Resolution of Council

26 October 2026

Item 13.6

Support for 'Meanwhile' Creative Use and Community Activation at the Former Wentworth Park Greyhound Track

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

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

(i) in December 2025, the NSW Government announced that the Greyhound Breeders, Owners and Trainers Association (GBOTA) land use license at Wentworth Park would end in September 2027, and the City would be appointed as the Crown Lands Manager following completion of demolition and make good works by the NSW Government

(ii) in July 2026, the NSW Government announced that GBOTA had requested early termination of its land use licence and the final meeting took place on Friday, 16 October 2026. The City has been advised that GBOTA will remove racing-related infrastructure, including track fencing and lighting, start line stalls and kennel infrastructure by the end of 2026

(iii) the demolition of the Wentworth Park function centre and grandstand will begin at the beginning of October 2027 and is expected to take 18 months to 2 years to complete

(iv) in the meantime, the Wentworth Park Sports Complex will continue to be managed by the Wentworth Park Sports Complex Land Manager (WPCSM) until the end of September 2027, to allow for the management of existing licenses and lease agreements to the end of their terms. Venue Hire and Oval Hire within the Sports Complex are available for community use and booking, and include:

(a) ~ 16,700m2 grass oval

(b) sports field - 112 x 70m (rugby league/union and soccer)

(c) 3,000-seat undercover grandstand

(d) 300m2 lower mezzanine with bistro

(e) 2000m2 ground floor with 2 bars and cafe

(f) 1,800m2 level one with bar and food service, outdoor terrace and room divider

(g) 1,800m2 level 2 with 4 rooms (available after 30 November 2026)

(h) 400m2 kennels building with open rooms and toilets (available after 30 November 2026)

(i) PA systems, screens and furniture

(v) that until the demolition has taken place, the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex remains the responsibility of the Minister for Lands and Property, under the Crown Lands Act 2016

(vi) there is a need amongst the City's creative, live music and arts community for access to large, well-located spaces for creative use including performances, screenings, festivals and exhibitions

(vii) the Wentworth Park facilities already have adequate infrastructure and offer an opportunity to provide 'meanwhile' creative use for the period between November 2026 and demolition

(viii) this kind of 'meanwhile creative' use is consistent with the objectives and goals of the City of Sydney's Cultural Strategy 2025-2035, the NSW Government's Vibrancy reforms, and Contemporary Music Act 2026

(ix) the City of Sydney will continue to consult with the community as it develops the detailed Concept Plan for Wentworth Park and will upgrade the park as soon as possible

(B) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for the Arts, Music and the Night-time Economy, and the NSW Premier requesting that:

(i) the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex become a priority location for creative 'meanwhile use' from November 2026 until demolition in October 2027

(ii) the NSW Government, in collaboration with the City of Sydney, investigate opportunities to activate and program the complex with a range of performances, screenings, festivals and other public events

(iii) the NSW Government considers funding opportunities to activate the space and support creative industry workers including the Creative NSW Collaboration Fund

(C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to work with the NSW Government to encourage and enable the space to be activated before the structures are demolished, and report back to Council.

Carried unanimously.

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