

## Resolution of Council

**23 March 2026**

### **Item 13.1**

#### **Vale Maxi Shield**

Moved by Councillor Worling, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor) -

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) on 23 February 2026, Maxi Shield - born Kristopher Elliot in Ballina, NSW passed away at the age of 51, following a battle with cancer;
- (ii) Maxi Shield was an acclaimed and widely beloved figure in the Australian drag community, with a performance career spanning more than 25 years, particularly across Sydney's Oxford Street and queer venues citywide;
- (iii) she publicly documented her cancer treatment, having undergone radiation and chemotherapy since August 2025, and had only recently returned to performing at Palms on Oxford in early February 2026 after completing her final round of radiation in January;
- (iv) Maxi Shield achieved global visibility as a contestant on Season 1 of RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under (2021), bringing her distinctive humour, honesty and warmth to audiences across Australia and internationally;
- (v) her career included major milestone performances, including appearances at the Sydney Olympic Games Closing Ceremony in 2000 and the Gay Games Opening Ceremony in 2002, cementing her status as a trailblazer in Australian drag;
- (vi) Maxi was celebrated for her advocacy, inclusivity, and commitment to community, speaking openly about being a proud plus-sized older queen and championing drag as an artform for all bodies, ages and identities;

- (vii) she was deeply embedded in Sydney's LGBTQIA+ community, regularly hosting, performing, mentoring younger performers and contributing to festivals, fundraisers, and long-standing queer cultural events across the city;
  - (viii) tributes have poured in from across Sydney and around the world, including from fellow drag performers Courtney Act, Jacqui St Hyde, Vanity, Tora Hymen, and venue operators such as Universal Sydney licensee Dillon Shaw and Stonewall's Glenn Hansen, all describing her as a beloved icon, a brilliant performer, and a person of immense humour, generosity, and spirit;
  - (ix) her passing came just days before the 2026 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, a profound loss for the community she helped shape, with Mardi Gras leadership acknowledging her as an icon, a pillar of the community, and a cherished presence whose absence was deeply felt during this year's celebrations; and
  - (x) Maxi Shield leaves behind a remarkable legacy of artistry, authenticity, mentorship and joy. She was a vibrant and enduring presence within Sydney's cultural landscape, and her contributions to drag performance, LGBTQIA+ representation, and community life will continue to resonate for decades to come;
- (B) Council expresses its condolences to Maxi Shield's mother, Sharon, and partner of 15 years, David, alongside other family, her friends and fans from all over the world;
  - (C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to Maxi Shield's family to convey Council's condolences; and
  - (D) all present at the meeting observe a minute's silence to commemorate the life of Maxi Shield and her contribution to LGBTQIA+ communities in Sydney, across Australia and internationally.

Carried unanimously.

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Note – All Councillors, staff and members of the public present stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect to Maxi Shield.