CITY OF SYDNEY

Council

Meeting No 3

Monday 7 April 2025

Notice No 3/1673

Notice Date 3 April 2025

minutes

Index to Minutes

ITEM **PAGE NO**

1. Confirmation of Minutes 5

2. Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest 6

3. Minutes by the Lord Mayor 7

3.1 Vale Pat Waterman 7

3.2 Vale Vittorio Bianchi 9

4. Memoranda by the Chief Executive Officer 11

5. Matters for Tabling 12

6. Report of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee 13

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes 13

6.2 Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest 13

6.3 Public Exhibition - Community Strategic Plan Refresh - Delivering Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 14

6.4 Land Classification - 10 Parcels of Land 14

6.5 Compulsory Acquisition - Infrastructure NSW - Unformed Road, Adjoining Merriman Street, Barangaroo 15

6.6 Tender - Reject and Negotiate - T-2024-1253 - Management of the City of Sydney Leisure (Active Wellbeing) Services / Exemption from Tender and Contract Variations - Management of Aquatic and Leisure Facilities - Belgravia Leisure 15

6.7 Tender - T-2024-06 - Mattress Collection and Processing Service 17

7. Report of the Environment and Climate Change Committee 18

7.1 Confirmation of Minutes 18

7.2 Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest 18

7.3 Public Exhibition - Environmental Strategy 2025-2030 19

8. Report of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee 20

8.1 Confirmation of Minutes 20

8.2 Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest 21

8.3 Grants and Sponsorship - City Recital Hall Ongoing Operational Funding and Sublease 21

9. Report of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee 23

9.1 Confirmation of Minutes 23
9.2 Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest 23
9.3 Post Exhibition - Neighbourhood On-Street Parking Policy 24
9.4 Post Exhibition - Central Sydney On-Street Parking Policy 25
9.5 Post Exhibition - Car Sharing Policy 26
9.6 Fire Safety Reports 27

10. Questions on Notice 28

11. Supplementary Answers to Previous Questions 30

12. Notices of Motion 35

12.1 Improved Transport Outcomes for Millers Point 35
12.2 Action on Gaming Machines 39
12.3 A Safer Swanson Street for Erskineville 41
12.4 Coordinating Utilities for Better Street and Community Outcomes 44
12.5 Addressing Poverty and Inequality in the City of Sydney 45
12.6 Protecting and Expanding Native Bat Habitat 48
12.7 Taxing SUVs in the City of Sydney - Tripling Parking Rates for Polluting Killer Cars 52
12.8 Extending the Fee Waiver for Community Spaces in the City of Sydney 54
12.9 Affirming the City of Sydney's Support for the Housing Australia Future Fund 56
12.10 Better Coverage at Our Public BBQs 58

Present

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

Members Deputy Lord Mayor - Councillor Zann Maxwell, Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore, Councillor Lyndon Gannon, Councillor Robert Kok, Councillor Jess Miller, Councillor Matthew Thompson, Councillor Yvonne Weldon AM, Councillor Olly Arkins (they recently changed their name from Mitch Wilson) and Councillor Adam Worling

At the commencement of business at 5.02pm, 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.

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 March 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 disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.3 on the agenda, in that they previously worked with the Chief Executive Officer of City Recital Hall, Kate Wickett, at Sydney WorldPride. Councillor Arkins considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances as they are former colleagues and it has no bearing on the item before Council.

Councillor Adam Worling disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.3 on the agenda, in that he represented the Lord Mayor by speaking at the City Recital Hall Amplification Renewal Project in July 2023. Since then, he has attended the venue to meet with former Chief Executive Officer Justin Boschetti, current Chief Executive Officer Kate Wickett, and has accepted the City's Protocol tickets to attend performances at the venue. Councillor Worling considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because he did not discuss this Ongoing Operational Funding with anyone from City Recital Hall and it has not influenced his consideration of this matter.

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 Vale Pat Waterman

Minute by the Lord Mayor

To Council:

I wish to inform Council of the passing of Patricia (Pat) Waterman on 14 February 2025, aged 74.

Known as Trish to her family and Pat to her friends and the Woolloomooloo community, she was born at Crown Street Women's Hospital in 1950, the fourth of 7 children.

Growing up in Chippendale, she was raised by her father Patrick Murphy after her mother passed away when she was 9 years old.

It was while living in Chippendale that Pat met John Waterman. They were married for 57 years, and had 5 children, Brad, Dean, Wesley, Simon and Julie, 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

After living in Newtown, they moved to Woolloomooloo in 1984, where Pat became an outspoken advocate for the Woolloomooloo community, continually campaigning for better public housing conditions.

As a long-standing resident representative on the Woolloomooloo Neighbourhood Advisory Board, she met regularly with NSW Police, Council and Department of Housing officers to identify and solve local problems. She diligently attended meetings, and advocated for people who were intimidated by the system and did not feel they could speak for themselves.

As Woolloomooloo neighbour and friend Patricia “Little Patti” Mellote said, Pat was known as someone who held no punches and someone the community could rely and depend upon. The Woolloomooloo community knew she would stand up for them on housing issues. She was a fighter and got results.

I first met Pat when I was elected as Member for Bligh in 1988. Pat introduced me to the Woolloomooloo community and fast became someone I could rely on for frank advice about what was happening in the community and whether the State Government were following through on their commitments to public housing tenants in the area.

Pat cared about Woolloomooloo and wanted it to be clean and safe, and for public housing tenants’ homes to be properly looked after by the State Government. She regularly reported issues to me as her Local Member, and later to Member for Sydney, Alex Greenwich, and we worked together to get good outcomes.

In 2013, Pat was awarded Sydney Electorate Woman of the Year Award by the Member for Sydney, Alex Greenwich, for her dedication and hard work to make Woolloomooloo a strong and safe neighbourhood.

Pat letterboxed for the City of Sydney for more than a decade, but she did more than just deliver notices. I am grateful that Pat actively encouraged people to attend our Woolloomooloo social housing meetings. Her support made a significant difference because she was a trusted member of the community, known for her reliability and passion.

Pat helped many people, and she will be remembered for her advocacy and service. She will be greatly missed.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

(A) all persons attending this meeting of Council observe one minute's silence to commemorate the life of Pat Waterman and her contribution to the Woolloomooloo community;

(B) Council express its condolences to Pat's husband Johnny, and children Brad, Dean, Wesley, Simon and Julie, her many friends and the Woolloomooloo Community; and

(C) the Lord Mayor be requested to convey Council's condolences to Pat's husband Johnny, and children Brad, Dean, Wesley, Simon and Julie.

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

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

Item 3.2 Vale Vittorio Bianchi

Minute by the Lord Mayor

To Council:

On Tuesday 18 March 2025, Kings Cross lost a strong link to its colourful past with the passing of one its most flamboyant identities, Vittorio Bianchi.

Born in Seiano, a village 37km from Naples in 1934, Vittorio migrated to Australia when he was 14. Arriving in Sydney, he initially lived in Belfield with his uncle, aunt and 2 sisters, Maria and Rosa. His first jobs were in a box factory, working for his uncle at Paddy's Markets, and then as a shoe salesman.

In 1964, the then-owner of the Piccolo, a tiny coffee shop in Rosyln Street, offered him a job. From that moment, Vittorio and the Piccolo would be synonymous. He later became a partner in the business and in 1994 he bought it.

From the 1960s to the early 1990s, Kings Cross was the centre of a colourful nightlife, which spilled into the early hours of the following day. Catering to people of all ages and interests, it was supported by a dense and diverse residential population and the guests of the many tower hotels, including the Sebel Town House, which opened in 1963. Les Girls, just up the road on the corner of Darlinghurst Road and Roslyn Street, opened in the same year.

Open 24 hours a day in those years, the Piccolo not surprisingly attracted an eclectic clientele: locals, visitors from the suburbs, celebrities staying at the Sebel, performers of all types looking for somewhere to go after their shows came down.

Among those who drank Vittorio's coffee were Mel Gibson, Marianne Faithfull, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Gough Whitlam, Reg Livermore, Brett Whiteley, Jeannie Lewis, Noah Taylor, Ben Mendelsohn, Graeme Murphy and me when I was Member for Bligh.

Vittorio was an ebullient if sometimes acerbic host. If you had recently attracted public attention or a small dose of fame, he would make space for you, even if it was already full. If you hadn't been there for a few months, he would likely greet you with: "Where have you been? I thought you were dead!".

He was a natural performer, and spent 5 years training as an actor with Hayes Gordon's Ensemble Studios. Getting work as an actor was however difficult in those days, given his thick Italian accent. He did however perform regularly with Cabaret Conspiracy, a weekly Sunday night event at Garibaldi's in East Sydney in the late 1970s.

The Piccolo was his principal stage. It was here he could perform as himself and enjoy the friendship of many of Sydney's actors and performers.

In 2015 and again in 2016, the Piccolo briefly became a theatre, when it presented Piccolo Tales supported by a City of Sydney grant. Devised by Vashti Hughes, a cabaret performer and a close friend of Vittorio's, it told the story of Kings Cross from the 1950s. Vashti alternated between playing Vittorio and iconic figures from each decade, among them a notorious nightclub boss, a 19-year-old American soldier on R&R during the Vietnam War, a Les Girls star, a nightclub DJ and a young mother.

Vittorio was the other cast member. The Sydney Morning Herald reviewer wrote of his performance "… while the man himself, sitting in his customary window seat, chips in insults, grumbles about the service, and lends his voice to musical numbers which include a hilarious rapped-out list of fashion and social crimes."

The audience was limited to just 20 people for each show – 10 seated inside and 10 sitting outside on the pavement. At its return season in 2016, the audience increased a little, with people sitting on the ledge of the park opposite wearing wi-fi headsets.

In June the following year, the Piccolo closed, brought about by the lockout laws, rising costs and Vittorio's deteriorating health. Its closure was reported by several media outlets, with most recalling its significant past, its clientele and its recent national prominence gained through the TV series, Rake. As one writer noted, "Cleaver Greene, played by Richard Roxburgh, was forever falling out of bed in his tiny flat upstairs and heading downstairs to the Piccolo Bar for something to revive him before a court appearance."

At the time of its closure, Vittorio told the Sydney Morning Herald: "I will miss all the crazy people, all the artists, musicians, writers and politicians that used to come. That was the only coffee shop open at night, all night," he says. "People never wanted to go home."

All the crazy people, the artists, musicians, writers and politicians that once frequented the Piccolo, now are mourning Vittorio's passing. Mingled with this are memories of the Piccolo, its walls covered with photographs, the aromas of minestrone soup and coffee and Vittorio's engaging presence.

With Vittorio's passing, King's Cross has lost a little of its soul.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

(A) all persons attending this meeting of Council observe one minute's silence to commemorate the life of Vittorio Bianchi and his significant contribution to Kings Cross and Sydney's show business and show business communities;

(B) Council express its condolences to Vittorio's many friends and family; and

(C) the Lord Mayor be requested to convey Council's condolences to Vittorio's family.

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

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

Item 4 Memoranda by the Chief Executive Officer

There were 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 Kok –

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.

The meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee concluded at 3:16pm.

Report of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee

Moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by Councillor Gannon –

That the report of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee of its meeting of 31 March 2025 be received, with Items 6.1 and 6.2 being noted, the recommendations set out below for Items 6.4, 6.5 and 6.7 being adopted in globo, and Items 6.3 and 6.6 being dealt with as shown immediately following those items.

Carried unanimously.

Item 6.1

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by Councillor Worling –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee of Monday 10 March 2025, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 6.2

Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest

No 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

Public Exhibition - Community Strategic Plan Refresh - Delivering Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050

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

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note the Community Insights Report 2024 as detailed in Attachment A to the subject report;

(B) Council endorse the refreshed draft Community Strategic Plan Delivering Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 for public exhibition as required under section 402 of the Local Government Act 1993 and as detailed in Attachment B to the subject report;

(C) Council note that the Community Strategic Plan Delivering Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050, including any recommended changes, will be reported to Council for adoption following the exhibition period;

(D) Council note the State of our City Report 2024 as detailed in Attachment C to the subject report; and

(E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make minor editorial corrections if necessary, for publication.

Carried unanimously.

X012101.015

Item 6.4

Land Classification - 10 Parcels of Land

It is resolved that Council reclassify the following parcels of operational land to community land in accordance with section 33 of the Local Government Act 1993:

(A) Arcadia Park and Toxteth Park, 137A Ross Street, Forest Lodge, being Lot 302 in Deposited Plan 1183176 (Reference A and B in Attachment A to the subject report);

(B) Zenith Street, Erskineville, being Lots 9 and 10 in Deposited Plan 1251243 (Reference C in Attachment A to the subject report);

(C) 74D MacDonald Street, Erskineville, being Lot 13 in Deposited Plan 1251243 (Reference D in Attachment A to the subject report);

(D) The Drying Green, 103 Portman Street, Zetland, being Lot 3 in Deposited Plan 1280012 (Reference E in Attachment A to the subject report);

(E) Watchful Harry Square, 847A South Dowling Street, Waterloo, being Lot 65 in Deposited Plan 1038380 (Reference F in Attachment A to the subject report);

(F) Watchful Harry Square, 14 Broome Street, Waterloo, being Lot 64 in Deposited Plan 1038380 (Reference G in Attachment A to the subject report);

(G) Crown Park, 22A Crystal Street, Waterloo, being Lot 53 in Deposited Plan 1038380 (Reference H in Attachment A to the subject report);

(H) Crystal Park, 7A Crystal Street, Waterloo, being Lot 51 in Deposited Plan 1038380 (Reference I in Attachment A to the subject report);

(I) Gadigal Avenue Reserve, 2A Gadigal Avenue, Waterloo, being Lot 63 in Deposited Plan 1038380 (Reference J in Attachment A to the subject report); and

(J) Wimbo Reserve, 3 Olivia Lane, Surry Hills being Lots 2, 3 and 8 in Deposited Plan 1272206 (Reference K in Attachment A to the subject report).

Carried unanimously.

X113600.003

Item 6.5

Compulsory Acquisition - Infrastructure NSW - Unformed Road, Adjoining Merriman Street, Barangaroo

It is resolved that:

(A) Council endorse the acquisition by Infrastructure NSW of part 5010 and 5015 Merriman Street, being a 300 square metre portion of unformed road forming part of the Cutaway, Barangaroo, by agreement under Section 30 of the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991; and

(B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to progress and finalise all negotiations and enter into all necessary documentation to effect the transaction.

Carried unanimously.

X102592

Item 6.6

Tender - Reject and Negotiate - T-2024-1253 - Management of the City of Sydney Leisure (Active Wellbeing) Services / Exemption from Tender and Contract Variations - Management of Aquatic and Leisure Facilities - Belgravia Leisure

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

It is resolved that:

(A) Council decline to accept the tender offers received for City Leisure (Active Wellbeing) Services for the reasons outlined in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report;

(B) Council does not invite fresh tenders as it is considered that inviting fresh tenders would not attract additional suitable tenderers over and above those that have responded to this tender, noting all major management groups were given the opportunity to participate through a targeted Expression of Interest and subsequent select tender process;

(C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to enter into negotiations with any person including the tenderers identified in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report with a view to entering into a contract on terms that are appropriate in relation to the subject matter of the tender;

(D) Council note that the outcome of negotiations will be reported back to Council for Council endorsement;

(E) Council approve an exemption from tender in accordance with section 55(3)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993 to extend the current contracts for the management of Cook and Phillip Park Aquatic and Fitness Centre, Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre, Prince Alfred Park, Victoria Park and Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pools; and the contract for Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre with Belgravia Health and Leisure Group Pty Limited as Trustee for The Belgravia Unit Trust for an additional 12 months with a revised expiry date of 30 June 2026;

(F) Council note that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders for these services because the extension is required to ensure service continuity to finalise negotiations following a thorough tender process;

(G) Council approve a variation to the two current contracts with Belgravia Health and Leisure Group Pty Limited as Trustee for The Belgravia Unit Trust to change the term of the existing contracts to expire on 30 June 2026, adding transitional provisions to align the two contracts, including the financial arrangements, and to increase the total contract value of both contracts as outlined in Confidential A of this report. The required funding is reflected in the 2025/26 draft operating budget; and

(H) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute, and administer the variation to the contracts and enter into any necessary documentation with the current supplier to give effect to the resolutions above.

Variation. At the request of Councillor Arkins, and by consent, the motion was varied, such that an additional clause (D) was inserted as follows:

(D) as part of the negotiations, Council considers the competitiveness of wages and benefits paid for staff directly engaged in the provision of services to the community in Aquatic and Leisure Facilities;

The motion was carried on the following show of hands –

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

Noes (2) Councillors Ellsmore and Thompson.

The motion, as varied by consent, was carried.

X099484.010

Extension of Time

During discussion on this matter, pursuant to the provisions of clause 9.29 of the Code of Meeting Practice, it was –

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

That Councillor Arkins be granted an extension of time of two minutes to speak on this matter.

Carried unanimously.

Item 6.7

Tender - T-2024-06 - Mattress Collection and Processing Service

It is resolved that:

(A) Council approve the use of the SSROC supplier panel for Mattress Collection and Processing Services and accept the tender offer of Tenderer A for a period of 5 years, with 2 optional extension periods of one year each, if appropriate;

(B) Council note that the total contract sum, including the contingency for Supply of Mattress Collection and Processing Services 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 (A), if appropriate.

Carried unanimously.

X112133

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 3:17pm those present were -

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

The meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Committee concluded at 3:24pm.

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 31 March 2025 be received, with Items 7.1 and 7.2 being noted, and the recommendation set out below for Item 7.3 being adopted in globo.

Carried unanimously.

Item 7.1

Confirmation of Minutes

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

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Committee of Monday 10 March 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

Public Exhibition - Environmental Strategy 2025-2030

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note the finalisation of the Environmental Strategy 2021-2025 and the significant achievements delivered during that period;

(B) Council approve for public exhibition the draft Environmental strategy 2025-2030 (the Strategy) for a period of 4 weeks, as shown in Attachment A to subject report;

(C) Council note the finalisation of the Climate Emergency Response 2020 and its replacement with this new revised Environmental Strategy 2025-2030;

(D) Council note that the Environmental Strategy 2025-2035, including any recommended changes, will be reported to Council for adoption following the exhibition period;

(E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make minor editorial amendments for clarity or correction of drafting errors prior to the exhibition of the draft Environmental Strategy 2025-2035; and

(F) Council note the engagement report summarising consultation for the development of the draft Environmental Strategy 2025-2035, as shown at Attachment B to the subject report.

Carried unanimously.

X103899

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 3:44pm those present were -

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

Closed Meeting

At 4:24pm, it was moved by Councillor Arkins, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), that the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions of Section 10A(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1993, to discuss Item 8.3 on the agenda.

Open Meeting

At 4:40pm, the meeting of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee was reopened to the public.

The meeting of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee concluded at 4:45pm.

Report of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee

Moved by Councillor Arkins, seconded by Councillor Miller –

That the report of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee of its meeting of 31 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 Councillor Arkins, seconded by Councillor Worling –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee of Monday 10 March 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 less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.3 on the agenda, in that they previously worked with the Chief Executive Officer of City Recital Hall, Kate Wickett, at Sydney WorldPride. Councillor Arkins considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances as they are former colleagues and it has no bearing on the item before Committees.

Councillor Adam Worling disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.3 on the agenda, in that he represented the Lord Mayor by speaking at the City Recital Hall Amplification Renewal Project in July 2023. Since then, he has attended the venue to meet with former Chief Executive Officer, Justin Boschetti, current Chief Executive Officer, Kate Wickett, and has accepted the City's Protocol tickets to attend performances at the venue. Councillor Worling considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances as he did not discuss the ongoing operational funding with anyone from City Recital Hall and it has not influenced his consideration of the 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.

Item 8.3

Grants and Sponsorship - City Recital Hall Ongoing Operational Funding and Sublease

Note – The Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee decided that consideration of this matter shall be deferred to the meeting of Council on 7 April 2025.

At the meeting of Council, the staff recommendation was moved by Councillor Arkins, seconded by Councillor Miller –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council approve a cash grant of $1,000,000 per year for 5 years from 2025/26 to 2029/30 to City Recital Hall Limited for ongoing operational funding;

(B) Council note that the grant amount is exclusive of GST;

(C) Council approve the grant of a new sublease to City Recital Hall Limited for City Recital Hall, 1 Angel Place, Sydney with no annual rent payments for a term of 5 years with a commencement date of 1 July 2025;

(D) Council approve changing the name of the City Recital Hall and City Recital Hall Limited seeking broader sponsorship and philanthropy to support its ongoing feasibility, which may incorporate sponsored naming rights in consultation with Council, and which will be included in the terms of the sublease;

(E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer the agreement with City Recital Hall Limited under terms consistent with this resolution and the Grants and Sponsorship Policy; and

(F) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer the sublease with City Recital Hall Limited in relation to the sublease as detailed in (C) and (D) above.

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

(D) Council agree to consider in the future changing the name of the City Recital Hall and City Recital Hall Limited seeking broader sponsorship and philanthropy to support its ongoing feasibility, which may incorporate sponsored naming rights in consultation with Council, and which will be included in the terms of the sublease;

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

S117676

Speakers

Helen Lindsay (CFO, City Recital Hall) and Kate Wickett (CEO, City Recital Hall) addressed the meeting of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee on Item 8.3.

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 4:47pm those present were -

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

The meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee concluded at 5:45pm.

Report of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Kok –

That the report of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee of its meeting of 31 March 2025 be received, with Items 9.1 and 9.2 being noted, and the recommendations set out below for Items 9.3 to 9.6 inclusive being dealt with as shown immediately following those items.

Carried unanimously.

Item 9.1

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Worling –

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

Carried unanimously.

Item 9.2

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 Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee.

The Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee recommended the following:

Item 9.3

Post Exhibition - Neighbourhood On-Street Parking Policy

Moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Worling –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note the submissions and feedback received through the public exhibition period as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;

(B) Council adopt the Neighbourhood On-Street Parking Policy incorporating amendments following the public exhibition process, as shown at Attachment B to the subject report; and

(C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make amendments to the Neighbourhood On-Street Parking Policy to correct any minor drafting errors and finalise design, artwork and accessible formats for publication.

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

That the motion be amended by the addition of clauses (D) and (E) to read as follows –

(D) Council note that Neighbourhood On-Street Parking Policy continues to include a provision that eligible residents in ‘Zone B’ (which includes most parts of the Local Government Area) are eligible for 2 parking permits where they do not have off-street parking - or one parking permit on the street where they also have off-street parking available; and

(E) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to investigate and provide further advice to Council as to how Council could phase out the availability of 2 resident parking permits, so that households generally only have access to one resident parking permit. The Chief Executive Officer is requested to include in the advice:

  (i) options including dropping the threshold for when areas are rezoned to ‘Zone A’ (i.e. only one resident parking permit) rather than ‘Zone B’ (i.e. 2 resident parking permits);

  (ii) equity considerations, including where a household may need 2 cars for carer or employment purposes; and

  (iii) other issues as relevant including the impact on housing affordability.

The amendment was lost on the following show of hands –

Ayes (2) Councillors Ellsmore and Thompson

Noes (8) The Chair (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Arkins, Gannon, Kok, Maxwell, Miller, Weldon and Worling.

Amendment lost.

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

That the motion be amended such that clause (B) read as follows –

(B) Council adopt the Neighbourhood On-Street Parking Policy incorporating amendments following the public exhibition process, as shown at Attachment B to the subject report, subject to the following amendment:

> Inclusion of the ability of local MPs and Councillors to refer matters to the Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee to consider.

The amendment was lost on the following show of hands –

Ayes (2) Councillors Ellsmore and Thompson

Noes (8) The Chair (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Arkins, Gannon, Kok, Maxwell, Miller, Weldon and Worling.

Amendment lost.

Substantive motion carried unanimously.

X111976

Item 9.4

Post Exhibition - Central Sydney On-Street Parking Policy

Moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Worling –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note the submissions and feedback received through the public exhibition period is included in the Engagement Report as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;

(B) Council adopt the Central Sydney On-Street Parking Policy incorporating amendments following the public exhibition process, as shown at Attachment B to the subject report, amended by the addition of words to Section 1.2 such that it read as follows:

> The City can also require developers to provide bicycle parking, car sharing and other end-of-trip facilities in a development where appropriate.

(C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make amendments to the Central Sydney On-Street Parking Policy to correct any minor drafting errors and finalise design, artwork and accessible formats for publication.

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

That the motion be amended such that clause (B) read as follows –

(B) Council adopt the Central Sydney On-Street Parking Policy incorporating amendments following the public exhibition process, as shown at Attachment B to the subject report, subject to the following amendment:

> Inclusion of the ability of local MPs and Councillors to refer matters to the Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee to consider.

The amendment was lost on the following show of hands –

Ayes (2) Councillors Ellsmore and Thompson

Noes (8) The Chair (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Arkins, Gannon, Kok, Maxwell, Miller, Weldon and Worling.

Amendment lost.

Substantive motion carried unanimously.

X111978

Speakers

Mitch Price (Ario), Christopher Vanneste (GoGet) and Andrew Duggan (Ethos Urban) addressed the meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee on Item 9.4.

Item 9.5

Post Exhibition - Car Sharing Policy

Note - The Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee decided that consideration of this matter shall be deferred to the meeting of Council on 7 April 2025.

At the meeting of Council, an alternative motion was moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Worling –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note the submissions and feedback received through the public exhibition period as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;

(B) Council adopt the Car Sharing Policy incorporating amendments following the public exhibition process, as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;

(C) Council note if an area reaches its 5% cap on the number of dedicated on-street car share spaces, the Chief Executive Officer will review the policy; and

(D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make amendments to the Car Sharing Policy to correct any minor drafting errors and finalise design, artwork and accessible formats for publication.

Carried unanimously.

X111618

Speaker

Christopher Vanneste (GoGet) addressed the meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee on Item 9.5.

Item 9.6

Fire Safety Reports

Moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Kok –

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 F 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 31 Market Street, Sydney 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 1-73 Broadway, Ultimo 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 9-13 Hay Street, Haymarket at this time;

(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 2-4 Cunningham Street, Haymarket at this time; and

(G) note the contents of Attachment F and not exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 102 Miller Street, Pyrmont at this time.

Carried unanimously.

S105001.002

Item 10 Questions on Notice

1. Town Hall Square

By Councillor Weldon

Question

At the February 2025 meeting, Council affirmed support for a Town Hall Square and resolved to investigate options to accelerate the delivery of Town hall Square for Council's consideration as part of the 2025/26 budget that will include a full project scope and costings, and for demolition to start this term.

1. Over the last 5 years, how much as the City spent on maintenance and renewal of building which are likely to be demolished?

2. The Woolworths at Tonw hall is the only major supermarket serving residents in the city centre. As part of the project scope, will the City be engaging with Woolworths to consider options for retaining the supermarket in part and/or finding an alternate site in the city centre?

X113777

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. $36,489,532 has been spent on maintenance and renewal works for the past 5 years plus the current financial year to date. The $36M spend is across 6 buildings, comprising $16M in routine maintenance and compliance and $20M in renewal/replacement work.

2. A meeting has recently been held between the City's Executive and senior Woolworths staff and discussions are ongoing.

2. Aquatic and Leisure Centre Asset Renewal and Upgrade Plan

By Councillor Arkins

Question

Can the Chief Executive Officer please provide an update on when the Asset Renewal and Upgrade Plan will be completed, which was noted by Council in the September 2023 Council Resolution on the contract extension for the City's Aquatic and Leisure Centres.

X113776

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

As noted in the Information Relevant To Item 6.6 Memorandum, circulated 4 Paril 2025 the response regarding the proposed future works and costings for the aquatic centres, the Asset Renewal and Upgrade Plan (now referred to as the Aquatic Centres Long Term Renewal and Investment Plan) is currently in progress and is expected to be completed later this year.

3. Lift Outages in Town Hall House

By Councillor Arkins

Question

Can the Chief Executive Officer please outline:

1. How many outages of the lifts have occurred in Town Hall House over the past 6 months?

2. How long each outage occurred for and the reason behind each outage?

3. Ventia's role in managing the Town Hall House lifts.

X113776

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. A total of 22 outages have occurred in the past 6 months.

2. The duration of lift downtime varied depending on the nature of the failure. Minor malfunctions, such as the presence of foreign debris in the lift door tracks, resulted in an average downtime of approximately 2 hours. In contrast, more complex failures, such as the necessity for a custom-manufactured lift drive from Germany, extended downtime to as long as 12 weeks. Additional faults encompassed, but were not limited to, issues with brake switches, controllers, and drive units.

3. Ventia is responsible for recording work orders, liaising with the designated City stakeholders, and coordinating with the contracted vertical transport service provider to ensure the maintenance, assessment, and rectification of vertical transport assets.

Item 11 Supplementary Answers to Previous Questions

Supplementary Answers to Previous Questions on Notice are as follows:

Question on Notice – Council 17 March 2025

Aquatic and Leisure Centres Capital Works

By Councillor Arkins

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 10 years. Please include an estimation of the number of days each centre may have to be closed for as a results 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.

Supplementary Answer

Further information was circulated via the 28 March 2025 CEO Update as follows:

Major Capital Works Projects

Since 2018, there has been $7.5M capital works expenditure on aquatic and recreation facilities and there is $10.1M capital works expenditure currently in progress. There is currently $9.6M capital works expenditure allocated to future renewal and upgrades to aquatic and leisure facilities in the FY25 Long Term Financial Plan. The future year renewal and upgrade budgets have been reviewed, and adjustments are proposed in the FY26 Long Term Financial Plan.

Completed since 2018

PROJECT SCOPE	TOTAL COST	CONTRACTOR
Cook and Phillip Park Pool		
Install co-generation system and upgrades to heat pumps, boilers, chillers	$2.46M	Evo Energy Technologies
Renewal and upgrade of reception area and change rooms	$3.09M	Trinity Quality Interiors
Victoria Park Pool		
Conversion from gas to 100% renewable electricity	$0.84M	Image Air Conditioning
Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre		
Install co-generation system	$1.14M	Goldman Energy

In progress

PROJECT SCOPE	TOTAL COST	CONTRACTOR
Andrew Boy Charlton Pool		
Structural remediation (concrete, timber, steel) and timber decking replacement	$4.21M	Marine & Civil Maintenance
Tiling and waterproof membrane replacement	$2.75M	Metz Project Services
Conversion from gas to 100% renewable electricity	$1.54M	Hirotec
Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre		
Balcony, awning and waterproofing renewal works HVAC replacement works	$1.6M	Ventia

Minor Works Delivered Through Asset Renewal Programs

Since 2018 there has been $14.5M capital expenditure on aquatic and leisure facilities delivered through the City's asset renewal programs. There is currently $23.4M capital expenditure allocated to future renewal and upgrades of aquatic and recreation facilities in the 10 year asset renewal programs included in the FY25 Long Term Financial Plan.

The City's asset renewal programs are 10 year funding programs that deliver renewal and minor upgrade works to existing assets. Works delivered under these programs include renewal of building structures, interiors, services (mechanical, electrical, hydraulic, lift etc), and plant and assets.

Examples of works delivered under these programs include items such as replacement of outdoor shade umbrellas (Prince Alfred Park), change-over to LED light fittings (all facilities), and lift renewal (in progress at Andrew Boy Charlton Pool).

Managing Disruptions to Services

The City makes all endeavours to minimise disruption to services for any works required to be undertaken. Where possible we make temporary adjustments to services rather than closing facilities.

From 2018 onwards there has only been one full closure of a facility. This is the current closure of the Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool which is required to undertake structural remediation and pool re-tiling works. While this shutdown is taking place the City is also completing an upgrade of the lift and converting from gas to 100% renewable electricity to reach our Net Zero emissions by 2035. From 2018 there have been 10 partial closures required temporary adjustment to services.

Closures and temporary service adjustments are notified to Council by way of a CEO Update and the community and affected stakeholders are notified in advance of works commencing on site. City of Sydney 360 members are provided with access to any other City of Sydney aquatic and fitness centre while the works are underway. Members who prefer to pause their memberships may do so without affecting their usual suspension allowance.

Impacts to Service

Centre Name	Project Name	Scope of Works	Details	Time Period
FULL CLOSURE				
Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool (ABC)	Tile Replacement and Energy Transition Works	Full replacement of tiles in the 50m and program pools; transition from gas to electricity	Full closure: 1 May 2024 to 1 September 2025	488 days
PARTIAL CLOSURE / SERVICE ADJUSTMENTS				
Cook + Phillip Park Pool (CPP)	Mechanical Plant Switchboard Replacement	Replacement of the mechanical plant switchboard controlling the pool water circulation system	Partial closure: 29 December 2020, plus one additional day in early 2021	2 days
Victoria Park Pool (VPP)	Programmable Logic Control Board Replacement	Replacement of the programmable logic control board for the pool filtration plant, timber decking, and grandstand repairs	Partial closure: Tuesday 20 June and Sunday 25 June 2023	5 days
Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre (ITAC)	Filter and Pipework Maintenance	Essential maintenance on filters and associated pipework of program and leisure pools	Partial closure: Program pool (11-12 April 2024), Leisure pool (22-24 April 2024)	Program pool: 2 days Leisure pool: 3 days
Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre (GPARC)	Indoor Leisure Water Play Maintenance	Essential maintenance on the indoor leisure water play structure and fixtures	Partial closure: 6 June 2024	1 day
Gunyama Park Aquatic	Moveable Floor	Critical maintenance on the	Partial closure: 4 July 2024	1 day

Centre Name	Project Name	Scope of Works	Details	Time Period
and Recreation Centre (GPARC)	Maintenance	moveable floor	(9:30am - 3:00pm)	
Victoria Park Pool	Heating System Upgrade & Facility Improvements	Transitioning heating system to 100% renewable energy, installation of efficient electric heat pumps, resurfacing toddler pool, air conditioning improvements, customer service counter & gym office upgrades.	23 September - 19 October 2024	26 days Gym remained open; fitness classes continue; alternative pools available for members and programs.
Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre (GPARC)	Play Equipment Maintenance	Essential maintenance on the play equipment	Partial closure: 20 February 2025	1 day
Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre (ITAC)	Air Conditioning & Waterproofing Upgrade	Refurbishment works to upgrade air conditioning and waterproofing	Partial closure: 17 March 2025 to 10 June 2025	85 days
Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre (GPARC)	Pool Filter Maintenance	Essential maintenance on the pool filters	Partial closure: 20 March 2025 (6:00am - 3:00pm)	1 day
Cook + Phillip Park Pool (CPP)	Perspex Panel & Air Circulation Works	Replacement of Perspex panels, installation of cabling, and placement of air circulation fans	Partial closure: Indoor court (4 April 2025), Outdoor gym (28 April 2025)	1 day

Item 12 Notices of Motion

Item 12.1 Improved Transport Outcomes for Millers Point

By Councillor Worling

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

(i) Millers Point is an historic harbourside suburb on the north-western edge of central Sydney home to a close-knit community and some of Sydney's most significant sites such as Observatory Hill, Barangaroo Reserve, Walsh Bay Arts Precinct and The Rocks, which attract millions of tourists every year;

(ii) making Sydney a city for walking, cycling and public transport is one of the ten strategic directions in Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision and the soon-to-be refreshed Community Strategic Plan Delivering Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050;

(iii) our communities told us they want to live close to a quality public transport network that is accessible, reliable, integrated, safe, affordable, environmentally friendly and prioritises space for people over cars and parking while maintaining access for business;

(iv) Millers Point Community Resident Action Group (MPCRAG) has advocated for many years for public transport improvements that reduce traffic and parking congestion in their area and the opening of the new Metro station at Barangaroo has been a very welcome addition to help relieve that;

(v) however, large events such as VIVID and New Years' Eve are attracting more and more people to the peninsula meaning people need more public transport options including at night to get in and out of the area as quickly as possible;

(vi) the ferry wharves at Barangaroo and Circular Quay are over a kilometre away, and the area is often prone to traffic congestion along Hickson Road, particularly before and after theatre events when many people use private vehicles, car share and taxis to attend because of the lack of public transport;

(vii) a ferry service linking Walsh Bay with Circular Quay, Barangaroo and the new Sydney Fish Market, would boost tourism and economic activity along the western harbour; and

(viii) the community is also calling for integrated public transport ticketing as a way to alleviate traffic congestion in The Rocks and Millers Point. This would reduce the need for taxis and car share to transport cruise ship passengers to and from the Overseas Passenger Terminal;

(B) Council further note that:

(i) last year, the NSW Government announced a Shore Power project at White Bay Cruise Terminal to be operational by late 2026 that provides wharf-side infrastructure that provides cruise ships with electricity by connecting to a landside charger, which results in less noise, air and water pollution and fewer emissions as the engine does not have to stay running while docked;

(ii) the NSW Port Authority is investigating the feasibility of installing shore power at the Overseas Passenger Terminal but there are no firm plans in place;

(iii) there is growing pressure to expand Sydney's cruise ship capacity, and the NSW Government has established the Cruising Industry Advisory Panel to provide advice on strategies. This could see more ships using the Overseas Passenger Terminal increasing their emissions even more; and

(iv) last year, the Member for Sydney wrote to the NSW Minister for the Environment requesting an air quality monitoring station at Circular Quay to collect data associated with cruise ship emissions. The Minister's reply said they are reviewing the Air Quality Monitoring Plan at the end of this year and will assess the needs for monitoring across NSW; and

(C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to:

(i) the NSW Minister for Transport urging him to improve public transport options in the Millers Point area by investigating providing a Sydney Ferries stop at Walsh Bay as well as integrated ticketing for cruise ship passengers arriving from the Overseas Passenger Terminal to encourage them to use public transport; and

(ii) the NSW Minister for the Environment calling on her to accelerate feasibility studies for installing shore power at the Overseas Passenger Terminal and in the meantime, prioritise installation of an air quality monitor at Circular Quay to collect data associated with cruise ship emissions as part of the Air Quality Monitoring Plan currently under review.

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

Moved by Councillor Worling, seconded by Councillor Thompson –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

(i) Millers Point is an historic harbourside suburb on the north-western edge of central Sydney home to a close-knit community and some of Sydney's most significant sites such as Observatory Hill, Barangaroo Reserve, Walsh Bay Arts Precinct and The Rocks, which attract millions of tourists every year;

(ii) making Sydney a city for walking, cycling and public transport is one of the ten strategic directions in Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision and the soon-to-be refreshed Community Strategic Plan Delivering Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050;

(iii) our communities told us they want to live close to a quality public transport network that is accessible, reliable, integrated, safe, affordable, environmentally friendly and prioritises space for people over cars and parking while maintaining access for business;

(iv) Millers Point Community Resident Action Group (MPCRAG) has advocated for many years for public transport improvements that reduce traffic and parking congestion in their area and the opening of the new Metro station at Barangaroo has been a very welcome addition to help relieve that;

(v) however, large events such as VIVID and New Years' Eve are attracting more and more people to the peninsula meaning people need more public transport options including at night to get in and out of the area as quickly as possible; (vi) the ferry wharves at Barangaroo and Circular Quay are over a kilometre away, and the area is often prone to traffic congestion along Hickson Road, particularly before and after theatre events when many people use private vehicles, car share and taxis to attend because of the lack of public transport;

(vi) a ferry service linking Walsh Bay with Circular Quay, Barangaroo and the new Sydney Fish Market, would boost tourism and economic activity along the western harbour; and

(vii) the community is also calling for integrated public transport ticketing as a way to alleviate traffic congestion in The Rocks and Millers Point. This would reduce the need for taxis and car share to transport cruise ship passengers to and from the Overseas Passenger Terminal;

(B) Council further note that:

(i) last year, the NSW Government announced a Shore Power project at White Bay Cruise Terminal to be operational by late 2026 that provides wharf-side infrastructure that provides cruise ships with electricity by connecting to a landside charger, which results in less noise, air and water pollution and fewer emissions as the engine does not have to stay running while docked;

(ii) the NSW Port Authority is investigating the feasibility of installing shore power at the Overseas Passenger Terminal but there are no firm plans in place;

(iii) there is growing pressure to expand Sydney's cruise ship capacity, and the NSW Government has established the Cruising Industry Advisory Panel to provide advice on strategies. This could see more ships using the Overseas Passenger Terminal increasing their emissions even more;

(iv) last year, the Member for Sydney wrote to the NSW Minister for the Environment requesting an air quality monitoring station at Circular Quay to collect data associated with cruise ship emissions. The Minister's reply said they are reviewing the Air Quality Monitoring Plan at the end of this year and will assess the needs for monitoring across NSW; and

(v) in support of the ongoing community campaign to improve air quality and reduce the negative environmental impact for cruise ships coming to Sydney, the Member for Balmain has proposed legislative reform through NSW Parliament to make it mandatory for cruise ships coming into White Bay Cruise Terminal to use shore power from 1 January 2027; and

(C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to:

(i) the NSW Minister for Transport urging him to improve public transport options in the Millers Point area by investigating providing a Sydney Ferries stop at Walsh Bay as well as integrated ticketing for cruise ship passengers arriving from the Overseas Passenger Terminal to encourage them to use public transport; and

(ii) the NSW Minister for the Environment calling on her to accelerate feasibility studies for installing shore power at the Overseas Passenger Terminal, require all cruise ships to use shore to ship power no later than January 2027, and in the meantime, prioritise installation of an air quality monitor at Circular Quay to collect data associated with cruise ship emissions as part of the Air Quality Monitoring Plan currently under review.

Carried unanimously.

X113756

Item 12.2 Action on Gaming Machines

Moved by Councillor Worling, seconded by Councillor Miller –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

(i) as at 31 December 2024, there were 3,671 gaming machines in the City of Sydney;

(ii) people who gamble in the City of Sydney lost over $110 million in just 3 months between September and December 2024, yet the highest losses are in Fairfield, Canterbury-Bankstown and Cumberland areas;

(iii) unlike many countries, Australia does not limit gaming machines to casinos and betting shops, but instead permits them in hotels, clubs and pubs. Gaming machines are everywhere;

(iv) in 2022, Council supported a Lord Mayoral Minute about the proliferation of gambling in NSW. In response, Council resolved to support a mandatory cashless gaming card and other harm minimisation initiatives;

(v) the NSW Government has attempted to reform the gambling industry and reduce its harmful impacts by:

(a) banning political donations from clubs involved in gaming;

(b) reducing the cash input limit from $5,000 to $500 for all new poker machines;

(c) banning all external gambling-related signage, however, some signage has simply been converted or tweaked to bypass legislation;

(d) introducing a cashless gaming trial, however, with limited participants, it was ineffective and found that voluntary systems do not work;

(e) requiring Responsible Gaming Officers; and

(f) working on tackling money laundering in casinos;

(vi) while action is being taken to regulate illegal activities in casinos, there is concern that this activity and gambling harm has and will shift to other venues, particularly those with a large number of gaming machines;

(vii) despite NSW Government action, in 2024, gamblers in NSW lost a record $8.64 billion in gaming machines;

(viii) the role of successive NSW Governments in enabling this harm is indisputable, and it is incumbent upon the current NSW Government to fix it;

(ix) the primary regulatory authority for gaming machines is the NSW Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority (ILGA). It oversees approval and regulation of gaming machines under the Gaming Machines Act 2001 and the Liquor Act 2007;

(x) Section 209 of the Gaming Machines Act 2001 prevents planning instruments and conditions of development consent from prohibiting or otherwise restricting the installation, keeping or operation of gaming machines. The repeal of this section would enable councils to establish their own provisions regarding gaming machines in local environmental plans;

(xi) councils can request design amendments to ensure compliance with the Location of Gaming Machines requirements set out by ILGA under the Gaming Machines Act 2001, or object to a venue's proposal to include a significant number of gaming machines, particularly if there are concerns about the social and community impacts. However, the final decision rests with ILGA, which has the ultimate authority to approve or reject such applications;

(xii) the Smoke Free Environment Act 2000 enables smoking in "outdoor areas" of hotels. In practice, areas can be considered outdoor if they are 75% enclosed and this enables venues to create "outdoor" gaming areas by simply providing openings in rooms. This means patrons can comfortably play at a machine for extended periods while smoking and even being served drinks and food;

(xiii) smoking in such enclosed spaces worsens impacts from gambling by affecting people's health and encouraging longer periods of gambling. Smoking should be prohibited in gaming areas in the same way it is prohibited in dining areas;

(xiv) community members have raised concerns about:

(a) venues trading late to operate their gaming rooms and these hours should be restricted; and

(a) that lights and noise from gaming machines in "outdoor" gaming areas can be seen and heard from public places and peoples' homes, in contravention to ILGA's Location of Gaming Machines requirements;

(xv) studies repeatedly highlight the link between gambling and suicide, bankruptcy and criminal behaviour, including family violence; and

(xvi) it is clear councils should have greater authority over gaming machines which harm local communities, individuals, families and workplaces;

(B) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the NSW Minister for Health asking him to:

(i) review and update the current definition of an "outdoor" area; and

(ii) amend Section 6A of the Smoke Free Environment Act 2000 by including gaming machine areas as areas where smoking is prohibited, in the same way that commercial dining areas are listed; and

(iii) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the NSW Minister for Gaming and Racing and the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces asking them to work together and:

(a) repeal Section 209 of the Gaming Machines Act 2001 to enable councils to establish their own provisions regarding gaming machines in local environmental plans giving them greater planning authority to assess the number, location, operating hours, lights and noise of gaming machines; and

(a) take further action to reduce gambling harm including investigating the introduction of gaming room hours, similar to license hours, to restrict the hours gaming machines can operate.

Carried unanimously.

X113756

Item 12.3 A Safer Swanson Street for Erskineville

By Councillor Miller

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

(i) last month, a woman and her son were hit by a car at the pedestrian crossing on Swanson Street between Harry Noble Reserve and the Kurrajong Hotel in Erskineville;

(ii) Swanson Street is a State-controlled road and therefore, Transport for NSW is responsible for implementing road safety measures there;

(iii) Swanson Street has a speed limit of 40km/h as it's part of a designated "High Pedestrian Activity Area";

(iv) for over a year, residents including Friends of Erskineville have been raising concerns about the need for the existing pedestrian crossing on Swanson Street between Harry Noble Reserve and the Kurrajong Hotel to be upgraded to a raised crossing to improve visibility, slow traffic, and improve safety for people walking;

(v) in February 2024, the Lord Mayor wrote to the then NSW Minister for Roads supporting the community's request and calling on the Minister to ensure Transport for NSW delivers a raised pedestrian crossing on Swanson Street following community consultation;

(vi) the Minister for Roads responded to the Lord Mayor stating that Transport for NSW would investigate the feasibility of installing a raised crossing on the existing crossing and if appropriate, seek funding for it. The Minister noted that projects are prioritised based on strict criteria which includes reported crashes, road geometry, and the safety benefits returned to the community;

(vii) City of Sydney staff followed up with Transport for NSW who recently confirmed that they have nominated the raised pedestrian crossing on Swanson Street for funding – it is currently at Project Nomination Stage;

(viii) this crossing would complement the City of Sydney's improvements and traffic calming measures in the area, including a raised pedestrian crossing on Park Street at Swanson Street, and other treatments endorsed by Council in October 2023 guided by the Alexandria and Erskineville Traffic and Transport Study; and

(ix) City of Sydney staff recently pruned the garden beds on both sides of the existing pedestrian crossing on Swanson Street at Harry Noble Reserve and in front of the Kurrajong Hotel to improve sightlines for road users; and

(B) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the NSW Minister for Roads calling on the NSW Government to:

(i) allocate funding to and deliver a raised pedestrian crossing on Swanson Street between Harry Noble Reserve and The Kurrajong Hotel in Erskineville to improve safety for all road users as soon as possible;

(ii) in the meantime, refresh the road markings on the existing pedestrian crossing to improve safety until the new raised pedestrian crossing is installed; and

(iii) reduce the road speed on Swanson Street in Erskineville to 30km/h as it is a high activity area close to the local village centre.

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

Moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Worling –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

(i) last month, a woman and her son were hit by a car at the pedestrian crossing on Swanson Street between Harry Noble Reserve and The Kurrajong Hotel in Erskineville;

(ii) Swanson Street is a State-controlled Road and therefore, Transport for NSW is responsible for implementing road safety measures there;

(iii) Swanson Street has a speed limit of 40 km/h as it's part of a designated "High Pedestrian Activity Area";

(iv) for over a year, residents, including Friends of Erskineville, have been raising concerns about the need for the existing pedestrian crossing on Swanson Street between Harry Noble Reserve and The Kurrajong Hotel to be upgraded to a raised crossing to improve visibility, slow traffic, and improve safety for people walking;

(v) in February 2024, the Lord Mayor wrote to the then NSW Minister for Roads supporting the community's request and calling on the Minister to ensure Transport for NSW delivers a raised pedestrian crossing on Swanson Street following community consultation;

(vi) the Minister for Roads responded to the Lord Mayor, stating that Transport for NSW would investigate the feasibility of installing a raised crossing on the existing crossing and, if appropriate, seek funding for it. The Minister noted that projects are prioritised based on strict criteria which include reported crashes, road geometry, and the safety benefits returned to the community;

(vii) City of Sydney staff followed up with Transport for NSW, who recently confirmed that they have nominated the raised pedestrian crossing on Swanson Street for funding – it is currently at Project Nomination Stage;

(viii) this crossing would complement the City of Sydney's improvements and traffic calming measures in the area, including a raised pedestrian crossing on Park Street at Swanson Street, and other treatments endorsed by Council in October 2023 guided by the Alexandria and Erskineville Traffic and Transport Study; and

(ix) City of Sydney staff recently pruned the garden beds on both sides of the existing pedestrian crossing on Swanson Street at Harry Noble Reserve and in front of the Kurrajong Hotel to improve sightlines for road users

(B) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the NSW Minister for Roads calling on the NSW Government to:

(i) allocate funding to and deliver a raised pedestrian crossing on Swanson Street between Harry Noble Reserve and The Kurrajong Hotel in Erskineville to improve safety for all road users as soon as possible;

(ii) in the meantime, refresh the road markings on the existing pedestrian crossing to improve safety until the new raised pedestrian crossing is installed; and

(iii) reduce the road speed on Swanson Street in Erskineville to 30km/h as it is a high activity area close to the local village centre; and

(C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to investigate whether removal of the hedges is needed at one or both sides of the existing pedestrian crossing to further improve sightlines and if it is, plant low-level planting in its place.

Carried unanimously.

X113761

Adjournment

At this stage of the meeting, at 6:30pm, it was moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Gannon –

That the meeting be adjourned for approximately 10 minutes.

Carried unanimously.

All Councillors were present at the resumption of the meeting of Council at 6:45pm.

Item 12.4 Coordinating Utilities for Better Street and Community Outcomes

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

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

(i) the City of Sydney's Community Strategic Plan (Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision) clearly outlines the importance of public street and footpath spaces to accommodate safe pedestrian and vehicle access, outdoor dining, landscaping and urban greening;

(ii) each year the City invests millions of dollars into public domain, road, footpath and cycleway renewals and upgrades in line with the Sydney Streets Design Code and Technical Specifications;

(iii) the NSW Streets Opening Coordination Council (SOCC) is a voluntary association of member organisations that seeks to improve the coordination of works in the public domain to minimise disruption arising from the installation, operation and maintenance of utility services; currently it provides 2 guides designed to coordinate public works, however these are non-statutory;

(iv) for renewal and upgrade projects, City staff consult with authorities such as Ausgrid, Sydney Water, Telstra and gas utilities to notify them of upcoming works, however utilities do not require council approval for their work which can involve tree removal, temporary asphalting of the street and prolonged street closures;

(v) community concerns have been raised about the lack of notification, significant delays, removal of trees, waste and poor management of projects specifically in Wilson Street, Newtown; and

(vi) a lack of effective policy settings that compels utilities to coordinate and communicate street and public domain works has resulted in loss of amenity, prolonged delays and expensive restoration processes, where the City is forced to 'fix' streets where utility work has been undertaken;

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to report back via a CEO Update advising what measures are in place to coordinate with utility providers for undertaking works and other initiatives that may be underway to improve outcomes for the community; and

(C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to NSW Minister for Water, Rose Jackson, NSW Minister for Energy, Penny Sharpe, and the Federal Minister for Telecommunications, Michelle Rowland calling for:

(i) a review of existing policy that results in greater accountability, integration and communication between utility companies and councils;

(ii) greater oversight and accountability of contractors undertaking work on behalf of companies; and

(iii) a centralised mechanism to coordinate works and for the community to request information and report issues.

Carried unanimously.

X113761

Item 12.5 Addressing Poverty and Inequality in the City of Sydney

By Councillor Thompson

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

(i) more than 5 million Australians are barely scraping by on Centrelink payment rates below the poverty line, and millions more are struggling with the cost of living;

(ii) members of our community receiving this support are forced to make impossible choices between paying rent, purchasing food, or buying essential medicine, while low-income earners are 10 times more likely to have no internet connection at home;

(iii) income support should provide people with enough to cover basic necessities to live a healthy and dignified life, rather than keeping them in a cycle of financial struggle and survival;

(iv) economic inequality is a major problem in the City of Sydney, there are persistent gaps between groups in Sydney that enjoy the majority of benefits of the city's growth compared with the groups that do not; and

(v) Australia's mutual obligations framework forces jobseekers to complete tasks such as applying for jobs or attending training, or have their payments stopped. The scheme is highly controversial and potentially unlawful, with numerous leading advocates and organisations critiquing the system as unfair, ineffective and enormously harmful to people in poverty due to abusive providers;

(B) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Prime Minister, the Treasurer, and the Minister for Social Services, asking them to commit to raising JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, and related payments to at least $82 per day, equivalent to the pension rate, to ensure all members of our community experiencing hardship can live with dignity, and urging immediate action to address this critical issue of inequality;

(C) Council adopt the position that Centrelink payment rates must be urgently raised above the poverty line, and advocates for this important reform; and

(D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to write to the Anti-Poverty Centre, Economic Justice Australia, Yfoundations, Deadly Connections, Unemployed Workers Union and any other relevant organisations in the Local Government Area to ask what the City can do to address widening inequality, and any additional practical support the City can provide to those experiencing and at risk of poverty in our communities.

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 Ellsmore –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

(i) more than 5 million Australians are barely scraping by on Centrelink payment rates below the poverty line, and millions more are struggling with the cost of living;

(ii) members of our community receiving this support are forced to make impossible choices between paying rent, purchasing food, or buying essential medicine, while low-income earners are 10 times more likely to have no internet connection at home;

(iii) income support should provide people with enough to cover basic necessities to live a healthy and dignified life, rather than keeping them in a cycle of financial struggle and survival;

(iv) economic inequality is a major problem in the City of Sydney, there are persistent gaps between groups in Sydney that enjoy the majority of benefits of the city's growth compared with the groups that do not; and

(v) Australia's mutual obligations framework forces jobseekers to complete tasks such as applying for jobs or attending training, or have their payments stopped. The scheme is highly controversial and potentially unlawful, with numerous leading advocates and organisations critiquing the system as unfair, ineffective and enormously harmful to people in poverty due to abusive providers;

(B) Council further note that:

(i) following a Lord Mayoral Minute, at its meeting on 24 June 2019, Council resolved to support the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) campaign to raise the rate of Newstart and Youth Allowance to bring payments above the poverty line;

(ii) in May 2023, the Lord Mayor wrote to the then-Treasurer in support of ACOSS's raise the rate campaign, calling on the Australian Government to lift JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, Austudy and Abstudy so there is a consistent minimum payment level, and doubling Commonwealth Rent Assistance; and

(iii) following this advocacy, in the 2023/24 budget the Australian Government increased the rate of eligible working age and student payments, including JobSeeker, Austudy and Youth Allowance, by about $40 per fortnight, and increased rent assistance by 15%, but more needs to be done as cost of living pressures increase;

(C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Prime Minister, the Treasurer, and the Minister for Social Services, asking them to commit to raising JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, and related payments to at least $82 per day, equivalent to the pension rate, to ensure all members of our community experiencing hardship can live with dignity, and urging immediate action to address this critical issue of inequality;

(D) Council continues to call on the Australian Government to urgently raise Centrelink payment rates above the poverty line, and continues to advocate for this important reform; and

(E) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to write to the Anti-Poverty Centre, Economic Justice Australia, Yfoundations, Deadly Connections, Unemployed Workers Union and any other relevant organisations in the Local Government Area about what the City is doing to address widening inequality, and about opportunities available through the City's grants program to support those experiencing and at risk of poverty in our communities.

Carried unanimously.

X113760

Item 12.6 Protecting and Expanding Native Bat Habitat

By Councillor Thompson

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

(i) Bat Appreciation Day will be observed on 17 April;

(ii) the City of Sydney is home to a variety of threatened bat species, including the Grey-Headed Flying Fox (GHFF) and Microbat species such as the Gould's Wattled Bat, Eastern Freetail Bat and Little Forest Bat;

(iii) the Grey-Headed Flying Fox is vital to the health and regeneration of native flora species across Australia, as the migration patterns and dietary requirements of this species provides a consistent and effective means of transportation for pollen and larger seeds across vast distances;

(iv) in Sydney, the Grey-Headed Flying Fox is known to periodically inhabit bushland close by the city, with large camps being observed in mass at the Centennial Park and formerly at the Royal Botanical Garden prior to the State- and Federal authorised initiative to relocate this species;

(v) current estimates suggest that up to 45,000 Grey-Headed Flying Fox roost at Centennial Park's Lachlan Swamp;

(vi) Grey-Headed Flying Fox are increasingly moving into urban areas in response to changing environmental conditions such as food scarcity and habitat loss;

(vii) Microbats consume 50% of their body weight in insects each night, serving as effective and natural control for insect populations; and

(viii) Microbat population and habitat is threatened by deforestation and urbanisation, as well as the misuse of insecticides that diminish the bats' insect prey;

(B) Council recognise:

(i) Mosman Council supports native species, including Microbats, by transforming dead trees into 'Habitat Stag Trees' to serve as nesting and foraging sites as well as shelter for a variety of wildlife;

(ii) Lake Macquarie City Council have committed to the restoration and enhancement of flying fox habitat to encourage camps to move further away from residential areas; and

(iii) Brisbane City Council regularly inspects the condition of Grey-Headed Flying Fox food availability to ensure that this species is sufficiently supported;

(C) Council further note the findings and targets included in the 2014 Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan:

(i) the Grey-Headed Flying Fox and Microbats are among eight species classified as 'priority fauna' species, as they are threatened species generally uncommon in urban areas; and

(ii) limited habitat availability, destruction and fragmentation of habitat, and seasonal food scarcity were identified as key threats to Grey-Headed Flying Fox and Microbat species within the Local Government Area;

(D) Council reaffirm its commitment to protecting and supporting all native species, including the Grey-Headed Flying Fox and Microbats;

(E) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Paul Scully and the Chief Executive of Greater Sydney Parklands, Joshua French to:

(i) reiterate support on behalf of the City for the partial conversion of Moore Park, particularly to further enhance biodiversity, protect native species, and progress the development of habitat linkages; and

(ii) communicate the urgency of protecting and supporting all native species, including but not limited to the Grey-Headed Flying Fox and Microbats, given the current climate emergency; and

(F) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to investigate and report back to Council on the following as soon as practical:

(i) advice from the Council's Urban Ecology Team as to how the City can support local and transient bat species, including but not limited to:

(a) expanding support for 'Habitat Stag Trees' and hollow trees;

(b) expanding biodiversity corridors;

(c) identifying and protecting existing bat camps and roosting areas;

(d) investigating potential sites such as Jubilee Park, Sydney Park, Moore Park, Hyde Park and Victoria Park which could support native bat species with remediation or planting work by the City;

(e) planting more bat-friendly vegetation including fruiting trees;

(f) eliminating pesticide use in bat habitat, particularly through encouraging direct and indirect species interactions to manage pests; and

(g) implementing a system for recording threatened species activity within the City's parks and urban areas, including visual, acoustic and aerial monitoring, surveying and any other relevant data collections; and

(ii) incorporate advice and findings from the Urban Ecology Coordinator into the new Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan.

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) Bat Appreciation Day will be observed on 17 April;

(ii) the City of Sydney is home to a variety of threatened bat species, including the Grey-Headed Flying Fox (GHFF) and Microbat species such as the Gould's Wattled Bat, Eastern Freetail Bat and Little Forest Bat;

(iii) the Grey-Headed Flying Fox is vital to the health and regeneration of native flora species across Australia, as the migration patterns and dietary requirements of this species provides a consistent and effective means of transportation for pollen and larger seeds across vast distances;

(iv) in Sydney, the Grey-Headed Flying Fox is known to periodically inhabit bushland close by the city, with large camps being observed in mass at the Centennial Park and formerly at the Royal Botanical Garden prior to the State- and Federal authorised initiative to relocate this species;

(v) current estimates suggest that up to 45,000 Grey-Headed Flying Fox roost at Centennial Park's Lachlan Swamp;

(vi) Grey-Headed Flying Fox are increasingly moving into urban areas in response to changing environmental conditions such as food scarcity and habitat loss;

(vii) Microbats consume 50% of their body weight in insects each night, serving as effective and natural control for insect populations; and

(viii) Microbat population and habitat is threatened by deforestation and urbanisation, as well as the misuse of insecticides that diminish the bats' insect prey;

(B) Council recognise:

(i) Mosman Council supports native species, including Microbats, by transforming dead trees into 'Habitat Stag Trees' to serve as nesting and foraging sites as well as shelter for a variety of wildlife;

(ii) Lake Macquarie City Council have committed to the restoration and enhancement of flying fox habitat to encourage camps to move further away from residential areas; and

(iii) Brisbane City Council regularly inspects the condition of Grey-Headed Flying Fox food availability to ensure that this species is sufficiently supported;

(C) Council further note the findings and targets included in the 2014 Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan:

(i) the Grey-Headed Flying Fox and Microbats are among eight species classified as 'priority fauna' species, as they are threatened species generally uncommon in urban areas; and

(ii) limited habitat availability, destruction and fragmentation of habitat, and seasonal food scarcity were identified as key threats to Grey-Headed Flying Fox and Microbat species within the Local Government Area;

(D) Council reaffirm its commitment to protecting and supporting all native species, including the Grey-Headed Flying Fox and Microbats;

(E) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Paul Scully and the Chief Executive of Greater Sydney Parklands, Joshua French to:

(i) reiterate support on behalf of the City for the partial conversion of Moore Park, particularly to further enhance biodiversity, protect native species, and progress the development of habitat linkages; and

(ii) communicate the urgency of protecting and supporting all native species, including but not limited to the Grey-Headed Flying Fox and Microbats, given the current climate emergency; and

(F) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to investigate the following and incorporate advice and findings from the Urban Ecology Coordinator and relevant teams into the new Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan as to how the City can support local and transient bat species, including but not limited to:

(i) expanding support for ‘Habitat Stag Trees’ and hollow trees;

(ii) expanding biodiversity corridors;

(iii) identifying and protecting existing bat camps and roosting areas;

(iv) investigating potential sites such as Jubilee Park, Sydney Park, Moore Park, Hyde Park and Victoria Park which could support native bat species with remediation or planting work by the City;

(v) planting more bat-friendly vegetation including fruiting trees;

(vi) eliminating pesticide use in bat habitat, particularly through encouraging direct and indirect species interactions to manage pests; and

(vii) implementing a system for recording threatened species activity within the City’s parks and urban areas, including visual, acoustic and aerial monitoring, surveying and any other relevant data collections.

Carried unanimously.

X113760

Item 12.7 Taxing SUVs in the City of Sydney - Tripling Parking Rates for Polluting Killer Cars

Moved by Councillor Thompson, seconded by Councillor Ellsmore –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

(i) the average size and weight of private vehicles continues to grow, with most new vehicles sold in 2024 being Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) - about 57% of all purchases, an increase of 2.4% on the previous year;

(ii) SUVs, including luxury SUVs, are vehicles that combine the features of a passenger car with those of an off-road vehicle. They are typically larger and heavier than standard passenger cars, with higher ground clearance;

(iii) SUVs are killers – they are far more dangerous than normal passenger cars and pose increased risks to pedestrians, cyclists and other road-users, with children eight times more likely to die when hit by a SUV. Their higher ground clearance makes them more likely to collide with a pedestrian's head or chest, making them more deadly; their height also increases the risk of backing over pedestrians;

(iv) if SUVs were a country, they would be the world's fifth largest emitter of CO2. Large and heavy vehicles like SUVs consume up to 25% more fuel per kilometre and emit 20% more carbon emissions than other cars as well as pollutants with direct public health effects, such as nitrous oxides;

(v) the rise of bigger, heavier, dirtier SUVs is wiping out the climate gains from the switch to electric vehicles, and the transport sector is projected to become the biggest source of emissions by 2030; and

(vi) heavier vehicles increase damage on inner-city roads, thereby increasing maintenance costs on roads, with the largest SUVs doing 16 times more damage than small cars on Australian roads;

(B) Council further note:

(i) in 2008 the City of Sydney introduced a resident vehicle parking fee schedule which offers 'green concessions' in order to encourage vehicles that with comparatively fewer tailpipe CO2 emissions pay lower fees;

(ii) Parisians voted on 4 February 2024 to triple the parking rates for the heaviest, bulkiest, most polluting SUVs, compared to other vehicles. Other French cities including Lyon are now taking similar action; and

(iii) the Mayor of London has commented in support of higher parking rates for SUVs, as implemented in Paris; and

(C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

(i) investigate and report back on the possibility of instituting a Paris-style system imposing higher rates for parking larger and heavier vehicles such as SUVs, including the potential to triple the cost of parking for the heaviest, most polluting, dangerous and bulky vehicles;

(ii) in preparing the review, ensure that any potential changes consider appropriate equity caveats (for example, considering the needs of people with disabilities, tradespeople, including those who are eligible for Council's tradesperson permit for parking, and other people with specific mobility or business requirements);

(iii) ensure appropriate consultation with people who may be impacted, including with groups such as disability advocacy bodies, road safety groups, existing users of Council's tradesperson's permit, and local schools; and

(iv) ensure that any proposed changes do not perversely discourage the switch to cleaner vehicles which are heavier due to their batteries.

The motion was lost on the following show of hands –

Ayes (2) Councillors Ellsmore and Thompson

Noes (8) The Chair (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Arkins, Gannon, Kok, Maxwell, Miller, Weldon and Worling.

Motion lost.

X113760

Extension of Time

During discussion on this matter, pursuant to the provisions of clause 9.29 of the Code of Meeting Practice, it was –

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

That Councillor Thompson be granted an extension of time of two minutes to speak on this matter.

The motion was carried on the following show of hands –

Ayes (9) The Chair (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Kok, Maxwell, Miller, Thompson, Weldon and Worling.

Noes (1) Councillor Gannon*.

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

Carried.

Item 12.8 Extending the Fee Waiver for Community Spaces in the City of Sydney

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

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

(i) Council has a wide range of community venues for hire including town halls, community centres, library meeting rooms and other spaces;

(ii) Council provides free and discounted hire of its community spaces to not-for-profits, and a range of other groups;

(iii) introduced at the request of resident groups, since 2022 Council has waived the hire fee, and also offered free coverage by Council's public liability insurance, for eligible 'local community groups' hiring community venues;

(iv) the fee waiver has supported the community to reconnect post-Covid, helped re-activate community spaces, and supported the formation of new local community groups. In addition to resident groups, examples of groups who have accessed the free hire include anti-poverty groups, anti-racism groups, meditation groups, social clubs, sustainable crafts groups, and more;

(v) this small but important measure helps the City deliver on its social sustainability policy and goals. The percentage of City Spaces facilities and venues at community or reduced rates or through a fee waiver is one of the measures that Council uses to track progress towards Council's goal that "Everyone has equitable and affordable access to community and cultural facilities and programs, supporting social connection and wellbeing";

(vi) in the most recent budget, Council committed to maintain the fee waiver until 2029;

(vii) Council's online booking forms have been updated to make it easy to apply for the fee waiver. However, there have been some persistent confusion about which groups meet the definition of a 'local community group' and are eligible for the waiver. Examples of groups where there has been uncertainty include but are not limited to:

(a) self-help groups such as mental health support groups;

(b) social clubs run by volunteers which charge a small fee to cover costs (for example to pay for equipment like yoga mats), but don't make a profit;

(c) art groups run by volunteers who charge a small fee to cover the cost of engaging a life model for a class, but otherwise charge no fees;

(d) union members who work in the city looking for a free space to hold a members' meeting;

(e) groups who can be defined as a sporting club, for example a group of volunteers which gets together to practice dancing, or a LARPing (live action role play) group;

(f) parents who live in the city looking to meet with other parents to run activities for their children; and

(g) groups of artists, performers and musicians who live or frequently perform or exhibit in the City looking to hire free space for rehearsals or galleries;

(B) Council further note:

(i) loneliness and social isolation has been identified as a growing issue in the Council's draft Community Strategic Plan, shortly to be put on exhibition;

(ii) the cost to waive fees for those groups which would otherwise have been eligible for a discounted community fee rate is modest;

(iii) Council's community spaces have capacity to increase bookings; and

(iv) Council recently agreed to permanently waive footpath dining fees for businesses; and

(C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

(i) investigate permanently waiving hiring and insurance fees for community spaces for Council's consideration as part of the 2025/26 and forward budgets;

(ii) undertake a review of the current definition of who has access to the free hire, including groups who have not been considered eligible under the current definition;

(iii) bring a report to the Council on the findings of this review, so that Council can consider potential variations or expansion to the definition of 'local community groups'; and

(iv) also update the Council on progress with the online booking system which Council has been developing to make it easier for residents and community organisations to more quickly identify and book spaces.

Carried unanimously.

X113765

Item 12.9 Affirming the City of Sydney's Support for the Housing Australia Future Fund

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

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

(i) the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) is a critical national initiative to address Australia's housing affordability crisis and represents the largest investment in social and affordable housing in a generation;

(ii) the HAFF provides $10 billion in capital, with a minimum of $500 million in annual disbursements to support the construction of social and affordable housing across the country;

(iii) the HAFF aims to deliver 20,000 new social homes and 20,000 new affordable homes over the next five years;

(iv) as of 17 March 2025, over 183 projects are in the pipeline, expected to deliver more than 18,674 social and affordable homes nationwide, including 442 within the City of Sydney;

(v) the HAFF is vital to tackling homelessness and housing insecurity, particularly in inner-city areas like ours, where housing demand and cost pressures are especially acute;

(vi) HAFF-funded construction supports jobs and local businesses, and helps address climate goals through energy-efficient, environmentally sustainable housing;

(vii) the HAFF is especially important for delivering homes for priority groups such as women, older people, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, groups often locked out of the private housing market;

(viii) the HAFF was strongly opposed by the Coalition and only passed the Senate in 2023 after months of political obstruction. The Opposition has since signalled that it may repeal or cut the HAFF if elected;

(ix) this threat creates serious policy instability. Even the possibility of repeal has a chilling effect on housing investment, slowing delivery and deterring partners;

(x) policy uncertainty undermines confidence among community housing providers, construction partners, and potential residents; weakening Australia's collective ability to respond to the housing crisis at scale; and

(xi) if Australia is serious about ending housing insecurity, it must treat housing as essential social infrastructure, and provide long-term, bipartisan certainty in its funding and delivery; and

(B) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Leader of the Australian Greens, expressing the City of Sydney's strong support for the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF);

(i) emphasising that the HAFF is essential to the City's ability to meet its affordable housing targets and address cost-of-living pressures;

(ii) calling on all federal parties to commit to the long-term future of the HAFF and reject any proposals to repeal, cut, or destabilise the HAFF; and

(iii) noting that continued political threats to the HAFF, even if not enacted, already risk delaying projects, reducing investor confidence, and making the housing crisis worse.

The motion was carried on the following show of hands –

Ayes (9) The Chair (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Kok, Maxwell, Miller, Thompson and Weldon.

Noes (1) Councillor Gannon*.

Carried.

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

X113762

Item 12.10 Better Coverage at Our Public BBQs

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

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

(i) the City of Sydney has 76 BBQs in 32 of its parks that are regularly used by residents, community groups, and visitors. Most of the BBQs are either covered, or have nearby tables and seating shaded by fixed structures or tree canopy;

(ii) the City has playgrounds in 100 of its parks. Most of the play areas have some shading cast by sails, umbrellas, fixed structures or nearby buildings or tree canopy;

(iii) however, some playground and BBQ areas are not covered or shaded, making them vulnerable to both unforecast rain and extreme heat, particularly during summer;

(iv) uncovered BBQs and seating areas are more likely to degrade over time due to exposure to sun and rain, and may also contribute to localised heat through surrounding hard concrete surfaces; Community members have raised concerns that some City playgrounds are also in need of sun and weather protection;

(v) according to recent research by Western Sydney University on mapping the City of Sydney's micro-climates:

(a) "air temperatures differ significantly across the city. During hot (35°C+) and extreme heat (40°C+) days, temperature differences from north to south can exceed 10°C"; and

(b) recommended actions include: "increase effective cooling measures through direct actions such as more shade," and "reduce surface heat with more shade, reflective materials and by reducing hard surfaces";

(vi) the City's Adapting for Climate Change strategy projects the number of extreme heat days (over 35°C) to rise from an average of 3.7 days per year currently, to 5.8 by 2030, and 15 by 2070. The strategy notes: "by increasing shade and reducing hard surfaces that absorb the sun's warmth, we actively reduce the heat held in the city, known as the 'urban heat island effect";

(vii) the City uses tree canopy and other greening to shade and cool our buildings, streets, footpaths and parks in line with our Greening Sydney Strategy; and

(viii) the City carries out shade modelling as part of our playground designs and considers installing shade structures as part of playground renewal projects if inadequate natural shade is provided by existing tree canopy or adjacent buildings; and

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

(i) explore options to improve shade or rain protection over BBQs with seating areas and playgrounds in our new park designs and renewals;

(ii) review and recommend updates to park design processes and policies to ensure that future upgrades and new parks include adequate sun and rain protection, especially at high-use or paved areas such as BBQs with seating and playgrounds; and

(iii) report back to Council through the CEO Update on:

(a) the number of parks with playgrounds and BBQs with seating areas, and how many currently have fully rain and sun proof coverings; and

(b) proposals for potential upgrades to improve coverage and comfort for park users.

Carried unanimously.

X113762

At 7.37 pm the meeting concluded.

Chair of a meeting of the Council of the City of Sydney held on Monday 12 May 2025 at which meeting the signature herein was subscribed.