbox drop.

**FILE REFERENCE**

D26/43081

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil