

Council

Meeting No 2

Monday 17 March 2025

Notice No 2/1672

Notice Date 13 March 2025

minutes

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Present

The Right Hon The Lord Mayor - Councillor Clover Moore AO (Chair)

Members Deputy Lord Mayor - Councillor Zann Maxwell, Councillor Olly Arkins, Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore, Councillor Lyndon Gannon, Councillor Robert Kok, Councillor Jess Miller, Councillor Matthew Thompson, Councillor Yvonne Weldon AM and Councillor Adam Worling.

At the commencement of business at 5:01pm, those present were:

The Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor Maxwell, and Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Gannon, Kok, Miller, Thompson, Weldon and Worling.

The Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Executive Director Finance and Procurement, Executive Director City Services, Executive Director City Planning, Development and Transport, Executive Director Legal and Governance, Executive Director City Life, Executive Director People, Performance and Technology and Executive Director Strategic Development and Engagement were also present.

Acknowledgement of Country and Opening Prayer

The Lord Mayor opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country and opening prayer.

Webcasting Statement

The Chair (the Lord Mayor), advised that in accordance with the City of Sydney Code of Meeting Practice, Council meetings are audio visually recorded and webcast live on the City of Sydney website. The Chair (the Lord Mayor) asked that courtesy and respect be observed throughout the meeting and advised those in attendance to refrain from making defamatory statements.

Order of Business

Council agreed that the order of business be altered such that Item 13.3 be brought forward and considered before Item 4, for the convenience of the public present.

Council also agreed that Item 6.7 be deferred and considered after the adjournment.

Councillor Arkins left the meeting of Council at 7:08pm, prior to the discussion on Item 8.3. They returned at 7:10pm, following the vote on that item. Councillor Arkins was not present at, or in sight of, the meeting of Council during discussion or voting on Item 8.3.

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Kok –

That the Minutes of the meeting of Council of Monday, 17 February 2025, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 2 Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest

Statement of Ethical Obligations

In accordance with section 233A of the Local Government Act 1993, the Lord Mayor and Councillors are bound by the Oath or Affirmation of Office made at the start of the Council term to undertake their civic duties in the best interests of the people of the City of Sydney and the City of Sydney Council and to 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

Councillor Olly Arkins made the following disclosures:

- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 6.8 on the agenda, in that in their role as Managing Director of the Australia Festival Association (AFA), they sometimes work closely with 2 tenants of the City of Sydney Creative Studios, Music NSW and the Electronic Music Conference as organisations in the music industry. Music NSW is also a member of the AFA.

Councillor Arkins considers that this non-pecuniary interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances as they have had no contact with Brand X about this item.

- a significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.3 on the agenda, in that they have known Ian Roberts, a Board Member of Qtopia, for many years, and Ian has previously been a candidate for Labor for the City of Sydney in the past.

Councillor Arkins stated that they will not be voting on this matter.

Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 10 on the agenda, in that a board member of the Haymarket Foundation, Marlee Bower, is a former co-worker and friend. Councillor Ellsmore considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because this grant was independently assessed by staff as meeting the requirements of the Council's housing grant scheme. She was not aware that the application for funding had been made, or that Dr Bower was on the board. Councillor Ellsmore has not spoken to anyone connected with Haymarket Foundation or Bridge Housing about the proposed grant.

Councillor Jess Miller disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 9.3 on agenda, in that she currently serves on the Board of the National Art School. Councillor Miller considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because the National Art School was added in after the exhibition, and because she was not aware of this recommendation until the Committee papers were published. She had no communication with the National Art School about this item.

No other Councillors disclosed any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting of Council.

Item 3 Minutes by the Lord Mayor**Item 3.1 Permanently Waiving Outdoor Dining Fees****Minute by the Lord Mayor**

To Council:

Free outdoor dining supports our businesses and creates jobs, adds vibrancy to our streets, and provides more interesting destinations that attract local residents, workers and visitors.

Initially a measure to help hospitality venues recover from the pandemic, outdoor dining has become an essential part of the City's culture and street life.

People enjoy sitting outdoors to eat and drink. It can be more casual, easier for people with children or dogs, and presents a unique ambiance for experiencing our beautiful city – especially in Sydney's climate which is suited for outdoor dining all year round.

It is wonderful to see the transformation outdoor dining has had on our high streets, laneways and neighbourhoods as we use our public spaces more creatively.

Almost all businesses with outdoor dining have told us it is beneficial, or crucial, to their business – more than half have had an increase in turnover of around 20%. Many have employed new staff or increased staff hours – an estimated 200 jobs have been created from our free outdoor dining.

While on-road outdoor dining was technically made possible during the pandemic, it is supported by other City of Sydney programs, like our Sydney Streets events as well as our capital works projects. For example, our \$32 million upgrade of Crown Street is creating a more attractive streetscape with more space for outdoor dining and for displaying goods on the footpath. Similarly, the George Street pedestrian boulevard, which has attracted \$8 billion of private investment, is now enticing crowds of people sitting and walking, eating and drinking, shopping and chatting with friends.

We are also slowing traffic and upgrading streets to make them more pleasant for outdoor dining in areas like Oxford Street and Haymarket.

It is clear that outdoor dining has flourished since the City started waiving fees.

In May 2020, Council unanimously resolved to waive outdoor dining application and licence fees on the footpaths, and in November 2020, we expanded outdoor dining on to the roadway, with the support of the NSW Government. As part of the expanded program, we introduced a fast-tracked application process to help businesses quickly recover from the pandemic.

The NSW Government initially supported outdoor dining in our area by contributing to the cost of infrastructure, however since May 2023, the City has covered the total cost of the supporting infrastructure (i.e. concrete barriers) to make outdoor dining on the street possible.

Given the success of outdoor dining, Council has extended the fee waiver twice to support businesses – in July 2021 and November 2022. The current fee waiver is due to end on 30 June 2025.

In November 2022, when Council unanimously supported my Lord Mayoral Minute to extend the fee waiver, Council also requested the Chief Executive Officer to review our outdoor dining spaces and investigate locations where the footpath can be permanently extended into the road space – that work is well underway with a report to come back to Council.

In December 2023, the temporary Covid legislation permitting outdoor dining on footpaths and roads without separate development applications was made permanent by the NSW Government.

In August 2024, Council unanimously resolved to extend the temporary use of road space and barriers for outdoor dining until 30 June 2025 to align the program with the City's current outdoor dining fee waiver and allow staff more time to investigate options as part of its review.

Since November 2020, 993 outdoor dining applications have been approved, 189 on-road and 804 on the footpath. An estimated 2,148sqm of road space and 10,837sqm in footpath space have been approved for outdoor dining. These applications have supported over 800 businesses.

By June this year, the total value of support we will have given businesses by waiving footpath and on-street outdoor dining fees since November 2020 will be around \$20 million.

Given the transformation outdoor dining has had on our City's dining culture, street vitality and nightlife, I am asking the Chief Executive Officer to investigate permanently waiving the application and licence fees for outdoor dining as part of the upcoming budget, to provide businesses with certainty and enable outdoor dining and associated benefits to continue to thrive in our city.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) since November 2020, the City has approved 993 outdoor dining applications, supporting over 800 businesses;
- (ii) businesses utilising outdoor dining have found it beneficial or crucial to their business, have experienced an increase in turnover and has led to the creation of more jobs; and
- (iii) the City's current waiver for outdoor dining application and licence fees is due to expire on 30 June 2025;

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) investigate permanently waiving application and licence fees for outdoor dining for Council's consideration as part of the 2025/26 budget;
- (ii) bring a report to Council on the outcome of the City's investigations into locations where the footpath can be permanently extended into road space for outdoor dining; and
- (iii) write to all businesses with an outdoor dining approval to advise them of the permanent fee waiver and the application process if they wish to continue their outdoor dining after 30 June 2025; and

(C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Minister for Roads to request the NSW Government commit to supporting on-street dining with the funding and infrastructure needed to enable it to continue.

COUNCILLOR CLOVER MOORE AO

Lord Mayor

Moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor) –

That the Minute by the Lord Mayor be endorsed and adopted.

Variation. At the request of Councillor Thompson, and by consent, the Minute was varied, such that it read as follows:

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) since November 2020, the City has approved 993 outdoor dining applications, supporting over 800 businesses;
- (ii) businesses utilising outdoor dining have found it beneficial or crucial to their business, have experienced an increase in turnover and has led to the creation of more jobs;
- (iii) the City's current waiver for outdoor dining application and licence fees is due to expire on 30 June 2025; and
- (iv) councils such as Woollahra and Melbourne Councils, as well as global cities such as London, have reallocated kerbside parking to footway dining, including initiatives that allow the space to be used by the public while the business is not operating, creating what are referred to as “parklets”;

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) investigate permanently waiving application and licence fees for outdoor dining for Council's consideration as part of the 2025/26 budget;
- (i) investigate initiatives that allow the outdoor space to be used by the public while the business is not operating, creating what are referred to as “parklets”;
- (ii) bring a report to Council on the outcome of the City's investigations into locations where the footpath can be permanently extended into road space for outdoor dining, including the possibility of creating parklets; and
- (iii) write to all businesses with an outdoor dining approval to advise them of the permanent fee waiver and the application process if they wish to continue their outdoor dining after 30 June 2025; and

(C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Minister for Roads to request the NSW Government commit to supporting on-street dining with the funding and infrastructure needed to enable it to continue.

The Minute, as varied by consent, was carried unanimously.

S051491

Item 3.2 Housing Delivery Authority

Minute by the Lord Mayor

To Council:

With little warning and no consultation, in December 2024, the NSW Government established the Housing Delivery Authority (HDA) which commenced in January 2025. Applicants can submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the HDA for medium and major housing developments above approximately \$60 million in Greater Sydney to be assessed as State Significant Development (SSD).

Our Development Control Plans do not apply to State Significant Developments and through the Housing Delivery Authority, large residential developments can be subject to a concurrent rezoning and development approval process which will override the agreed long-term plans for our area and may jeopardise requirements to provide in-perpetuity affordable housing contributions. The Housing Delivery Authority process may well mean that issues of amenity, design and community infrastructure won't be resolved for occupants or neighbours during the concurrent rezoning process.

We know Sydney is facing a housing affordability crisis, and we are working hard to deliver on our housing targets, but the Housing Delivery Authority is a step backwards. Housing production cannot be at any cost. We must maintain liveability standards for homes and neighbourhoods in a more compact city, not end up with poor quality homes that will blight Sydney for generations to come.

The Housing Delivery Authority is a panel of bureaucrats, not accountable to the community.

Despite only being announced in December last year, in its first 3 weeks, the Housing Delivery Authority received nearly 100 Expressions of Interest, 85 in metropolitan areas and 11 in regional NSW. To date, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces has declared 29 housing proposals State Significant Development following recommendations from the Housing Delivery Authority including at least 3 in our area that we are aware of.

The process lacks transparency. We are not made aware of applications the Housing Delivery Authority is considering until after the meeting minutes are published. Decisions are made behind closed doors and without consideration of councils' planning policies, strategic land use plans or existing development approvals.

Housing targets

Our local area is already home to the densest communities in Australia.

As of June 2024, we met 71% of our long-term housing target of 56,000 homes by 2036 within just 7 years of our 20-year goal. We have over 21,000 dwellings built and almost 19,000 in the pipeline.

In May 2024, the NSW Government allocated new 5-year short-term housing targets to 43 councils to meet its commitment of delivering 377,000 new homes under the National Housing Accord. The City's short-term target is 18,900 new private homes to be completed by July 2029.

We stand ready to deliver on those targets, but it must be done with responsible planning and infrastructure delivery.

Risks to long-term vision and planning

The Housing Delivery Authority provides new pathways for development approval that effectively reinstate Part 3A approvals which were so unpopular, the former Liberal Government abolished them at its first cabinet meeting in 2011.

The City is continually, but strategically, planning for growth in our area. For example, the City has drafted planning controls to increase housing density in Pymont and Ultimo. Along with the NSW Government's planning controls, development in Pymont and Ultimo could deliver 27,000 jobs and 4,100 homes. Meanwhile, the NSW Government has quietly shelved its long-term growth strategy, seemingly to be replaced by ad-hoc changes without consideration of consequences or long-term needs.

For the past 20 years, the City has strategically planned for a range of uses to keep our city running. This includes housing, but we also need to plan for education, health, employment and innovation space, retail needs, creative and cultural space, economic and nightlife activity and the infrastructure to support development like parks, community facilities, pedestrian links, public transport and childcare.

Importantly, this work has been supported by community engagement every step of the way.

The Housing Delivery Authority provides new pathways for development approval that set aside long-term strategic planning, robust design excellence, good planning outcomes and community input. It can jeopardise our social license to plan well and deliver housing that is in response to market and societal needs.

Of the sites already recommended as State Significant Development in our area by the Housing Delivery Authority, many already have development approval through the City following a transparent and collaborative planning process. It is clear the NSW Government is providing a fast-track process with increased incentives for developers to override existing council plans and approvals as well as community and landowner expectations, all so they can get a second bite at increased density on sites which are often already maxed out on development potential.

Green Square Urban Renewal Area

The City has carefully planned for growth in Green Square. It is Australia's largest urban renewal project with one of the highest densities in Australia at an estimated cost of \$22 billion at completion. The 63,000 residents in this precinct will need services and infrastructure like supermarkets, restaurants, medical and day surgery centres, childcare centres, education and entertainment facilities and other employment generating spaces. Our long-term plans for the area always envisioned this need and are embedded into the planning controls when sites are developed.

The Housing Delivery Authority risks overriding the requirements for services and infrastructure and replacing them with more and more homes – meaning residents will have to travel further for work and essential services.

Development in Green Square renewal moves rapidly with an average 50 apartments completed every week. Green Square is currently home to around 41,900 residents. By the time it is complete in 2041, it will have approximately 33,000 dwellings, 63,000 residents and capacity of up to 22,000 workers.

One of the applications recommended by the Housing Delivery Authority for the State Significant Development pathway covers several sites in the Green Square Town Centre directly facing the public plaza and library at 377- 495 Botany Road and 960A Bourke Street, Zetland.

For over a decade, the City worked with the development consortium and developers to change the planning controls several times. The City supported various Development Applications to enable flexible entertainment uses and adapted apartment sizes to respond to the market need. Three of the sites have had development approval since 2019, including for about 740 apartments and about 11,000sqm of space for shops, businesses and entertainment uses in buildings up to 24 storeys.

Details about the application to the Housing Delivery Authority for 1,200 dwellings have not been made public, but I am extremely concerned we will likely see the loss of everyday retail and services, businesses, entertainment and genuine affordable housing as well as higher buildings that could make the Green Square plaza overshadowed and unattractive.

Oxford Street Precinct

Oxford Street's cultural and creative precinct is also at risk under the Housing Delivery Authority.

In 2022, new planning controls came into force that incentivise owners with increased height and floor space if they invest in their properties and promote cultural and creative uses and protect heritage. Plus, extra floor space is awarded for performance venues in basements.

If taken up, the City's new controls could create over 33,000sqm of new floor space including 11,000sqm of cultural and creative employment space.

In 2023, the City approved redevelopment of the former Verona cinema site at 17 Oxford Street, Paddington. The approved application took advantage of the City's controls and importantly it retained the cinema – an important community need.

Unfortunately, an Expression of Interest was submitted to the Housing Delivery Authority to consider redevelopment of this site as well as the adjoining residential development. I am concerned that the Housing Delivery Authority did not disallow this application despite it only delivering a net increase of 23 dwellings.

We know culture and nightlife are a priority for the NSW Government, but this risks being overridden by these ad-hoc planning changes. This could tear up our agreed long-term planning efforts to support cultural and creative industries on Oxford Street, that are crucial to revitalising Oxford Street.

Affordable Housing

Currently, the City captures between 16 and 21% of newly created residential floor space as an affordable housing contribution when sites are rezoned. We are also the first Council to collect a low-rate Local Government Area wide affordable housing contribution through Development Applications.

The City uses every lever available to us to maximise the amount of Affordable Housing across our local area. Affordable housing provided through our schemes is provided in-perpetuity.

We are on track to deliver more than 5,338 new affordable rental homes in-perpetuity by 2036. Already we have 3,388 affordable homes – either built, in the pipeline or expected. Further, the City's contribution scheme, which has covered the whole local government area since July 2021, is expected to deliver a further 1,950 affordable dwellings.

We are extremely concerned that by concurrently assessing rezonings and development applications, the Housing Delivery Authority and State Significant Development pathway will enable development to bypass some or all our affordable housing contributions, particularly those that capture residential uplift.

Density can be done well

Last month, the NSW Government introduced a Bill in Parliament proposing more planning changes that could further diminish councils' planning authority, reduce community participation and enable more planning bodies like the Housing Delivery Authority.

Sydney is in the grip of a post-Covid housing affordability crisis, which is making owning or renting difficult for many. Denser cities can be the healthiest, greenest, and most stimulating places for people to live with the least environmental impact – but only if we ensure it is well-designed, liveable, and people have access to essential services. Otherwise, we will build a city of unliveable slums.

For 2 decades the City has understood this and been at the forefront of providing the highest residential densities, including Potts Point, Haymarket, Pyrmont/Ultimo and the Green Square Urban Renewal Area.

These communities are successful because development has been managed carefully, alongside commensurate infrastructure and with increased height and density allocated to appropriate sites. For growth to be accepted and successful, it must be done so with community consultation and community buy-in.

After successive governments neglected the warning signs of this housing crisis, I commend the Premier for making it a priority. However, this Housing Delivery Authority process has been rushed through without enough consideration of the consequences. The Premier needs to work with councils to ensure this Housing Delivery Authority process does not undermine existing planning controls and development applications, improve transparency and community engagement, and protect affordable housing contributions.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the City of Sydney has met 71% of its 20-year housing target in just 7 years with over 21,000 dwellings built and almost 19,000 in the pipeline;
- (ii) the City of Sydney stands ready to deliver on the NSW Government's new short-term housing targets, but it must be done with responsible planning and infrastructure delivery; and
- (iii) the current processes of the Housing Delivery Authority are a threat to the City of Sydney's long-term vision and planning for our area, particularly in areas like Green Square, Oxford Street and Pyrmont/Ultimo; and

- (B) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the NSW Premier and the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to request a meeting with them to:
- (i) raise the City's concerns about the Housing Delivery Authority and the impacts its decisions could have on our long-term vision and planning for our area;
 - (ii) ask the Housing Delivery Authority to consult with councils on applications in their local area and require them to consider existing planning controls and development approvals;
 - (iii) urge the Housing Delivery Authority to ensure any council's Affordable Housing contributions schemes apply to any application; and
 - (iv) improve transparency of the Housing Delivery Authority's processes by:
 - (a) publicly releasing application details before meetings are held;
 - (b) holding public meetings;
 - (c) publishing application reports and details with minutes; and
 - (d) consulting with councils and their policies at every stage of the process.

COUNCILLOR CLOVER MOORE AO

Lord Mayor

Moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor) –

That the Minute by the Lord Mayor be endorsed and adopted.

The Minute was carried on the following show of hands –

Ayes (8) The Chair (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Ellsmore, Gannon, Kok, Miller, Thompson, Weldon and Worling

Noes (2) Councillors Arkins and Maxwell.

Carried.

S051491

Item 3.3 Reaffirming our Support for the Values of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Minute by the Lord Mayor

To Council:

In 2018, Council unanimously adopted A City for All, our Social Sustainability Policy and Action Plan 2018-2028, following extensive research and consultation. At its core is a vision of Sydney as an inclusive and equitable city that offers all people opportunities to realise their full potential and enjoy a great quality of life.

This commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is now increasingly under attack following the inauguration of Donald Trump as 47th president of the United States of America.

In the first days of his second presidency, President Trump signed several Executive Orders and memoranda to end all United States federal government diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility programs and policies, describing them as "dangerous, demeaning, and immoral" and "corrosive, and pernicious". All positions related to these programs and policies are planned to be terminated.

Executive Orders dating from the 1960s presidency of Lyndon Johnson have been revoked including those which aimed to:

- end discrimination in employment
- promote equal opportunities in employment
- advance equity and opportunity for Native Americans, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and Black Americans
- prevent and combat discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation
- advance equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex individuals.

Even before these disappointing actions, several US corporations were winding back their own commitments to diversity, equity and inclusion, while others have done so since. They include multi-national corporations operating in Australia such as Alphabet (Google), Amazon, Meta (Facebook), McDonald's, Harley-Davidson and Accenture. The global and local impact of such actions remains uncertain.

President Trump's actions have emboldened sections of the media, some business leaders and others to call for similar policies to be adopted in Australia. The Leader of the Opposition has talked about dismissing 36,000 public servants, those whose work relates to diversity, equity and inclusion being primary targets. Some are urging him to go much further, adding to the climate of uncertainty and creating anxiety.

City action

In the face of this, we cannot stay silent. We must reaffirm our own commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion and protect and continue the work which embodies this commitment.

Importantly, this work is guided by the expert community-based advice of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Inclusion (Disability) and Multicultural Advisory Panels.

Detailed information about this work can be found in the City's [Midpoint Review of A City for All](#), published on the City's website. Examples of progress noted in the review include:

- Since 2004, the City has steadily improved accessibility to our libraries, town halls and community facilities by creating step free entries, installing lifts and upgrading toilets and other amenities. More than 90% of our facilities are now accessible.
- The City has been a refugee 'Welcome Zone' since 2005. We work with the Asylum Seekers Centre, the Refugee Council of Australia, Settlement Services International and others to make refugees and asylum seekers feel welcome.
- The City supports the #RacismNotWelcome campaign and in 2022 installed street signs to support the campaign, including at Circular Quay, Sydney Town Hall, Chinatown and Central Station.
- In 2023, the City became a member of the Zero Barriers project helping businesses to improve access and inclusion to boost business and improve customer diversity.
- We also provide a range of programs to build more positive attitudes towards people with disability including Auslan Storytime to promote deaf culture, and The Big Feels Club which aims to reduce stigma around mental illness.
- In 2024, we increased the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees at the City to 3% and spent \$1.97 million with Indigenous businesses helping us achieve 2 key targets of our current Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan.

A recent [report](#) into social cohesion published by the Scanlon Institute shows that the City is trending higher than the national average in the areas of 'social inclusion and justice' and 'acceptance and rejection' which looks at attitudes to immigrant diversity, support for minorities, and experiences of discrimination.

As an organisation, the City is recognised as an inclusive employer by the Diversity Council of Australia and is accredited as a disability confident recruiter by the Australian Network on Disability.

Since 2004, the number of women employed by the City has grown substantially from 29% to 43.2% of the total workforce, and 51% of our leadership roles are held by women. We have a base salary gender pay gap of 3.8% in favour of women, meaning more women are employed in higher paying jobs across the organisation. This is significantly better than the national average which is 22% in favour of men.

The City has also received awards for our achievements. The 2019 Australian HR Award for Best Workplace Diversity and Inclusion Program recognised the City's longstanding work to provide equal opportunity for women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the LGBTIQ+ community, people with disability and refugees.

The Diversity and Inclusion Leadership Award for Excellence 2023, from Urban Development Institute of Australia and MYBOS management systems recognised how well diversity and inclusion has been embedded in the organisation.

Also in 2023, our work in establishing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, City Pride, City Women, Disability, Diverse City and Young Professionals employee support networks was recognised with the City receiving the Local Government NSW Diversity and Inclusion Award.

Next steps

The City continually seeks to improve and there is still more to do. The Midpoint Review identifies several areas where the City must refresh its focus over the next 5 years. This includes developing a holistic approach to being a socially responsible organisation through our procurement, employment, workplace supports, engagement practices, accessible communication and collaboration.

In May 2023, Council requested the Chief Executive Officer to develop an overarching anti-racism framework or charter that addresses structural, interpersonal (everyday bias), intersectionality and institutional racism and discrimination in the workplace and across our city. This work is underway.

Our current Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan is due to finish on 30 June 2025 and we're now developing our seventh plan. To create a more inclusive and accessible city, last year, the City invited people with disability and other relevant stakeholders to provide feedback to inform that work. The new draft plan will be reported to Council later this year.

It is vital that this work continues and is not derailed by forces wanting to copy the Trump administration's dismantling of diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. In doing so, we send a strong message to the community and City staff that we will remain steadfast in our commitment to recognising diversity and advancing equity and inclusion.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council reaffirm the City's commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the continued implementation of policies and strategies that embody this commitment;
- (B) Council note that this is an ongoing commitment to change and iterative improvement;
- (C) Council note that the City is currently developing a new Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2025-2029, which will be reported to Council mid-2025;
- (D) Council note that the City is currently developing an Anti-racism Framework that addresses structural, interpersonal (everyday bias), intersectionality and institutional racism and discrimination in the workplace and across our city; and
- (E) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to provide Council with an update on progress with the development of the Anti-racism Framework including engagement activities and other key project milestones.

COUNCILLOR CLOVER MOORE AO

Lord Mayor

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

That the Minute by the Lord Mayor be endorsed and adopted.

Carried unanimously.

S051491

Item 3.4 City of Sydney Support for a New Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) in Redfern**Minute by the Lord Mayor**

To Council:

Operating from the NSW Government owned site at 638 Elizabeth Street since 1952, the South Sydney Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) has provided a range of activities and support services for young people in the local community, including boxing, Judo, Jiu Jitsu, arts and crafts, basketball and drop-in sessions.

This facility is vital for young people in the local area. That is why the City of Sydney called for the retention and redevelopment of the PCYC in our planning proposal for the site and in our submission to the State Significant Development application for the redevelopment of 600-660 Elizabeth Street, Redfern, which includes the PCYC site.

The redevelopment will deliver around 350 new homes (including at least 109 social, 39 affordable and 11 specialist disability support homes), a new \$38 million, 3,500sqm community facility to replace the PCYC, a new head office location for Bridge Housing and a community hub.

Despite not needing to vacate the site until construction starts, South Sydney PCYC decided to close the facility on 31 December 2024 but continues to offer programs and activities for current members at the PCYC Woolloomooloo.

The proposal

The City has received a grant proposal from Bridge Housing Limited in partnership with PCYC NSW Ltd for a new community facility to be delivered, called Redfern Place, as part of the redevelopment at 600-660 Elizabeth Street, Redfern.

The new community facility will be built on the site and designed to meet current and future community needs. The facility, run by Police Citizens Youth Clubs NSW Ltd (PCYC NSW), will provide fitness, health and wellness programs as well as social enterprise ventures, with a focus on engaging all members of the community.

Programs will include those for young people, developed in collaboration with the NSW Police Youth and Crime Prevention commands, along with free youth drop in spaces, free school holiday activities, community room hire, and community events including weekly food support and a community Christmas barbeque.

The facility and service offered by PCYC NSW will complement programs and services the City of Sydney provides in the Redfern area through the Redfern Community Centre and 119 Redfern Street, the City's Aboriginal knowledge and culture centre.

PCYC NSW has committed \$3 million of their own funds towards the community facility. Bridge Housing are contributing \$3 million in in-kind contributions. The NSW Government has contributed \$13.4 million in funding. A further \$18.6 million needs to be secured.

Bridge Housing Limited, in partnership with PCYC NSW, is asking Council to provide a \$5 million grant towards the costs of the facility. Bridge Housing is confident that if supported, it could help leverage funding from other NSW and Federal Government agencies to close the funding gap.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

(A) Council:

- (i) note its support for the delivery of a significant community facility in order to replace the current PCYC facility at 600-660 Elizabeth Street, Redfern;
- (ii) note that Bridge Housing Limited has lodged a State Significant Development application which incorporates a 3,500sqm community facility which is currently under assessment by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure; and
- (iii) provide in-principle support for a \$5 million grant to Bridge Housing Limited in partnership with Police Citizens Youth Clubs NSW Ltd to support the delivery of the proposed community facility, subject to approval of the above State Significant Development application and formal Council approval of the grant following the proper assessment process;

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) provisionally budget for the payment of this grant within the next 3 financial years and to liaise with Bridge Housing Limited and Police Citizens Youth Clubs NSW Ltd to identify the likely timing as to when the funding will be required; and
- (ii) bring a report for Council's consideration in relation to the grant, following approval of the State Significant Development Application and completion of due diligence on the grant proposal; and

(C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to Tanya Plibersek, Federal Member for Sydney to advocate for Commonwealth funding towards the cost of the new PCYC facility at 600-660 Elizabeth Street, Redfern.

COUNCILLOR CLOVER MOORE AO

Lord Mayor

Moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor) –

That the Minute by the Lord Mayor be endorsed and adopted.

Carried unanimously

S051491

Procedural Motion

At this stage of the meeting, at 5.50pm, it was moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Gannon –

That the order of business be altered such that Item 13.3 be brought forward and considered before Item 4.

Carried unanimously.

Item 4 Memoranda by the Chief Executive Officer

There are no Memoranda by the Chief Executive Officer for this meeting of Council.

Item 5 Matters for Tabling**5.1 Disclosures of Interest**

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

It is resolved that the Disclosures of Interest returns be received and noted.

Carried unanimously.

Item 6 Report of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor Councillor Clover Moore AO
(Chair)

Councillor Robert Kok
(Deputy Chair)

Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Zann Maxwell, Councillors Olly Arkins, Sylvie Ellsmore, Lyndon Gannon, Jess Miller, Matthew Thompson, Yvonne Weldon AM and Adam Worling.

At the commencement of business at 2.03pm those present were -

The Lord Mayor, Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Gannon, Kok, Maxwell, Miller, Thompson, Weldon and Worling.

Hybrid Meeting Arrangements

The Chair (the Lord Mayor) advised that Councillor Thompson was attending the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee remotely, via audio visual link, pursuant to the provisions of clause 4.20 of the Code of Meeting Practice.

The meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee concluded at 2.51pm.

Report of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee

Moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by Councillor Miller –

That the report of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee of its meeting of 10 March 2025 be received, with Items 6.1 and 6.2 being noted, and Items 6.3 to 6.8 inclusive being dealt with as shown immediately following those items.

Carried unanimously.

Item 6.1

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by Councillor Gannon –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee of Monday 10 February, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 6.2**Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest**

Councillor Olly Arkins disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 6.8 on the agenda, in that, in their role as Managing Director of the Australian Festival Association (AFA), they sometimes work closely with 2 tenants of the City of Sydney Creative Studios, Music NSW and the Electronic Music Conference, as organisations in the music industry. Music NSW is also a member of the AFA.

No other Councillors disclosed any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any matters on the agenda for this meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee.

The Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee recommended the following:

Item 6.3**Investments Held as at 28 February 2025**

Moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by Councillor Miller –

It is resolved that the Investment Report as at 28 February 2025 be received and noted.

Carried unanimously.

X020701

Item 6.4**Public Exhibition - Naming Proposal - Daranggara Park, Camperdown**

Moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by Councillor Weldon –

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council provide in-principle approval to name the park "Daranggara Park" and that the name be placed on public exhibition for community comment for a minimum period of 28 days; and
- (B) note that a further report will be submitted to Council, detailing the results of the public consultation process.

Carried unanimously.

X099880

Item 6.5

Public Exhibition - Naming Proposal - Ngana Gili Plaza, Sydney

Moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by Councillor Weldon –

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council provide in-principle approval to name the name “Ngana gili Plaza” and that the name be placed on public exhibition for community comment for a minimum period of 28 days; and
- (B) note that a further report will be submitted to Council, detailing the results of the public consultation process.

Carried unanimously.

X086317.001

Item 6.6

Public Exhibition - Naming Proposal - Wiriyagan Place, Alexandria

Moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by Councillor Weldon –

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) provide in-principle approval to name the road "Wiriyagan Place" and that the name be placed on public exhibition for community comment for a minimum period of 28 days; and
- (B) note that a further report will be submitted to Council, detailing the results of the public consultation process.

Carried unanimously.

X092423

Item 6.7

Tender - T-2024-1314 - Mobile Planter Display Program

Moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by Councillor Miller –

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council accept the tender offer of Tenderer A for the Mobile Planter Display Program for:
 - (i) the price and contingency outlined in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report; and
 - (ii) for the schedule of rates outlined in Confidential Attachment B to the subject report for a period of 3 years, with the option of 2 extensions, each of one year, if appropriate;
- (B) Council note that the total contract value and contingency for the Mobile Planter Display Program is outlined in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report;
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise, execute and administer the contracts relating to the tender; and

- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the options referred to in clause (A), if appropriate.

Procedural Motion

At approximately 6:10pm, it was moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Gannon –

That Item 6.7 be deferred and considered after the adjournment to allow Councillor Thompson to confirm the wording of an alternative motion.

Carried unanimously.

Foreshadowed motion. At 6:50pm, following the adjournment, Councillor Thompson foreshadowed that, should the motion moved by Councillor Kok be lost, he would move an alternative motion as follows -

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council decline all tender offers for the Mobile Planter Display Program and cancel the tender; and
- (B) Council instead:
 - (i) allocate a budget for the continuation of the Mobile Planter Display Program of no more than \$1 million per annum and request the Chief Executive Officer to procure the services through a new tender process; and
 - (ii) redirect savings which would have been spent on the Mobile Planter Display Program to expanding or bringing forward Council's permanent planting program, including establishing permanent planters and in-street planting, and expanding Council's urban ecology team.

The motion was carried on the following show of hands –

Ayes (7) The Chair (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Gannon, Kok, Maxwell, Miller, Wilson (Arkins) and Worling

Noes (3) Councillors Ellsmore, Thompson and Weldon*.

Carried.

*Note – Councillor Weldon abstained from voting on this matter. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 10.4 of the Code of Meeting Practice, Councillor Weldon is taken to have voted against the motion.

X100274

Item 6.8

Exemption from Tender - Management and Operation of the City of Sydney Creative Studios - Brand X Productions

Moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor) –

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve an exemption from tender in accordance with section 55(3)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993 to extend the existing contract for the management of the City of Sydney Creative Studios for a period of 3 years and 2 months, noting that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders at this time;
- (B) Council note that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders because:
 - (i) the available operational data for the Creative Studios is insufficient to provide a true reflection of the potential of the facility, or sufficient history to inform the best long-term operating model for the facility;
 - (ii) the market for facility operators is currently very limited, with market conditions for operators remaining challenging; and
 - (iii) the continuing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and cost-of-living crisis are having a significant impact on the creative sector, impacting the ability of the sector to respond to a tender at this time;
- (C) Council approve a variation to the Management Agreement with Brand X Productions Incorporated to extend the term for 3 years and 2 months, aligning contract term and financial year to improve administration, resulting in a revised expiry date of 30 June 2028;
- (D) Council approve the additional funds for the contract extension as outlined in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report;
- (E) Council note the change in the contract operating model outlined in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report;
- (F) Council note the revised total contract value for the management of the City of Sydney Creative Studios is outlined in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report; and
- (G) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise negotiations and enter into any necessary documentation to give effect to the clauses above.

Carried unanimously.

X111156

Item 7 Report of the Environment and Climate Change Committee**PRESENT**

The Lord Mayor Councillor Clover Moore AO
(Chair)

Councillor Adam Worling
(Deputy Chair)

Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Zann Maxwell, Councillors Olly Arkins, Sylvie Ellsmore, Lyndon Gannon, Robert Kok, Jess Miller, Matthew Thompson and Yvonne Weldon AM.

At the commencement of business at 2.52pm those present were -

The Lord Mayor, Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Gannon, Kok, Maxwell, Miller, Thompson, Weldon and Worling.

Hybrid Meeting Arrangements

The Chair (the Lord Mayor) advised that Councillor Thompson was attending the meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Committee remotely, via audio visual link, pursuant to the provisions of clause 4.20 of the Code of Meeting Practice.

Adjournment

At 3.54pm, it was moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Worling –

That the meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Committee be adjourned for approximately 15 minutes.

Carried unanimously.

At the resumption of the meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Committee at 4.12pm, all Councillors were present.

The meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Committee concluded at 4.18pm.

Report of the Environment and Climate Change Committee

Moved by Councillor Worling, seconded by Councillor Miller –

That the report of the Environment and Climate Change Committee of its meeting of 10 March 2025 be received, with Items 7.1 and 7.2 being noted, the recommendations set out below for Items 7.4 to 7.6 inclusive being adopted in globo, and Item 7.3 being dealt with as shown immediately following that item.

Carried unanimously.

Item 7.1

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Worling, seconded by Councillor Kok –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Committee of Monday 10 February 2025, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 7.2

Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest

No Councillors disclosed any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Committee.

The Environment and Climate Change Committee recommended the following:

Item 7.3

Planning For a Food Organics Recycling Service to All Households

Note – the recommendation of the Environment and Climate Change Committee was not adopted. The following alternative recommendation was adopted (as contained in the Information Relevant To Memorandum dated 14 March 2025 from the Executive Director City Services, circulated prior to the meeting).

Moved by Councillor Worling, seconded by Councillor Gannon –

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) note that staff have determined that a food organics (FO) service is the optimal service type for recycling of food scraps in City of Sydney households;
- (B) endorse implementation of a FO service to all City households and continue providing a separate garden organics service in line with the NSW Government mandate for councils to provide food and garden organics (FOGO) services to all households by 2030;
- (C) endorse progression to the next stage of service rollout planning;
- (D) note that suitable service collection and processing methods and service levels will be reported back to Council for consideration; and
- (E) note that the City will extend the current food scraps collection service in May 2025 by offering it to all houses currently on the waitlist (as at 14 March 2025).

Amendment. Moved by Councillor Thompson, seconded by Councillor Ellsmore –

That the motion be amended by the addition of a clause (F) to read as follows –

- (F) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to provide a further report to Council with opportunities to accelerate the rollout of the current food scraps collection service.

Carried unanimously.

Amendment. Moved by Councillor Thompson, seconded by Councillor Ellsmore –

That the motion be amended to read as follows –

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) note that staff have determined that a food organics (FO) service is the optimal service type for recycling of food scraps in City of Sydney households;
- (B) endorse implementation of a FO service to all City households and continue providing a separate garden organics service by 2028, noting the NSW Government mandate for councils to provide food and garden organics (FOGO) services to all households by 2030;
- (C) endorse progression to the next stage of service rollout planning, with key dates amended to reflect the updated rollout target;
- (D) note that suitable service collection and processing methods and service levels will be reported back to Council for consideration;
- (E) note that the City will extend the current food scraps collection service in May 2025 by offering it to all houses currently on the waitlist (as at 14 March 2025); and
- (F) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to provide a further report to Council with opportunities to accelerate the rollout of the current food scraps collection service.

The amendment was lost on the following show of hands –

Ayes (3) Councillors Ellsmore, Thompson and Weldon

Noes (7) The Chair (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Arkins, Gannon, Kok, Maxwell, Miller and Worling.

Amendment lost.

Substantive motion carried unanimously.

X021464.009

Item 7.4

Project Scope - Surry Hills to Central Quietway

Note – The Environment and Climate Change Committee decided that consideration of this matter shall be deferred to the meeting of Council on 17 March 2025.

At the meeting of Council, the following alternative recommendation was adopted as part of an in globo motion (as contained in the Information Relevant To Memorandum dated 14 March 2025 from the Chief Operating Officer, circulated prior to the meeting).

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) approve the revised concept design for the Surry Hills to Central Quietway project, as described in the subject report, and shown in Attachment D to the subject report for proceeding to design development, documentation and construction tender, subject to the following amendment:
 - (i) relocation of the existing raised zebra crossing at Riley Street, near Collins Street, to cross Riley Street at Arthur Street, which will result in a net increase of 3 car spaces;
- (B) note that a raised threshold with a Continuous Footpath Treatment across Arthur Street is proposed in the Revised Concept Design as shown in Attachment D to the subject report;
- (C) note that approvals under the Roads Act 1993 will be required and sought during the detailed design phase;
- (D) note the estimated project costs as detailed in Confidential Attachment F to the subject report; and
- (E) note that the City has design stage funding from the NSW Government and that the City will apply for construction stage funding.

Carried unanimously.

X102084

Speakers

Peter Holt (HWL Ebsworth Lawyers), Polly Seidler (Contec Properties), David Brown and Geoff Alexander addressed the meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Committee on Item 7.4.

Item 7.5**Project Scope - New Public Toilet Building, Landscape Works and Umpire's Room at Jubilee Park and Oval and New Automated Public Toilet at Bicentennial Park East**

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) approve the project scope for works at Jubilee Oval as described in the subject report for the purposes of proceeding with documentation, required planning approvals, and tender for construction works;
- (B) endorse the installation of an automated public toilet at Bicentennial Park East (subject to feasibility investigations, community consultation and inclusion in the Long Term Financial Plan); and
- (C) note the financial implications for the demolition and construction works at Jubilee Oval and installation of the automated public toilet at Bicentennial Park East as outlined in Confidential Attachment E to the subject report.

Carried unanimously.

X089550

Item 7.6**Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Panel - Terms of Reference and Membership**

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) endorse and adopt the revised Terms of Reference of the Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Panel, as contained in Attachment A to the subject report; and
- (B) appoint Asa Wahlquist as a community representative of the Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Panel, who represents a local community organisation involved in managing and protecting local biodiversity, for a term effective immediately and ending on the day appointed for the next ordinary election of Council.

S055537-02

Adjournment

At this stage of the meeting, at 6.31pm, it was moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Kok –

That the meeting be adjourned for approximately 15 minutes.

Carried unanimously.

All Councillors were present at the resumption of the meeting of Council at 6.50pm.

Item 8 Report of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor Councillor Clover Moore AO
(Chair)

Councillor Olly Arkins
(Deputy Chair)

Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Zann Maxwell, Councillors Sylvie Ellsmore, Lyndon Gannon, Robert Kok, Jess Miller, Matthew Thompson, Yvonne Weldon AM and Adam Worling.

At the commencement of business at 4.19pm those present were -

The Lord Mayor, Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Gannon, Kok, Maxwell, Miller, Thompson, Weldon and Worling.

Councillor Arkins left the meeting of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee at 4.20pm, prior to discussion on Item 8.3, and returned at 4.22pm, after the vote on Item 8.3. Councillor Arkins was not present at, or in sight of, the meeting during discussion or voting on Item 8.3.

Hybrid Meeting Arrangements

The Chair (the Lord Mayor) advised that Councillor Thompson was attending the meeting of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee remotely, via audio visual link, pursuant to the provisions of clause 4.20 of the Code of Meeting Practice.

The meeting of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee concluded at 4.22pm.

Report of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee

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

That the report of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee of its meeting of 10 March 2025 be received, with Items 8.1 and 8.2 being noted, and Item 8.3 being dealt with as shown immediately following that item.

Carried unanimously.

Item 8.1

Confirmation of Minutes

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

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee of Monday 10 February 2025, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 8.2**Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest**

Councillor Olly Arkins disclosed a significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.3 on the agenda, in they have known Ian Roberts, Board Member of Qtopia, for many years and Ian has previously been a candidate for Labor for the City of Sydney in the past.

Councillor Arkins stated they will not be voting on this matter.

No other Councillors disclosed any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee.

The Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee recommended the following:

Item 8.3**Grants and Sponsorship - Ad Hoc Grant - Qtopia Ltd (Support for Free Sundays)**

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

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve a \$100,000 (excluding GST) cash grant to Qtopia Ltd from forecast operational savings across the City Life 2024/25 budget. If the savings are not available any shortfall will be sought from the CEO's contingency fund;
- (B) Council note that payment of this grant will only be made once the previous grant to support free entry on a Sunday has been satisfactorily acquitted;
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer the grant agreement with Qtopia Ltd on appropriate terms and conditions in relation to acquittal of grant funds and pre-conditions to payment of grant tranches as outlined in the subject report; and
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to correct minor changes to the matters set out in this report, noting that the identity of the recipient will not change, and a CEO Update will be provided to Council advising of any changes made in accordance with this resolution.

Carried unanimously.

S118738

Item 9 Report of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor Councillor Clover Moore AO
(Chair)

Councillor Jess Miller
(Deputy Chair)

Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Zann Maxwell, Councillors Olly Arkins, Sylvie Ellsmore, Lyndon Gannon, Robert Kok, Matthew Thompson, Yvonne Weldon AM and Adam Worling.

At the commencement of business at 4.23pm those present were -

The Lord Mayor, Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Gannon, Kok, Maxwell, Miller, Thompson, Weldon and Worling.

Hybrid Meeting Arrangements

The Chair (the Lord Mayor) advised that Councillor Thompson was attending the meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee remotely, via audio visual link, pursuant to the provisions of clause 4.20 of the Code of Meeting Practice.

The meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee concluded at 5.46pm.

Report of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Worling –

That the report of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee of its meeting of 10 March 2025 be received, with Items 9.1 and 9.2 being noted, the recommendations set out below for Items 9.4 to 9.6 inclusive being adopted in globo, and Item 9.3 being dealt with as shown immediately following that item.

Carried unanimously.

Item 9.1

Confirmation of Minutes

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

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee of Monday 10 February 2025, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 9.2

Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest

Councillor Jess Miller disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 9.3 on the agenda, in that she currently serves on the Board of the National Art School. Councillor Miller considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances as the National Art School was added in after exhibition and she was not aware of this recommendation until the Committee papers were published. She also had no communication with National Art School about this item.

No other Councillors disclosed any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee.

Item 9.3

Post Exhibition - Entertainment Sound Management - Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 Amendment and Special Entertainment Precincts Discussion Paper

Note – The Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee decided that consideration of this matter shall be deferred to the meeting of Council on 17 March 2025.

At this meeting of Council, the following alternative recommendation was adopted (as contained in the Information Relevant To Memorandum dated 14 March 2025 from the Chief Planner / Executive Director City Planning, Development and Transport, circulated prior to the meeting).

Moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Worling -

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the matters raised in response to the public exhibition of the draft Development Control Plan - Entertainment Sound Management as shown in Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council approve the draft Development Control Plan - Entertainment Sound Management and maps as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make minor amendments to draft Development Control Plan - Entertainment Sound Management and maps to correct any minor errors or omissions prior to finalisation;
- (D) Council note the matters raised in response to the public exhibition of the Special Entertainment Precincts Discussion Paper as described in Attachment C to the subject report;
- (E) Council endorse the establishment of Special Entertainment Precincts in late night trading areas identified in Attachment D to the subject report;
- (F) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to investigate and where suitable, prepare draft planning controls for consideration by Council that upgrade the late-night trading tier of:
 - (i) Oxford Street, Darlinghurst between Flinders Street and 215 Oxford Street (inclusive);
 - (ii) King Street, Newtown between Forbes Street, Newtown and Concord Street, Erskineville; and
 - (iii) the part of The Rocks identified as a local centre late-night trading area in the current Sydney Development Control Plan 2012.

Variation. At the request of Councillor Arkins, and by consent, the motion was varied, such that clause (F) read as follows:

- (F) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to investigate and where suitable, prepare draft planning controls for consideration by Council that upgrade the late-night trading tier of:
- (i) Oxford Street, Darlinghurst between Flinders Street and 215 Oxford Street (inclusive);
 - (ii) King Street, Newtown between Forbes Street, Newtown and Concord Street, Erskineville (in consultation with Inner West Council);
 - (iii) the part of The Rocks identified as a local centre late-night trading area in the current Sydney Development Control Plan 2012;
 - (iv) William Street, Darlinghurst between College Street and Darlinghurst Road;
 - (v) Regent Street, Redfern and Botany Road, Waterloo between Wells Street, Redfern and Wellington Street, Waterloo; and
 - (vi) the part of Flinders Street, Darlinghurst identified as local centre late night trading area in the current Sydney Development Control Plan 2012.

Variation. At the request of Councillor Ellsmore, and by consent, the motion was varied by the addition of clause (G) to read as follows:

- (G) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) prepare and report to Council a draft monitoring and evaluation framework for the trial of the Special Entertainment Precincts for exhibition with the Planning Proposal and Draft Precinct Management Plan; and
 - (ii) monitor and evaluate the Special Entertainment Precincts within 12 to 18 months of their implementation and report back to Council on the outcomes of the Special Entertainment Precincts trial in line with the NSW Special Entertainment Precincts Guidelines.

The motion, as varied by consent, was carried unanimously.

X009155.021

Speakers

Kathleen Donohue, John Baker (Walsh Bay Precinct Association), Ben Mulcahy, Zena Vaassen, Michele Fraser, Dr Kristen Sharp (National Art School), Greg Fisher (Qtopia), Scott MacKay, Melanie Tait (Milsons Point Community Resident Action Group / Milton Terrace Association), Jeanette Brokman and Lisa Waller addressed the meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee on Item 9.3.

The Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee recommended the following:

Item 9.4

Post Exhibition - Planning Proposal - 383-395A Kent Street, Sydney - Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 Amendment

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the matters raised in response to the public exhibition of Planning Proposal - 383-395A Kent Street, Sydney, the draft Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 - 383-395A Kent Street, Sydney, and draft Voluntary Planning Agreement, as shown in Attachment D to the subject report;
- (B) Council approve Planning Proposal - 383-395A Kent Street, Sydney, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report, and request the relevant local plan making authority make the planning proposal as a Local Environmental Plan under section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979;
- (C) Council approve the draft Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 - 383-395A Kent Street, Sydney, as shown at Attachment B to the subject report, noting the approved Development Control Plan will come into effect on the date of publication of the subject Local Environmental Plan;
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor amendments to the Planning Proposal - 383-395A Kent Street, Sydney, and the draft Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 - 383-395A Kent Street, Sydney, to correct any minor errors or omissions prior to finalisation; and
- (E) Council note the draft Voluntary Planning Agreement, as shown at Attachment C to the subject report, will be executed under delegation of Council in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Carried unanimously.

X091069

Item 9.5

Public Exhibition - Draft Display of Goods on the Footway Local Approvals Policy

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the draft Display of Goods on the Footway Local Approvals Policy, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report, for public exhibition in accordance with section 160 of the Local Government Act 1993 and section 77 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021;
- (B) Council approve the draft Display of Goods on the Footway Local Approvals Policy shown at Attachment A to the subject report, for submission to the Office of Local Government with a request for the consent of the Department Chief Executive for the adoption of the Policy in accordance with section 162 of the Local Government Act 1993;
- (C) Council note that the Display of Goods on the Footway Local Approvals Policy, including any recommended changes, will be reported to Council for adoption following the exhibition period; and

- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer make any variations to the draft Display of Goods on the Footway Local Approvals Policy for clarity or correction of drafting errors prior to exhibition.

Carried unanimously.

S060627-02.026

Item 9.6

Fire Safety Reports

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) note the contents of the Fire Safety Reports Summary Sheet, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) note the inspection reports by Fire and Rescue NSW, as shown at Attachments B to E of the subject report;
- (C) note the contents of Attachment B and not exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 2-4 Sterling Circuit, Camperdown at this time;
- (D) note the contents of Attachment C and not exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 20 Pymont Bridge Road, Camperdown at this time;
- (E) note the contents of Attachment D and not exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 26 Point Street, Pymont at this time; and
- (F) note the contents of Attachment E and not exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 22 Point Street, Pymont at this time.

Carried unanimously.

S105001.002

Item 10 Grants and Sponsorship - Affordable and Diverse Housing Fund - Support for the Haymarket Foundation

Moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Ellsmore –

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve a cash grant to Bridge Housing Limited for the amount stated in Confidential Attachment B to the subject report to support the purchase of the property outlined at Confidential Attachment B to the subject report for the use by Haymarket Foundation Limited for the purpose of subsidised accommodation and supporting facilities including crisis and transitional housing and services as outlined in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report subject to the following conditions:
 - (i) approval of the cash grant will be withdrawn:
 - (a) if the project substantially changes from the current proposal for subsidised accommodation and supporting facilities including crisis and transitional housing and services consistent with the proposal outlined in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report; or
 - (b) if Bridge Housing Limited is not able to demonstrate that funding is available to the agreed value of the project by 31 October 2025;
 - (ii) the grant funds will only be paid in respect of the proposed acquisition of the property outlined at Confidential Attachment B to the subject report, and only after all of the following are met to the reasonable satisfaction of Council:
 - (a) Bridge Housing Limited has demonstrated that funding is or will on settlement be available for the cost of the acquisition and works to make the property fit for its intended purpose, noting this could be in the form of other grants, debt finance or partnerships;
 - (b) Bridge Housing Limited has provided Council with sufficient information to demonstrate that the property can be used for the intended purpose of subsidised accommodation and supporting facilities including crisis and transitional housing and services; and
 - (c) Bridge Housing Limited has provided Council with sufficient information to confirm that Haymarket Foundation Limited will have rights to occupy and use the property for three terms, each of five years, at the discretion of Haymarket Foundation Limited;
 - (iii) until the covenant contemplated by recommendation (A)(iv) is registered on the title to the land, the City will require the grant to be repaid in full indexed annually by CPI if:
 - (a) Bridge Housing Limited does not complete its purchase the property outlined at Confidential Attachment B to the subject report by 31 October 2025; or
 - (b) the project materially changes from the current proposal as outlined in clause (A);

- (iv) a covenant benefitting the City must be registered on the title to the property outlined at Confidential Attachment B to the subject report immediately following transfer of the property to Bridge Housing Limited to protect the land use remaining as subsidised accommodation and supporting facilities including crisis and transitional housing and services, as outlined in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - (i) finalise negotiations, execute and administer the grant agreement with Bridge Housing Limited relating to the project described and on the terms described in clause (A); and
 - (ii) otherwise make decisions and administer the other conditions relating to this grant.

Carried unanimously.

S118738

Item 11 Questions on Notice

1. Metrics Around Waste Management

By Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Maxwell

Question

1. Could a table be provided that shows the number of complaints the City of Sydney received each month or quarter involving waste management by suburb for the last 10 years?
2. Could a table be provided of the average time to resolve a complaint involving waste management by suburb by month or quarter for the last 10 years?
3. Could a table be provided showing which provider/contractor/City of Sydney staff collected the different types of rubbish by month or quarter for each suburb for the last 10 years?

X113780

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. This information will take some time to compile and will be provided in a Supplementary Answer to Council.
2. This information will take some time to compile and will be provided in a Supplementary Answer to Council.
- 3.

Waste stream	Service type	Date range – area - provider
Red lid bins	Collection	• 2015 to June 2019 – North LGA only - URM • 2015 to March 2020 – South LGA only - internal service • July 2019 to March 2020 – North LGA only – Cleanaway • April 2020 to present – whole LGA – Cleanaway
Yellow lid bins	Collection	• 2015 to June 2019 – whole LGA - URM • July 2019 to present – whole LGA - Cleanaway
Green lid bins	Collection	• 2015 to June 2019 – whole LGA - URM • July 2019 to present – whole LGA – Cleanaway

Waste stream	Service type	Date range – area - provider
Maroon lid bins	Collection	July 2019 to present – internal service
Bulky waste	Bookings	2015 to June 2019 – North LGA only - URM 2015 to March 2020 – South LGA only - internal service - July 2019 to March 2020 – North LGA only – Cleanaway - April 2020 to present – whole LGA – Cleanaway
Metals/whitegoods	Bookings	2015 to June 2019 – whole LGA - URM - July 2019 to present – whole LGA - Cleanaway
Mattresses	Bookings	2015 to February 2016 - Landsavers - March 2016 to July 2018 - TIC Group Pty Ltd - contract transferred via Deed of Novation - August 2018 to present – whole LGA – Soft Landing
Bulky waste	Dumps	2015 to June 2019 – whole LGA – internal service - July 2019 to present – whole LGA – Cleanaway* *internal service still acts on some urgent dumps
Metals/whitegoods	Dumps	2015 to June 2019 – whole LGA – internal service - July 2019 to present – whole LGA – Cleanaway* *Internal service still acts on some urgent dumps

Waste stream	Service type	Date range – area - provider
Mattresses	Dumps	2015 to June 2019 – whole LGA – internal service - July 2019 to present – whole LGA – Soft Landing* *Internal service still acts on some urgent dumps
Hazardous items	Dumps	- Internal service. - Asbestos collected by various panel suppliers; current provider is ADE
Street litter and cleansing	NA	Internal service

2. Conservation of the City's Priority Species

By Councillor Thompson

Question

- What environmental targets relating to the protection and support of threatened species and their habitats, outlined in the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan and the Greening Sydney Strategy, have been met and which have not been?
- What is the status and timeline of actions for priority fauna species and other species as set out in Table 10 of the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan:
 - Green and Golden Bell Frog and other frogs;
 - Grey-headed Flying-fox;
 - Powerful Owl;
 - Long-nosed Bandicoot;
 - Small Birds;
- What actions have been taken since 2013 to implement biodiversity corridors and to support pre-existing habitats?
- What were the findings of the 'Hop to it' biodiversity health check survey and what recommendations were provided by the Urban Ecology Coordinator?
- What is the current conservation status of all species classified as 'priority fauna' within the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan?
- What population fluctuations have been observed in the Green and Golden Bell Frog species since 2013?

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The City's Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan (2014) is currently being reviewed which will include assessment of targets which have been achieved including priority fauna species. This is a large body of work and is planned to be reported to Council in mid-2026 for the new Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan to be exhibited for community comment.

The City is involved in an Urban Biodiversity Connectivity Planning Project with the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) which identifies possible future opportunities for enhancing habitat corridors with a specific focus on improved habitat conservation and enhancement on private land. A biodiversity tool (<https://ssroc.nsw.gov.au/connected-corridors-for-biodiversity/>) is updated annually and allows us to work from a common information source and ensure corridors are relevant and where possible coordinated across local government area boundaries.

The City of Sydney area managed as bush restoration has expanded to 15.2 hectares in 2023/24 from a 2012 baseline of 4.2 hectares. Areas included are strategically located to improve connectivity across the local government area.

Flora surveys are currently being finalised as part of the biodiversity health checks for the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan (2014) review and will address changes in naturally occurring vegetation communities in the local government area during the past 10 years.

The Hop to it community frog surveys have been/are being held during February and March 2025. These surveys are part of the biodiversity health checks which are being undertaken as part of the current Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan (2014) review. Flora and fauna surveys are also being undertaken in the area.

Review of the conservation status of species classified as priority fauna in the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan (2014) is part of the current work being undertaken to review and update the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan.

3. City of Sydney Staff Resources for Biodiversity

By Councillor Thompson

Question

1. How many City staff have responsibility for biodiversity within their job description or functions? Of these, how many are:
 - (a) permanent full-time
 - (b) permanent part-time
 - (c) casual
 - (d) fixed term contract
2. Where can members of the public access the City's organisational chart?
3. If this is not answered in question 2, please advise in which teams the staff mentioned in question 1 are located in the City's organisational structure.
4. Which department or staff members are responsible for implementing the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan?
5. When was the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan last reviewed, and where can the review findings or any related reports be accessed?

6. When is the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan due for review?
7. Are any aspects of the City's biodiversity work outsourced, if so, please advise what is outsourced and the length and value of those contracts?

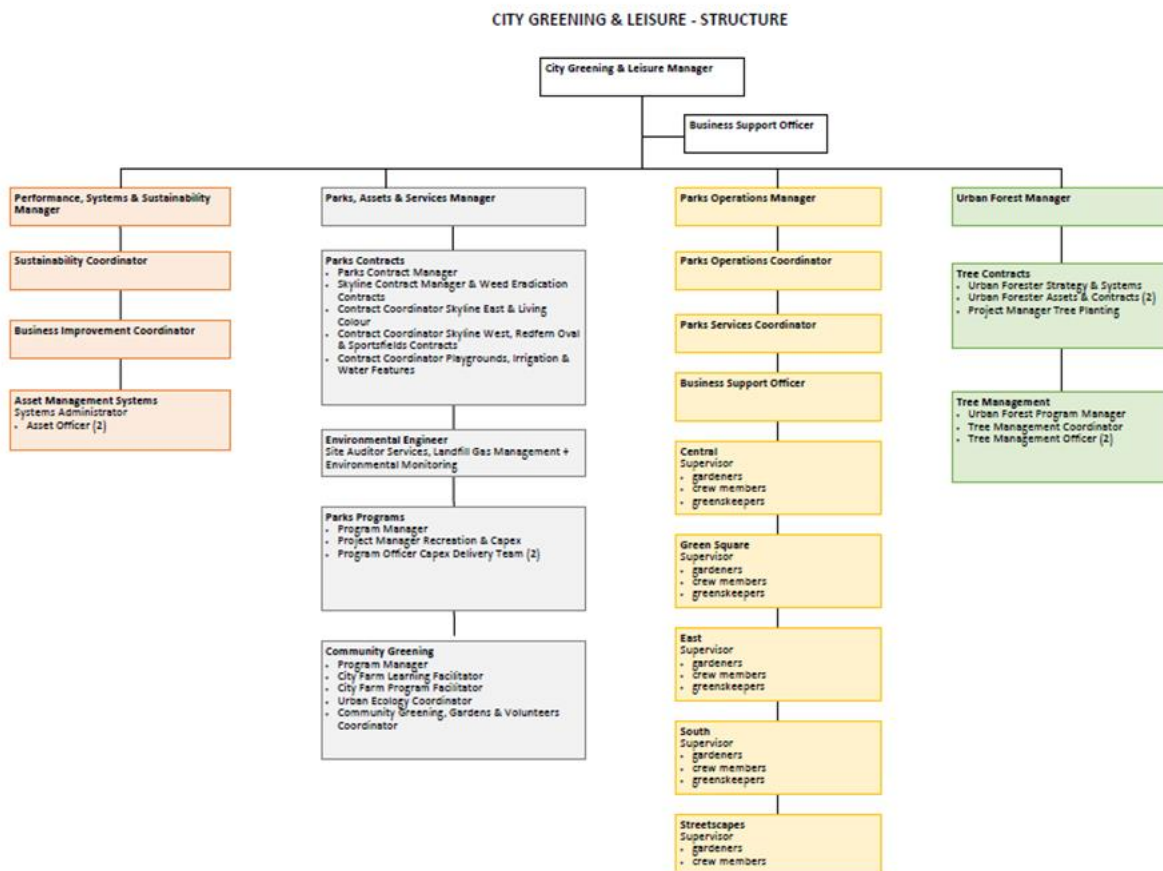
X113778

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The City's Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan (2014) is currently being reviewed and updated to ensure it remains relevant and capable of guiding the many urban ecology challenges and opportunities in the City of Sydney area. The updated Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan will review what has been achieved in the past 10 years. This is a large body of work and is planned to be reported to Council in mid-2026 for the new Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan to be exhibited for community comment.

The responsibility for biodiversity and urban ecology is driven by the Greening Strategy and Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan which are primarily delivered by the City Greening and Leisure business unit. This also requires collaboration with other business units for example City Projects for project and upgrade works, City Planning for DA referrals, Public Domain team for developer delivered public domain works, Rangers for compliance.

The organisation chart for the City Greening team is provided below which covers in-house direct service delivery, contract managed services, urban forest policy and strategy, tree management and maintenance and community greening programs such as community gardens, bush care, urban ecology and City Farm.



The implementation of the strategies, objectives and actions of the Greening Sydney Strategy and Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan are embedded across the City Greening team and range from day-to-day activities such as caring for park and streetscape plantings and habitat to long term planning and strategy development for canopy cover and habitat creation and protection. The City's biodiversity work is delivered by a combination of in-house and contracted services. Consultants are generally engaged for specialist services such as flora and fauna surveys, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural knowledge and education programs. Specialist contractors are used for bush restoration and wetland maintenance services. The table below outlines the key roles and responsibilities within the team (including contractors and consultants):

Position	Key responsibilities
Urban Forest Manager	This position manages the urban forest team, strategy development and operational delivery. Core responsibilities include: • Management of the team, contracts and consultants and their deliverables as outlined below • Development and implementation of Greening Sydney Strategy (specific actions only) and all actions within the Urban Forest Strategy, Tree Management and Donation Policy, Street Tree Master Plan, Register of Significant Trees. • Application of the Biodiversity SEPP (tree management)
Urban forester - strategy and systems Urban forester - assets and contracts (2) Project manager - tree planting	These positions focus on the management of trees located in the City's streets, parks and council owned properties. Core responsibilities include: • asset management of 50,000 trees (including approvals for specific works such as tree removals, planting etc) • contract management • expert advice provided to all internal and external stakeholders • Assistance with policy / strategy development (Urban forester - strategy & systems position, e.g. Urban Forest Strategy)
Tree Management Coordinator Tree Management Officer (2)	These positions focus on application assessment and project management. Core responsibilities include: • Development application referrals (all aspects of tree management associated with development) • Tree pruning / removal applications on private property • Expert advice for City capital works projects (park upgrades)
Project Manager - Urban Forest Delivery	This position focuses on project delivery. Core responsibilities include: • In road tree planting program • Expert tree advice for specialised capital works projects (e.g. cycleways)

Position	Key responsibilities
	Assistance with policy / strategy development (e.g. Register of Significant Trees)
Contractors – City Tree Maintenance (2)	There are two major service contracts in place that provide holistic maintenance of trees located in the City's streets, parks and council owned properties. Core responsibilities include: - asset maintenance (e.g. tree inspection, pruning, removal, planting base maintenance, 24/7 emergency response etc). - expert advice / customer service to relevant internal and external stakeholders
Consultant Arborists (8 - Panel Contract)	A panel contract is in place with 8 consultants who provide a range of specialised arboricultural and urban forest services to the City. Core services include: - Advanced Tree Assessment (aerial inspection, root investigation and internal diagnostic testing) - Development, Design and Construction Projects - Applications and Asset Assessment - Urban Forest Measurement - General Consultancy
Parks - Contract Team (5 FTE)	These positions focus on the holistic management of park assets. This includes management of greening, located in the City's parks and streets. Core responsibilities include: - asset management and maintenance of approx. 94ha of parks and open space through contracted service delivery including contributing toward greening and biodiversity targets - contract management - expert advice provided to internal and external stakeholders - assistance with policy / strategy development
Parks - Community Greening Team (4FTE plus 1 agency for UESAP)	These positions focus on delivering strategies, projects and programs that green the City and enable community participation. Core services include: - City Farm – volunteer and education programs - Community Gardens - Bushcare/Landcare Programs - Footpath Gardening Program

Position	Key responsibilities
	Urban Ecology There is 1 FTE urban ecology coordinator position which has primary responsibility for delivering on the UESAP through a range of operational and capital projects and programs (both direct and indirect delivery through internal staff, contractors and volunteers). The role also manages the bush restoration contract and urban ecology panel. An additional agency resource (0.6FTE) is currently engaged to deliver the updated Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan.
Parks – Projects and Programs Team (4 FTE)	These positions focus on project delivery. Core responsibilities include: - Park renewal projects including contributing toward greening/biodiversity targets - Contract management – manage contracts that renew parks and expand greening (contributing toward greening targets) - Developing the park renewal program - Expert advice for recreational planning - Assistance with policy / strategy development
Contractors – Parks and Open Space Maintenance and Bush Restoration Contracts	There are two major service contracts in place that contribute significantly to biodiversity and greening in the City (the Parks and Open Space maintenance contract and the Bush Restoration Contract. The parks and open space maintenance contract provides holistic maintenance of the City's parks and street greening. Core responsibilities include; - asset maintenance of nearly 94ha of the City's parks (e.g. horticulture, turf, infrastructure, cleansing, waste, weeding, watering, 24/7 emergency response etc). Services include maintenance and expansion of greening within City Parks. - expert advice / customer service to internal and external stakeholders The bush restoration contract maintains, enhances and expands the City's bush restoration areas to restore native vegetation and fauna habitat of terrestrial sites, freshwater wetlands and coastal saltmarsh. There are a range of other contracts which also contribute to managing parks assets and support greening such as the minor landscape works panel, the weed eradication contract and the sports field management contract.

Position	Key responsibilities
Consultant Urban Ecology Panel (4 - Panel Contract)	A panel contract is in place with 4 consultants who provide a range of periodic, specialised urban ecology consultancy services and advice to the City. Services include: • Capital works delivery – field assessments of development impacts • Ecological surveys – monitoring of flora and fauna • Ibis monitoring and management General Consultancy – strategy development, review of development applications and expert/specialised advise when required.
Public Domain Landscaping Team (15)	This team focuses on the installation and maintenance of public domain landscaping to create and maintain habitat and achieve the City's greening targets. Core responsibilities include: • Delivery of new greening projects across various locations, contributing to the City's greening and sustainability targets, mitigate the urban heat island effect and support climate resilience. • Creation of new street garden beds and renewal of existing landscaped areas to improve streetscapes and maintain planting and habitat in high-quality public spaces. • Providing design input and review for capital works and renewal projects to ensure landscaping provides habitat opportunities and diversity to our urban landscape.
Parks Operations Team (65)	The parks operations team provides holistic maintenance of the City's parks and street greening. Core responsibilities include; • asset maintenance of approx. 123ha of the City's parks (e.g. horticulture, turf, infrastructure, cleansing, waste, weeding, watering etc). Services include maintenance and expansion of greening within City Parks. • expert advice / customer service to internal and external stakeholders

As noted above some operational biodiversity related work is outsourced:

- Bush restoration works are conducted by an experienced bush restoration contractor. A contract commenced in 2024 and is in place for 3-year initial term with 2, 3-year additional term options.
- Biodiversity monitoring is conducted by contractors as part of an Urban Ecology Panel. Four ecological and environmental consulting agencies have been approved to conduct different types of ecological works, including flora and fauna survey, specialist ibis monitoring, ecological capital works and general consulting. These types of work are required intermittently and are highly specialised. The panel commenced in 2023 and is in place for 3 years, with a 3 year additional term option.

A briefing to Councillors on the delivery of the Greening Sydney Strategy is being planned and will also cover the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan actions and update.

4. Mobile Planter Display Program

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

At the March 2025 Council meeting, council will consider a budget and tender for the future of the 'Mobile Planter Display Program' (i.e. the planter box program).

1. What is the total budget for the planter box program:

- (a) For 2022/23;
- (b) For 2023/4; and
- (c) For 2024/5?

2. Where in the Council's current budget and operational documents can details of the budget relating to the planter box program be found?

Please include details of which line items the budget for the planter boxes is included in, and where this can be accessed by the public.

3. In relation to the current contract to manage the planter boxes:

- (a) What company has the current contract to manage the planter box program?
- (b) What was the total value of the current contract for the planter box program:
 - (i) Per annum; and
 - (ii) In total?
- (c) What is the length of the current contract for the planter box program?
- (d) How much is charged per plant? Please include for natives, herbs and perennials. Alternatively, if this is included in a schedule of costs please provide the schedule.
- (e) What are the employment arrangements for staff responsible for installation, maintenance and disposal of the planter boxes?
- (f) How much per hour are staff paid? If this is included in a schedule of costs please provide the schedule.
- (g) Where can a copy or details of the current contract be found?

4. What is the estimated cost to the Council in preparing the tender which will be considered at the March 2025 Council meeting (T-2024-1314 - Mobile Planter Display Program)?

5. How has the mobile planter display program grown or changed over its life since 2000?

6. What is the usual practice regarding the disposal of plants after they are removed from the planter displays?

7. Has Council received any complaints regarding the disposal of plants after they are removed from the planter displays? If yes, please provide details.

8. What are the criteria for identifying spaces for the planter boxes?
9. Has Council investigated longer-term, semi-permanent or permanent options to encourage biodiversity in the locations where planter boxes are being used?
 - (a) If yes, what options were considered?
 - (b) If no, why not?

X113783

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

Refer to the Information Relevant To Item 6.7 - Tender - T-2024-1314 - Mobile Planter Display Program memorandum.

5. Enhancing Biodiversity in Johnstons Creek

By Councillor Thompson

Question

1. The Glebe Society and Blue Wrens have identified 38 Casuarinas located at Johnston Creek which may be detrimental to the overall biodiversity of the creek. What actions has Council taken to investigate these trees?
2. Is it the intention of the City staff to remove these trees? If the intention is to keep the trees, why?
3. Is there a date residents can expect the trees removed?
4. What actions are being taken by the City to enable native plants to thrive and prevent monocultures from being established in the Johnstons Creek bed?

X113778

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. The City's Urban Ecology Coordinator had an onsite meeting in Glebe with representatives from the Glebe Society's Blue Wren subcommittee to discuss the self-seeded casuarinas. Casuarina saplings 4 metres or less have been discussed for removal and this process has commenced with the City's Bush Restoration Services contactor removing small Casuarinas. Community consultation / notification will be undertaken for the removal of larger specimens impacting the overall biodiversity of the creek.
2. The intention is to remove self-seeded Casuarinas in this area to maintain floristic and structural diversity. Removal of self-seeded Casuarinas in this bush restoration area is an action in the City's Bush Restoration Management Plan.
3. Removal of small saplings has commenced. Community consultation / notification for the removal of larger specimens impacting the overall biodiversity of the creek will occur within the next few months.
4. Plants detrimental to the functioning ecosystem of the area are removed as part of the City's Bush Restoration Management Plan. As plants are removed, we will prioritise enhancing habitat structure and diversity. We recognise the value of the area as a biodiversity corridor and potential habitat for small birds such as the Blue Wren.

6. Food Organics (FO) Service Rollout

By Councillor Thompson

Question

1. How many households are on the waitlist to join the existing FO service? Why hasn't the service been expanded to meet demand?
2. Has Council investigated expanding the trial immediately, concurrent with the undertaking of the insect processing trial? Are there specific barriers that would prevent us from expanding the trial now while we investigate insect processing? If so, what are they?
3. How many households have requested to join the service but been told they can't join the trial (i.e. not even to join the waitlist) – and what was the reason for this?
4. What's the contamination rate in the trial? (according to NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, average contamination of FOGO by weight is 2.6%)
5. The next project stage "build the plan" will take 2025-2027; why will it take so long?
6. Given that landfill space is predicted to run out by 2030 unless we take urgent action, as well as the clear environmental benefits of a food waste recycling service, has Council investigated expediting the process of rolling out a food organics collection service sooner than 2030?
7. What are the take up rates for the trial in new apartments that didn't initially opt-in?
8. What educational programs is the Council undertaking as part of the trial?

X113778

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. Refer Information Relevant To Item 7.3 – Planning For a Food Organics Recycling Services to All Households memorandum.
2. Refer Information Relevant To Item 7.3 – Planning For a Food Organics Recycling Services to All Households memorandum.
3. Zero. All households are eligible to join our waitlist.
4. 2.7%
5. Refer Information Relevant To Item 7.3 – Planning For a Food Organics Recycling Services to All Households memorandum.
6. It is the intention of the City to rollout the new food organics service as soon as possible and we will aim to deliver it prior to 2030 if possible. Timings in the project timeline are approximations and will be contingent upon many variables including Council decisions regarding collection and processing types as well as market responses to tenders.
7. Bin fullness audits indicate that the food scraps bins in new apartments that did not opt-in are less than 10% full indicating very low uptake.

8. We provide comprehensive communications and education support for our food scraps recycling service to all new households/apartments joining the service. This includes letters, postcards, brochures, posters, bin room signage, bin stickers, truck livery and digital media including social media campaigns web pages, social media post templates, and bi-annual e-newsletters. We also run on-site information sessions in apartment buildings joining the service that have more than 50 units. These sessions run for 2-3 hours and involve 2 staff with a small display stall consisting of promotional materials and samples of a kitchen caddy, compostable liner bags, and a food scraps bin. Residents can attend the stall at any time during the session to chat to our staff and ask questions about the service and our staff can sign people up for the service to get a free kitchen caddy. Information is also provided through our Recycle Help Service and waste avoidance education events and staff have regular contact with residents and building managers in the service and those who are interested in joining to assist them with any questions.

7. King Cross Police Station – On-Street Parking

By Councillor Gannon

Question

How many on-street parking spaces are allocated to the NSW Police in the Potts Point area?

X113782

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

There are 7 spaces in Potts Point:

- Darlinghurst Road x2
- Barncleuth Square x1
- Ward Avenue x2
- Bayswater Road x2

8. Aquatic and Leisure Centres Capital Works

By Councillor Arkins

Question

1. Can you please provide a list of capital works or refurbishments that the City has completed at each of our Aquatic and Leisure Centres since January 2018?
2. In this list can you please provide the centre name, the scope of works, the total final cost, the name of contractor, and the number of days the centre was closed for (if at all) for each?
3. Can you please provide a list of the forward capital works plan for each of the City's aquatic and leisure centres including the scope of works, and associated budget in the 10-year financial plan over the next ten years. Please include an estimation of the number of days each centre may have to be closed for as a result of these planned works?

X113776

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

This information will take some time to compile and will be provided in a Supplementary Answer to Council.

9. Aquatic and Leisure Centre Pay Rates

By Councillor Arkins

Question

Can you please provide a list of staff positions employed by Belgravia at the City's Aquatic and Leisure Centres including the name of the position, the annual salary or casual hourly pay rates for each, how many of each position are employed at each centre and what the equivalent position would earn if employed under the City of Sydney Award.

X113776

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The City does not hold the detailed information requested information regarding employees within the contractor's workforce, nor are there direct equivalent positions for all contractor roles within the City's staffing structure, making it difficult to accurately compare wages to those under the City of Sydney Award. A management options evaluation was reported to Council in September 2023 which compared staffing costs under each management option and highlighted that in-house staffing costs are higher. The report which contains redacted commercial in confidence information is available on the City's website at <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/research-reports/future-management-and-operation-of-city-of-sydney-aquatic-leisure-centres>. The full report can be made available to Councillors if requested.

All City of Sydney contractors are required to comply with applicable Australian Industrial Relations law and pay staff in accordance with those laws.

10. City Greening and Parks Staff

By Councillor Arkins

Question

1. Can you please advise the number of staff employed by the City directly under the City of Sydney Award that are responsible for the upkeep of our parks and gardens?
2. Can you please advise the pay rates of all the staff employed by the City's contractor for the Mobile Planter Display Program and what the equivalent position would be paid under the City of Sydney Award?

X113776

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The City's Greening and Leisure business unit are responsible for managing and maintaining the City's parks and street gardens. The unit also manages and maintains the urban forest and delivers community greening programs. The team comprises 110 positions of which 80 positions deliver in-house park maintenance services, 6 positions managing contract services (parks maintenance, water features, irrigation, playgrounds, weed eradication, living colour program, sports fields) 3 positions managing tree maintenance and renewals (by contract), 4 positions delivering park renewals and upgrades (by contract), 4 positions managing community greening and urban ecology programs. The remaining positions manage tree management applications, sustainability, asset management and business support.

The Mobile Planter Display Program requires specialist skills (for example crane loading, large scale nursery plant production, asset maintenance of containers, scheduling and delivery of night works) and activities on a seasonal basis. There are no equivalent positions in the City Greening team. The recommended tenderer for the Mobile Planter Display Program has advised they will be employing staff under the NSW Local Government Award.

All City of Sydney contractors are required to comply with applicable Australian Industrial Relations law and pay staff in accordance with those laws.

Item 12 Supplementary Answers to Previous Questions

There are no Supplementary Answers to Previous Questions on Notice for this meeting of Council.

Item 13 Notices of Motion**Item 13.1 Community Consultation on Future Uses of the City's 107 Redfern Street Building****Procedural Motion**

Moved by Councillor Ellsmore, seconded by Councillor Gannon –

That Item 13.1 be withdrawn as the matter was to be considered at Item 13.11.

Carried unanimously.

Item 13.2 A Creative and Nightlife Team Within the City's Business Concierge

Moved by Councillor Arkins, seconded by Councillor Miller –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the City of Sydney is a global leader in supporting creativity, culture, and the nighttime economy, with thriving hospitality, live music, performing arts, and creative industries;
- (ii) businesses, creatives, event organisers, and cultural practitioners sometimes find it difficult navigating the various approvals, permits, funding opportunities and hiring venues within the City;
- (iii) the City of Sydney has implemented policies to support the cultural and nighttime economy, including grants, licencing reforms and live music initiatives, but further streamlining of processes and having a one stop shop would better enable small businesses, creatives, and event organisers to help deliver a more vibrant Sydney;
- (iv) the City of Sydney established the business concierge service in 2021/22 to assist with Covid-19 business recovery and is currently reviewing its functions; and
- (v) the NSW Government also established the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner, Sound NSW and have introduced a concierge service within Liquor and Gaming NSW to assist those operating creative and hospitality businesses in the nighttime economy, which has been really well received by industry;

(B) Council support:

- (i) the establishment of a dedicated creative and nightlife team within the City of Sydney business concierge to act as a “one-stop shop” service for businesses, creatives, event organisers, and cultural organisations seeking to operate within the City;
- (ii) a dedicated public-facing team that provides tailored guidance to help businesses, creatives, and event organisers navigate Council's processes, including planning approvals, licensing, venue hire, and funding applications;
- (iii) a focus on removing barriers to entry for small and independent operators in the creative and nightlife sectors, ensuring that Council processes are accessible, transparent, and efficient; and
- (iv) a customer-focused approach that aligns with the City's recently released economic development and cultural strategies; and

(C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) develop a plan to establish a creative and nightlife team within the business concierge, including scope, structure, and resourcing requirements;
- (ii) ensure this team is public-facing and streamlines interactions between businesses, creatives, event organisers, and Council, minimising red tape and improving communication;
- (iii) design the team to work collaboratively across Council departments, ensuring a seamless experience for users requiring planning approvals, permits, funding advice, or venue hire support;

- (iv) consult with the City's Nightlife and Creative Industries Advisory Panel at its first meeting to ensure the concierge meets the sector's needs; and
- (v) report back to Council within 3 months of consulting with the Advisory Panel on the proposed structure, funding implications, and implementation timeline for the creative and nightlife team within the City's business concierge.

Carried unanimously.

X113758

Item 13.3 Vale John Butcher - Peaceful Radical Who Helped Save the Cooks River

Moved by Councillor Ellsmore, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor) –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the recent passing of John Joseph Butcher, on Invasion Day 2025, a lifelong community activist who made a significant contribution to the inner city and the Cooks River;
- (ii) John was born on 9 March 1943 to William and Mary Butcher – Bill and Molly. He grew up with his brother Peter and his sister Marie in the eastern suburbs, where his father ran a local corner store;
- (iii) John was an activist Catholic priest in Redfern in the late 1960s and 1970s. His first parish was in Waterloo, before he joined the Redfern parish in 1972 with Ted Kennedy and Fergus Breslan. The three priests established Australia's first 'Team Ministry', a progressive ministry dedicated to social justice which operated without hierarchy. They were inspired by the radical Catholic Worker Movement, and actively supported Aboriginal rights and the peace movement, including Vietnam war draft resisters;
- (iv) Redfern and Waterloo were at the centre of the struggle for Aboriginal and civil rights in the 1960s and 1970s. When the South Sydney Council moved to evict and arrest Aboriginal squatters living at 'the Block' near Redfern Station, the priests set up temporary housing in the church, and supported activists in their campaigns to protect the housing on the Block, form the Aboriginal Housing Company, and have the land handed back;
- (v) John was involved in or supported the establishment of a number of the community-led organisations that grew out of the inner city at that time, supporting community organising and mutual aid. This included South Sydney Community Aid, which was located on Regent Street with the Aboriginal Legal Service, the Addison Road Community Centre, the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre (of which John was the first coordinator), Inner Sydney Voice and the 'tenants' rights project'. which was the forerunner to the Tenants Union;
- (vi) after leaving the church, John married Julie Spies, and had a son, Ben. As it was not possible to have both parents' names on your birth certificate if you were born in 1978, John and Julie petitioned the NSW Government and refused to register Ben until the rules changed;
- (vii) John ran for South Sydney Council twice as a community independent, the first time while he was still a priest. John described the council at the time as a "closed, mono-cultural, all-male and one-party" council, with all positions held by the ALP. Campaigning for a more open and inclusive council, John was arrested and sentenced to three days "hard labour" at Long Bay gaol, for refusing to leave a council meeting when requested;
- (viii) John was later part of the Rainbow Alliance, and joined the Greens in the 1990s, a party in which he worked actively until the end of his life. He supported Sydney's first successful effort to elect a Green – Bruce Welsh on Marrickville Council in 1991 – and many elections and campaigns after this;

- (ix) John had many roles after leaving the priesthood, including as a gardener. At the University of Sydney he was an active National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) member, including appearing at the commission to successfully advocate that all staff had the right to be represented by one union representing all, whether they be academic, professional or worked the grounds;
 - (x) John and his family moved to Marrickville in 1980s, near the heavily polluted Cooks River. He was involved in the successful campaign to save Wolli Creek from the proposed M5 East, and took a leading role in working to protect, re-naturalise and build understanding of the importance of the Cooks River and the water catchment;
 - (xi) John joined the Cooks River Valley Association soon after it was formed in 2008 and was President from 2012 to 2018. Initiatives under John's leadership included the container deposit scheme campaign, significant native revegetation, Marrickville's first rainwater garden, the Riverworks Environmental Sculpture competition, the water testing program, and first signage recognising Aboriginal Country and Pemulwuy as a leader of the resistance movement. His catchcry - "we are all Cooks River people" - has been adopted as the logo for the Mud Crabs bushcare group, of which John was an active member;
 - (xii) on 8 March 2025, family and friends joined the Lord Mayor, fellow Councillors and the community at the reopening of the Douglas Street Playground in Redfern. Julie and John had helped lead a direct action in 1975 to create the park, pulling down the fences and claiming the disused land for the local kids. Local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children helped design and build an adventure playground, and called it "Douglas Street People's Park". A plaque now commemorates the park's activist history; and
 - (xiii) John is remembered as a loving father, partner and friend. He was a peaceful radical with a principled and utopian view of the world, and will be greatly missed by many;
- (B) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to John's family expressing Council's condolences; and
- (C) all persons attending this meeting of Council observe one minute's silence to commemorate John's life.

Carried unanimously.

X113765

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

Item 13.4 More Bubblers in the City's Parks and Outdoor Spaces

By Councillor Ellsmore

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) Sydney summers are becoming hotter and hotter. The NSW Government's modelling projects that maximum temperatures will increase in Sydney by 2030 by 0.3-1.0°C and in the next 40 years by 1.6-2.5°C;
- (ii) heat stress can have a major impact on the local environment and people's health. It particularly impacts vulnerable populations and people living in poor quality housing, including housing which is not well insulated, ventilated or able to be cooled. This includes renters and public housing tenants who do not have access to air conditioning;
- (iii) the City of Sydney has a number of strategies to respond to the climate crisis and the increasing heat experienced in our city. Direction 2 of the City's 2024 Resilience Strategy aims to create a climate resilient city in which the community is supported to cope with heat and drought;
- (iv) summer is also a time when Sydney receives a number of visitors and tourists, who spend time outside and visiting public places;
- (v) drinking fountains in parks and gardens play an important role in reducing heat stress, in particular for people exercising outdoors, children, older people and people experiencing homelessness or sleeping rough;
- (vi) Council currently has a number of bubblers and water fountains in its parks, but not in all parks;
- (vii) the design of bubblers, water fountains and taps vary. Some, but not all, allow a water bottle to be refilled. Some have taps for dog bowls. Some public toilets have sinks which readily allow a water bottle to be filled, but others do not;
- (viii) when a new park or playground upgrade is undertaken, council aims to include accessible bubblers with dog bowls;
- (ix) where bubblers or taps exist, they do not generally appear on the park or main street signage and wayfinding. Though they are usually located close to park entries and/or facilities, they can be tricky to find if they do not appear on park signage; and
- (x) Council has an online mapping tool which shows the location of 'drinking fountains', and a web page that shows the location of public toilets;

(B) Council commit to:

- (i) ensuring park and other wayfinding signage in the Local Government Area includes the location of water bubblers and free drinking water in public places; and
- (ii) in time for next summer, implementing updates to existing signage to show the location of bubblers and water dispensers in council's parks and other public places where possible. This could include, for example, by adding stickers to existing signage and wayfinding park maps, showing the location of the bubblers;

- (C) Council confirm its commitment to including an accessible water bubbler or other access to free drinking water in the future design of all council parks, playgrounds, playing fields and public places, wherever possible; and
- (D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
 - (i) keep Council updated on the progress to implement the updated signage (including stickers on existing signage) in time for next summer; and
 - (ii) if required, provide advice to Council on budget amendments to the 2025/26 budget and 4-year delivery plan, to fund an increase in the number of water bubblers in the Local Government Area.

Note – at the meeting of Council, the content of the original Notice of Motion was varied by Councillor Ellsmore. Subsequently it was –

Moved by Councillor Ellsmore, seconded by Councillor Miller –

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note:
 - (i) Sydney summers are becoming hotter and hotter. The NSW Government's modelling projects that maximum temperatures will increase in Sydney by 2030 by 0.3-1.0°C and in the next 40 years by 1.6-2.5°C;
 - (ii) heat stress can have a major impact on the local environment and people's health. It particularly impacts vulnerable populations and people living in poor quality housing, including housing which is not well insulated, ventilated or able to be cooled. This includes renters and public housing tenants who do not have access to air conditioning;
 - (iii) the City of Sydney has a number of strategies to respond to the climate crisis and the increasing heat experienced in our city. Direction 2 of the City's 2024 Resilience Strategy aims to create a climate resilient city in which the community is supported to cope with heat and drought;
 - (iv) summer is also a time when Sydney receives a number of visitors and tourists, who spend time outside and visiting public places;
 - (v) drinking fountains in parks and gardens play an important role in reducing heat stress, in particular for people exercising outdoors, children, older people and people experiencing homelessness or sleeping rough;
 - (vi) Council currently has 59 bubblers on city streets and 206 bubblers and water fountains in its parks, but not in all parks;
 - (vii) the design of bubblers, water fountains and taps vary. Some, but not all, allow a water bottle to be refilled. Some have taps for dog bowls. Some public toilets have sinks which readily allow a water bottle to be filled, but others do not;
 - (viii) when a new park or playground upgrade is undertaken, council aims to include accessible bubblers with water refill taps and dog bowls, which is a long-standing council practice;
 - (ix) where bubblers or taps exist, they do not generally appear on the park or main street signage and wayfinding. This is because wayfinding signage can easily become illegible if it includes too much information. The City has carefully designed its wayfinding signage to show locations of key destinations and infrastructure within our parks and streets;

- (x) though bubblers are usually located close to park entries and/or facilities, they can sometimes be tricky to find if they do not appear on park signage; and
 - (xi) this is why Council has an online mapping tool which shows the location of 'drinking fountains', and a web page that shows the location of public toilets;
- (B) Council confirm its commitment to including an accessible water bubbler or other access to free drinking water in the future design of all council parks, playgrounds, playing fields and public places, wherever possible; and
- (C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
 - (i) ensure new City of Sydney park and other wayfinding signage in the Local Government Area includes the location of water bubblers and free drinking water in public places where possible;
 - (ii) in time for next summer, investigate options to update existing signage to show the location of bubblers and water dispensers in council's parks and other public places, where possible;
 - (iii) keep Council updated on the progress to implement the updated signage in time for next summer; and
 - (iv) if required, provide advice to Council on budget amendments to the 2025/26 budget and 4-year delivery plan, to fund an increase in the number of water bubblers in the Local Government Area.

Carried unanimously.

X113765

Item 13.5 Darlinghurst Public School Pedestrian Crossing – Liverpool Street

By Councillor Ellsmore

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) for many years, the parents and school community of Darlinghurst Public School have been advocating for a safe way for children and parents to cross Liverpool Street to Darlinghurst Public School. It has been reported to Councillor Ellsmore's office that there have been near-miss incidents and a long history of efforts (9+ years) by the school community to date;
- (ii) there are some 300 students at the school which has grades K-6. As well as the school, the site at Womerah Avenue Potts Point also hosts an after-care facility. This means the site is in use between 7.30am and 6.30pm, across both peak hours;
- (iii) the City has considered various options for this crossing, and have begun a feasibility assessment;
- (iv) however, in late 2024, the Council informed the Parents Committee that Council is fully programmed until 2028, and that the crossing would be considered or built sometime after 2028; and
- (v) by comparison, at the nearby SCEGGS private school a number of street parking spaces have been made available for drop off and pick up;

(B) Council agree to bring forward planning for a crossing or other safety measures for students crossing Liverpool Street to Darlinghurst Public School; and

(C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) refer the safety issue of a pedestrian crossing at Darlinghurst Public School to the next Local Pedestrian Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee meeting for urgent advice;
- (ii) provide advice as soon as possible about how the Council works program can be updated to bring forward the Darlinghurst Public School pedestrian crossing to an earlier date;
- (iii) provide advice as required about updates needed to the Council budget and delivery program to support the safety measures; and
- (iv) keep the community updated, especially the school and parents concerned about the safety issues.

Note – at the meeting of Council, the content of the original Notice of Motion was varied by Councillor Ellsmore. Subsequently it was –

Moved by Councillor Ellsmore, seconded by Councillor Worling –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) for many years, the parents and school community of Darlinghurst Public School have been advocating for a safe way for children and parents to cross Liverpool Street to Darlinghurst Public School. It has been reported to Councillor Ellsmore's office that there have been near-miss incidents and a long history of efforts (9+ years) by the school community to date;
- (ii) there are some 300 students at the school which has grades K-6. As well as the school, the site at Womerah Avenue Potts Point also hosts an after-care facility. This means the site is in use between 7.30am and 6.30pm, across both peak hours;
- (iii) the City has considered various options for this crossing, and have begun a feasibility assessment;
- (iv) however, in late 2024, the Council informed the Parents Committee that Council is fully programmed until 2028, and that the crossing would be considered or built sometime after 2028; and
- (v) by comparison, at the nearby SCEGGS private school a number of street parking spaces have been made available for drop off and pick up;

(B) Council agree to investigate bringing forward planning for a crossing or other safety measures for students crossing Liverpool Street to Darlinghurst Public School; and

(C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) provide advice as required about updates needed to the Council budget and delivery program to support the safety measures; and
- (ii) keep the community updated, especially the school and parents concerned about the safety issues.

Carried unanimously.

X113765

Item 13.6 Fixing the Glebe Light Rail Stop

Moved by Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Maxwell, seconded by Councillor Thompson –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) residents of Glebe, especially those who may be older or have a physical disability, have mentioned how the Glebe Light Rail Stop and the streets around it are very inaccessible;
- (ii) because of there being only one access ramp on one side of the stop some residents need to walk from Lower Avon Street to the Palmerston Avenue stop which is a very steep and often inaccessible walkway;
- (iii) public transportation is more likely to be used by residents that are older or have a physical disability who require a higher degree of accessibility;
- (iv) the streets leading to the Glebe Light Rail Stop have also been mentioned as very steep and hard to walk around to get to the Glebe Light Rail Stop; and
- (v) this city believes in accessibility, and we must be constantly reviewing our city's infrastructure and doing our best to design and promote accessible spaces and transportation;

(B) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Minister for Transport and the Parliamentary Secretary for Transport lobbying for an accessible ramp or lift to be installed on the Lower Avon Street side of the Glebe Light Rail Stop; and

(C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) review the infrastructure and streets that the City of Sydney manages around the Glebe Light Rail Stop and work with Transport for NSW to see if any possible upgrades, fixes, or redesigns are needed to make the stop and surrounding streets and walkways more accessible;
- (ii) have the City of Sydney look at the walkways between the Lower Avon Street to the Palmerston Avenue entrances of the Light Rail Stop to see if there is any upgrades, fixes, or redesigns that could be made to make it more accessible; and
- (iii) provide updates to Council via the CEO Update.

Carried unanimously.

X113762

Point of Order

Councillor Miller raised a point of order pursuant to clause 6.3 of the Code of Meeting Practice in relation to comments made by Councillor Thompson.

The Chair (the Lord Mayor) upheld the point of order.

Item 13.7 Restroom Ready - 24/7 Public Toilet Expansion near Special Entertainment Precincts

Moved by Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Maxwell, seconded by Councillor Arkins –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the City of Sydney aims to foster a vibrant 24/7 city and strengthen its nighttime economy, requiring appropriate infrastructure to support this vision;
- (ii) expanding public toilet infrastructure is essential to ensuring that nighttime visitors have adequate amenities and are not solely reliant on private venues;
- (iii) a lack of sufficient public restroom facilities in entertainment precincts may contribute to public hygiene issues, increased public disturbances, and inconvenience for local residents;
- (iv) the Council's 2014 Public Toilet Strategy identified limited availability of nighttime public toilets, leaving many high-traffic areas without accessible facilities;
- (v) currently, there are no public toilets available within a 5-minute walk along King Street, Newtown, at night, leaving visitors reliant on private venues or informal alternatives; and
- (vi) the City of Sydney has a responsibility to ensure that residents, visitors, and local businesses are supported by appropriate public amenities;

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) provide an updated report on the current locations of 24/7 public toilets across the Local Government Area;
- (ii) identify Council-owned land within a 5-minute walk of the proposed Special Entertainment Precincts that may be suitable for additional public toilet facilities;
- (iii) assess potential sites for new 24/7 public toilets in areas of high demand, considering factors such as feasibility, community needs, and accessibility. This should include the route between the Entertainment Quarter and Central Station;
- (iv) investigate opportunities to enhance access to existing public toilets, including extending operating hours where appropriate;
- (v) provide an update on the status of the 9 new public toilets in key village centres as outlined in the 2014 Public Toilet Strategy;
- (vi) review and recommend potential updates to the Public Toilet Strategy to prioritise expanded 24/7 access, particularly in key locations such as Oxford Street, Darlinghurst, King Street, Newtown, Darling Harbour, and near late-night public transport hubs; and
- (vii) report back to Council on findings and proposed next steps via the CEO Update.

Carried unanimously.

X113762

Item 13.8 Enhancing Threatened Frog Habitat through Expanding Biodiversity Corridors

By Councillor Thompson

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note that:

- (i) World Frog Day and World Rewilding Day will both be observed on the 20 March;
- (ii) the City of Sydney is home to at least 5 frog species, including the Green and Golden Bell Frog, Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog and Peron's Tree Frog;
- (iii) frogs are a vital part of the ecosystem, serving as a natural control for mosquito and other pest populations;
- (iv) once abundant across the coast of NSW and Sydney, the Green and Golden Bell Frog species is now facing a major population decline due to the threat of habitat loss and degradation, pollution, introduced species, parasites and pathogens;
- (v) major cities, including Melbourne, Berlin, New York City and Paris have transformed urban spaces into green corridors to protect native fauna and flora species; and
- (vi) neighbouring councils, such as the Inner West Council and Woollahra Council have both committed to the implementation of green and biodiversity corridors;

(B) Council further note the findings and targets included in the City's Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan:

- (i) the Green and Golden Bell Frog is among 8 species classified as 'priority fauna' species, as they are threatened species generally uncommon in urban areas;
- (ii) limited habitat availability, lack of habitat connectivity, destruction and fragmentation of remaining habitats were identified as key threats to biodiversity within the Local Government Area;
- (iii) the City aimed to meet a target of recording priority fauna species from a greater number of locations and in higher numbers compared to 2012 baseline by 2023; and
- (iv) the City aimed to meet a target of a progressive increase in the number of habitat features for priority fauna species established along potential habitat linkages by 2030;

(C) Council reaffirm its commitment to protecting and supporting important species such as our frog populations; and

(D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) review the environmental targets, timelines, and actions resulting from the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan and the Greening Sydney Strategy;
- (ii) review findings from the 'Hop to it' biodiversity health check survey and request recommendations from the Urban Ecology Coordinator as to how the City can support local frog species;

- (iii) report back to Council through the CEO Update by 12 May 2025:
 - (a) what is the status and timeline of the following actions for City-managed priority sites as set out in Table 9 of the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan:
 - i. the establishment of a continuous habitat corridor (G.2);
 - ii. the incorporation of bush restoration and habitat enhancement principles into landscaping of new open space (G.4);
 - iii. the enhancement of coastal saltmarsh habitat (G.6);
 - iv. the naturalisation and any continued development of Johnstons Creek Canal (G.7); and
 - v. the construction of a pond at Orphan School Creek (G.8);
 - (b) what actions have been taken since 2013 to implement biodiversity corridors and to support pre-existing habitats;
 - (c) what were the findings of the 'Hop to it' biodiversity health check survey and what recommendations were provided by the Urban Ecology Coordinator;
 - (d) what is the current conservation status of all species classified as 'priority fauna' within the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan;
 - (e) what population fluctuations have been observed in the Green and Golden Bell Frog species since 2013; and
 - (f) what steps Council can take to grow a network of biodiversity corridors to support local wildlife.

Note – at the meeting of Council, the content of the original Notice of Motion was varied by Councillor Thompson. Subsequently it was –

Moved by Councillor Thompson, seconded by Councillor Miller –

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note that:
 - (i) World Frog Day and World Rewilding Day will both be observed on the 20 March;
 - (ii) the City of Sydney is home to at least 5 frog species, including the Green and Golden Bell Frog, Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog and Peron's Tree Frog;
 - (iii) frogs are a vital part of the ecosystem, serving as a natural control for mosquito and other pest populations;
 - (iv) once abundant across the coast of NSW and Sydney, the Green and Golden Bell Frog species is now facing a major population decline due to the threat of habitat loss and degradation, pollution, introduced species, parasites and pathogens;
 - (v) major cities, including Melbourne, Berlin, New York City and Paris have transformed urban spaces into green corridors to protect native fauna and flora species; and
 - (vi) neighbouring councils, such as the Inner West Council and Woollahra Council have both committed to the implementation of green and biodiversity corridors;

- (B) Council further note the findings and targets included in the City's Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan:
- (i) the Green and Golden Bell Frog is among 8 species classified as 'priority fauna' species, as they are threatened species generally uncommon in urban areas;
 - (ii) limited habitat availability, lack of habitat connectivity, destruction and fragmentation of remaining habitats were identified as key threats to biodiversity within the Local Government Area;
 - (iii) the City aimed to meet a target of recording priority fauna species from a greater number of locations and in higher numbers compared to 2012 baseline by 2023; and
 - (iv) the City aimed to meet a target of a progressive increase in the number of habitat features for priority fauna species established along potential habitat linkages by 2030;
- (C) Council reaffirm its commitment to protecting and supporting important species such as our frog populations; and
- (D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) review the environmental targets, timelines, and actions resulting from the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan and the Greening Sydney Strategy;
 - (ii) review findings from the 'Hop to it' biodiversity health check survey and request recommendations from the Urban Ecology Coordinator as to how the City can support local frog species;
 - (iii) report back to Council through the CEO Update as soon as practical:
 - (a) what is the status and timeline of the following actions for City-managed priority sites as set out in Table 9 of the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan:
 - i. the establishment of a continuous habitat corridor (G.2);
 - ii. the incorporation of bush restoration and habitat enhancement principles into landscaping of new open space (G.4);
 - iii. the enhancement of coastal saltmarsh habitat (G.6);
 - iv. the naturalisation and any continued development of Johnstons Creek Canal (G.7); and
 - v. the construction of a pond at Orphan School Creek (G.8);
 - (b) what actions have been taken since 2013 to implement biodiversity corridors and to support pre-existing habitats;
 - (c) what were the findings of the 'Hop to it' biodiversity health check survey and what recommendations were provided by the Urban Ecology Coordinator;
 - (d) what is the current conservation status of all species classified as 'priority fauna' within the Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan;
 - (e) what population fluctuations have been observed in the Green and Golden Bell Frog species since 2013; and
 - (f) what steps Council can take to grow a network of biodiversity corridors to support local wildlife.

Monday 17 March 2025

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Carried unanimously.

X113760

Item 13.9 Building New Harbour Swimming Spots

By Councillor Thompson

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) that a swimmable Sydney is one of the Transformative Project Ideas in the Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Plan;
- (ii) the longstanding commitment the City has shown to the restoration of our waterways to provide more locations for communities to swim and cool off as global temperatures rise;
- (iii) the success of restoring Barangaroo's Marrinawi Cove in providing a safe and sustainable location for communities to swim, gather and relax;
- (iv) that due to climate change, the average surface air temperature in Australia has increased by 1.4°C since 1910, and the temperature of Sydney's metropolitan area is projected to increase by 1.8°C in 2050;
- (v) a growing number of global cities, like Copenhagen, Boston and Paris, have started the process of restoring polluted waterways to provide suitable locations for communities to swim and cool down;
- (vi) that working with Sydney Water to rehabilitate the harbour to provide suitable locations for swimming is one of the key pillars of the City's 2050 plan;
- (vii) that restoring Sydney's waterways through Aboriginal-led designs, drawing on the expertise of the Traditional Custodians of the land, is a priority aspiration of the First Peoples Dialogue Forum 2019; and
- (viii) that restoring Sydney's waterways so they are swimmable will require collaboration across all levels of government and significant investment by Sydney Water and the NSW Government;

(B) Council further note that a number of potential additional harbour swimming sites within the City of Sydney Local Government Area have previously been identified, including, but not limited to:

- (i) Blackwattle Bay, Glebe;
- (ii) Pirrama Park, Pyrmont;
- (iii) Nawi Cove, Barangaroo; and
- (iv) Beare Park, Elizabeth Bay;

- (C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the NSW Minister for Water, Rose Jackson, and the CEO of Sydney Water, Roch Cheroux, to:
- (i) reaffirm the City's commitment to rehabilitate Sydney's waterways in accordance with the City's 2050 plan;
 - (ii) outline the work the City has already undertaken in support of this goal;
 - (iii) request that the NSW Government commit resources and funding for the construction of a new public harbour swimming spot at Nawi Cove;
 - (iv) request that the NSW Government commit funding to upgrade stormwater infrastructure, including sewage pipe outflows, to improve water quality in Sydney Harbour; and
 - (v) request that the NSW Government and Sydney Water develop a comprehensive plan, in collaboration with local communities and local Councils, to restore Sydney's waterways, such as Blackwattle Bay, Rozelle Bay, White Bay, Johnstons Bay, Walsh Bay and Kettle Bay, so they are swimmable; and
- (D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to prepare a report for Council on what further steps the City can take to achieve our goal of a swimmable Sydney by 2050, including, but not limited to:
- (i) building new facilities to enable swimming at Beare Park, Blackwattle Bay, Nawi Cove and Pirrama Park, including investigating whether floating swimming pools are more viable in the short to medium term;
 - (ii) identifying other potential harbour locations that could be suitable for swimming or floating swimming pools within the Local Government Area; and
 - (iii) the further naturalisation of Johnstons Creek, the Alexandria Canal, and other waterways in improving harbour water quality.

Note – at the meeting of Council, the content of the original Notice of Motion was varied by Councillor Thompson. Subsequently it was –

Moved by Councillor Thompson, seconded by Councillor Miller –

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note:
- (i) that a swimmable Sydney is one of the Transformative Project Ideas in the Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Plan;
 - (ii) the longstanding commitment the City has shown to the restoration of our waterways to provide more locations for communities to swim and cool off as global temperatures rise;
 - (iii) the success of restoring Barangaroo's Marrinawi Cove in providing a sustainable location for communities to gather and relax;
 - (iv) that due to climate change, the average surface air temperature in Australia has increased by 1.4°C since 1910, and the temperature of Sydney's metropolitan area is projected to increase by 1.8°C in 2050;
 - (v) the City of Sydney and Sydney Water, along with a growing number of global cities, like Copenhagen, Boston and Paris, have started the process of restoring polluted waterways to provide suitable locations for communities to swim and cool down;

- (vi) that working with Sydney Water to rehabilitate the harbour to provide suitable locations for swimming is one of the key pillars of the City's 2050 plan;
 - (vii) that restoring Sydney's waterways through Aboriginal-led designs, drawing on the expertise of the Traditional Custodians of the land, is a priority aspiration of the First Peoples Dialogue Forum 2019; and
 - (viii) that restoring Sydney's waterways so they are swimmable will require collaboration across all levels of government and significant investment by Sydney Water and the NSW Government;
- (B) Council further note that:
- (i) water testing by Sydney Water and the City of Sydney in Elizabeth Bay, Glebe and Pirrama Park, Pyrmont indicate these sites are not currently suitable for recreational swimming;
 - (ii) the water quality is significantly compromised by sewer overflow outlets and pollutants that run off land and sewers not controlled by the City of Sydney;
 - (iii) Nawi Cove at Barangaroo is managed by Placemaking NSW;
 - (iv) the Lord Mayor met with CEO of Sydney Water Roch Cheroux in June 2023, who advised that the water quality at Johnston's Bay at Pirrama Park is not suitable for swimming because there is not enough sea- water flushing; and
 - (v) given the age of pipes in the inner city, and pollution levels from past industrial uses, fixing water quality will require significant investment by Sydney Water and the NSW Government;
 - (vi) the City of Sydney is now testing water quality near the Tide to Tide sculpture in the north of Pirrama Park hoping to find a place that can be declared safe for swimming; and
 - (vii) the City of Sydney has a duty of care to provide safe swimming spots, and until Sydney Water and the NSW Government commit significant additional resources to rehabilitating the harbour, it would be premature to develop plans for infrastructure to provide harbour swimming;
- (C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the NSW Minister for Water, Rose Jackson, and the CEO of Sydney Water, Roch Cheroux, to:
- (i) reaffirm the City's commitment to rehabilitate Sydney's waterways in accordance with the City's 2050 plan;
 - (ii) outline the work the City has already undertaken in support of this goal;
 - (iii) request that the NSW Government commit resources and funding for the construction of a new public harbour swimming spot at Nawi Cove when water testing results show it is safe for swimming;
 - (iv) request that the NSW Government commit funding to upgrade stormwater infrastructure, including sewage pipe outflows, to improve water quality in Sydney Harbour; and
 - (v) request that the NSW Government and Sydney Water develop a comprehensive plan, in collaboration with local communities and local councils, to restore Sydney's waterways, such as Blackwattle Bay, Rozelle Bay, Elizabeth Bay, Johnstons Bay, Walsh Bay and Rushcutters Bay, so they are swimmable; and

- (D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to publish a summary of water testing results on the City of Sydney website, and provide advice to Council on what further steps the City can take to achieve our goal of a swimmable Sydney by 2050, including, but not limited to:
- (i) identifying other potential harbour locations that could be suitable for swimming or floating swimming pools within the Local Government Area; and
 - (ii) the further naturalisation of Johnstons Creek, the Alexandria Canal, and other waterways in improving harbour water quality.

Carried unanimously.

X113760

Item 13.10 CBD and Oxford Street Footpath Safety Review

Moved by Councillor Gannon, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor) –

(A) Council note:

- (i) the CBD and Oxford Street currently has many major infrastructure projects and large commercial developments under construction, including new Metro stations, over station developments, the Oxford Street cycleway, and the pedestrianisation of George Street;
- (ii) it has always been expected that large construction projects will have impacts on adjacent footpaths, resulting in cracked pavers and/or uneven surfaces. Mitigation measures are in place to address this:
 - (a) City staff are available to remedy immediate footpath safety issues; and
 - (b) the City has contractors that are tasked with repairing non-urgent footpath damage; and
- (iii) Councillors have received feedback that many footpaths around the CBD and Oxford Street need attention; and

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) investigate the safety and condition of CBD and Oxford Street footpaths, prioritising areas around major construction projects;
- (ii) investigate options for temporary solutions for replacing like-for-like paving adjacent to construction sites, and the potential to proactively remove permanent pavers prior to construction phases for reinstatement at completion; and
- (iii) report back via the CEO Update on outcomes.

Carried unanimously.

X113764

Item 13.11 Future Use of 107 Redfern Street

Moved by Councillor Weldon, seconded by Councillor Ellsmore –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) 107 Redfern Street is a large community space owned by the City of Sydney;
- (ii) until recently, the social enterprise 107 Projects managed 107 Redfern Street, with long-term discounted leases through our accommodation grants program, and other forms of support;
- (iii) 107 Projects provided artist workspace, rehearsal space, exhibition space and performance space, and hosted a diversity of community programs, courses and workshops;
- (iv) on 30 September 2024, 107 Projects handed 107 Redfern Street back to the City of Sydney. The loss of 107 Projects and the range of creative and cultural uses it supported is a major loss for the community;
- (v) the City is continuing to support existing tenants at 107 Redfern Street, and has advised the community that “we will review and determine new operational models”;
- (vi) the local community is very interested in how the City intends to reactivate 107 Redfern Street;
- (vii) in particular, there has been longstanding interest in the space at 107 Redfern Street from local Aboriginal community and Aboriginal organisations. Located in the heart of Redfern, 107 Redfern Street is surrounded by a number of prominent Aboriginal community-controlled organisations with historical significance to Redfern;
- (viii) the City’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel has consistently called for 107 Redfern Street to be made available to the Aboriginal community;
- (ix) the City needs to take great care in planning the next phase in the life of this prominent venue, given:
 - (a) the critical shortage of affordable and accessible creative and cultural space, including workspace, rehearsal space, exhibition space and performance space;
 - (b) how precious community spaces have become in recent years as not-for-profit organisations, including Aboriginal organisations, are increasingly unable to afford spaces due to high rents; and
 - (c) the opportunity to support Aboriginal creative and cultural practice and demonstrate our commitment to supporting Aboriginal self-determination;
- (x) it is the City’s intention to retain 107 Redfern Street for cultural and creative use; and
- (xi) the City’s Cultural Strategy 2025-2035 defines culture as the “the heritage, knowledge and cultural practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the expressions of identity of our diverse multicultural communities as well as the arts and creative industries”;

(B) Council commits to:

- (i) prioritise local Aboriginal creative and cultural use of 107 Redfern Street, while retaining broader community use;
- (ii) undertake an open process for Aboriginal organisations and groups to express interest in either managing or utilising space at 107 Redfern Street;
- (iii) ensure targeted engagement with local Aboriginal community, organisations and groups in relation to this opportunity;
- (iv) in the absence of Aboriginal management, establish a panel that advises on the programming and usage to ensure local Aboriginal community input and oversight of the ongoing management of the space;
- (v) undertake necessary maintenance and upgrades to 107 Redfern Street and provide ongoing asset management support, as required;
- (vi) maintain short-term and temporary uses of 107 Redfern Street, and ensure that necessary maintenance and upgrades are conducted in a manner that maximises the space's availability and minimises interruptions;
- (vii) ensure long term tenancies are not advertised, and new tenants are not moved in, prior to the process outlined above; and
- (viii) review this arrangement in 3 years, prior to the end of the current Council term;

(C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to write to 107 Projects to thank them for their work and support for the community; and

(D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to provide advice prior to the April 2025 Council meeting about:

- (i) the status of the 107 Redfern Street property;
- (ii) any current tenancies, bookings or committed uses for the property; and
- (iii) any recommended or proposed temporary activation which could be implemented in the short term to ensure the space remains activated.

Carried unanimously.

X113759

At 8.00 pm the meeting concluded.

Chair of a meeting of the Council of the City
of Sydney held on Monday 7 April 2025 at which
meeting the signature herein was subscribed.