

15 December 2025

At 5.00 pm

Council

Agenda

1. **Confirmation of Minutes**
2. **Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest**
3. **Minutes by the Lord Mayor**
 - 3.1 Vale Commander Marcia Chalmers RN (Retd)
 - 3.2 Housing For All Into The Future
4. **Memoranda by the Chief Executive Officer**
 - 4.1 Council Submission - Local Government Remuneration Tribunal - 2026 Annual Review
5. **Matters for Tabling**
6. **Report of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee**
 - 6.1 Confirmation of Minutes
 - 6.2 Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest
 - 6.3 Investments Held as at 30 November 2025
 - 6.4 Public Exhibition - Grants Policy and Guidelines
 - 6.5 Post Exhibition - Code of Meeting Practice
 - 6.6 Land Classification - 99A Belmont Street, Alexandria
 - 6.7 Tender - T-2024-1383 - City Structures Works
 - 6.8 T-2025-1492 - Barges and Tugs for Sydney New Year's Eve
 - 6.9 Tender - Reject and Negotiate - T-2025-1437 - Board Meeting Management Solution
 - 6.10 Exemption from Tender - Water Feature Maintenance Services

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7. Report of the Environment and Climate Change Committee

- 7.1 Confirmation of Minutes
- 7.2 Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest
- 7.3 Post Exhibition – Register of Significant Trees

8. Report of the Innovation, Business and Economy Committee

- 8.1 Confirmation of Minutes
- 8.2 Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest
- 8.3 Grants and Sponsorship - Dixon Street Improvement Grant

9. Report of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee

- 9.1 Confirmation of Minutes
- 9.2 Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest
- 9.3 Public Exhibition - Draft Outdoor Dining Guidelines
- 9.4 Public Exhibition - Planning Proposal - 580 George Street, Sydney - Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 Amendment
- 9.5 Post Exhibition - Planning Proposal - Oxford Street LGBTIQ+ Heritage Items (Stage 1) - Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 Amendment
- 9.6 Post Exhibition - Planning Proposal - Chinatown Heritage Items - Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 Amendment
- 9.7 Fire Safety Reports

10. Questions on Notice

11. Supplementary Answers to Previous Questions

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12. Notices of Motion

- 12.1 Vale David Carey
- 12.2 Securing The Legacy of The Bookshop Darlinghurst
- 12.3 Synthetic Turf Policy Review
- 12.4 Coordination of the King Street, Newtown Special Entertainment Precinct with Inner West Council
- 12.5 The City of Sydney Welcomes New and Additional Public Housing in Glebe
- 12.6 Easing the Impact of High Speed E-Bikes Around Rope Walk Park in Waterloo
- 12.7 City of Sydney Supports Rising Tide
- 12.8 Pill Testing Not Sniffer Dogs
- 12.9 Maximising Community Benefits from Tech Infrastructure in the City of Sydney
- 12.10 Access to All Ability Playgrounds in the Inner City
- 12.11 Council Review for MacDonald Street, Erskineville
- 12.12 Pedestrian Safety Audit - Glebe Markets
- 12.13 Affordable Housing in Perpetuity in Waterloo South
- 12.14 Artificial Intelligence in Council Operations and Strategy
- 12.15 Stop the EV Public Charging Bay Hack
- 12.16 Urban Billabongs and Additional Water Play Areas
- 12.17 Retaining Business Services Access on Wilson Street in Newtown

Item 1

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the following meeting of Council are submitted for confirmation:

Meeting of 17 November 2025

Item 2

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

Pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, the City of Sydney Code of Meeting Practice and the City of Sydney Code of Conduct, Councillors are required to disclose and manage both pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting.

In both cases, the nature of the interest must be disclosed.

This includes receipt of reportable political donations over the previous four years.

Item 3.1

Vale Commander Marcia Chalmers RN (Retd)

File No: S051491

Minute by the Lord Mayor

To Council:

I inform Council of the passing of Commander Marcia Chalmers RN Retd, former secretary of Millers Point Resident Action Group, on Thursday 6 November 2025.

Marcia was born on 25 June 1939 in Bangalow to Maisie and Victor Chalmers.

After leaving Hornsby High School with an Intermediate Certificate, Marcia began what she would later call her “tour of duty through dullness.” Her early jobs included being a trainee teller at the Commonwealth Bank, a clerk at the T&G Insurance Company and as a dental nurse. She worked at a little company called Myart, which sold embroidery materials - their products now treasured as “vintage.” Apart from keeping the office running, Marcia stitched her own pieces at home, which gave a glimpse into her creativity and care.

In 1958, Marcia joined the Women’s Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS) as a telegraphist, inspired by her grandfather, Captain James Henderson Chalmers, and encouraged by her growing interest in communications.

This marked the beginning of a distinguished career spanning more than three decades. Her postings included HMAS Harman, Lonsdale, Melville, Cerberus, and Kuttabul, among others. In 1962 she was selected for Officer Training, and in April 1963 she was commissioned as a Probationary Third Officer WRANS.

Marcia served in numerous capacities, including Communications Officer, Senior Training Officer, and Director of Individual Training in Defence. Her roles encompassed training, communications, personnel management, and family welfare programs. As Senior Training Officer at HMAS Cerberus, work involved developing support systems for Defence families - initiatives which continue to this day. She also completed the Joint Services Staff Course in 1983 and attained the rank of Commander in 1983.

After 32 years of service, Marcia retired from the Navy in July 1989 leaving the Service with enormous pride in all that she had achieved, and a deep gratitude for the opportunities and friendships it had given her.

Following her retirement, Marcia joined St John Ambulance (NSW), where she managed the office supporting First Aid volunteers. Later, as Manager of Community Care, she oversaw programs in literacy and public health, including the School Immunisation Program. These roles reflected her lifelong commitment to service and the welfare of others.

Marcia and her sister, Millicent later shared a heritage-listed terrace in Millers Point, in the shadow of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Their home became a place of friendship, community, and conversation filled with books, lively debate, and the occasional rearrangement of furniture. Both sisters were active in the Millers Point Residents’ Action Group, with Marcia serving as its secretary from 2005 to 2016, assisting Millicent who was chair from 2013.

Marcia and Millicent were heavily involved in the original Save the Rocks campaign and the first “whole suburb” heritage listing of Millers Point in 2003. Marcia was also a leader in the acquisition, restoration and management of Darling House, Trinity Avenue, originally for aged local residents but now privatised. They were also actively involved in the Darling House Aged care board, and the Sydney Mechanics’ School of Arts.

After the former State Government sold the social housing in Millers Point, Marcia and Millicent moved to another terrace in Glebe. After Millicent’s passing, Marcia continued to fill that home with life, tending her garden, reading, studying Italian and Latin, and maintaining close connections with family and friends.

Marcia is well remembered by family, friends and colleagues, with one former colleague observing: “I remember her well – she was a formidable role model in the mid-80s and has always been something of a legend for those of us who were junior female officers at the time.”

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) all persons attending this meeting of Council observe one minute's silence to commemorate the life of Commander Marcia Chalmers RN and her significant contribution to the Royal Australian Navy, St John Ambulance and the communities of Millers Point and The Rocks;
- (B) Council express its condolences to Marcia's family, friends and colleagues; and
- (C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to Marcia's family to convey Council's condolences.

THE RT HON CLOVER MOORE AO

Lord Mayor of Sydney

Item 3.2

Housing For All Into the Future

Document to Follow

Item 4.1**Council Submission - Local Government Remuneration Tribunal - 2026 Annual Review****File No: S095194.009****Memorandum by the Chief Executive Officer**

To Council:

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) is required to make an annual determination, on the fees payable to Councillors and Mayors in accordance with section 241 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act).

Under the Act, the Tribunal's role is to determine the categories of councils and mayoral offices in NSW, place each council and mayoral office into one of the categories it has determined (at least once every 3 years), and on an annual basis set the minimum and maximum fees payable to councillors and mayors in each category.

The City of Sydney is currently the only council in NSW categorised as a Principal CBD (the highest category) by the Tribunal. As a matter of standing policy, Council has resolved that having regard to the Tribunal's determination of a fee range for Councillors and the Lord Mayor, Council shall always pay the maximum fees as determined by the Tribunal.

Note that the Tribunal has advised that submissions are to be endorsed by their respective council.

Submissions are due by Thursday 18 December 2025.

Recommendation

It is resolved that Council endorse the submission to the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal as shown at Attachment A to the subject memorandum.

MONICA BARONE PSM

Chief Executive Officer

Attachment A. Council Submission - Local Government Remuneration Tribunal - 2026 Annual Review

Attachment A

**Council Submission – Local Government
Remuneration Tribunal –
2026 Annual Review**

Submission by the Council of the City of Sydney to the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal



We request that the Tribunal:

1. Revert to the term “Principal City” as the unique category for the City of Sydney, to recognise that the City’s regional, national and international significance and contribution extends beyond the Sydney CBD.
2. Give detailed consideration to the significant increase in the roles and responsibilities of City of Sydney Councillors as members of the governing body of Australia’s only global city and in recognition of its more appropriate status as “Principal City”, as set out in this submission.
3. Make a specific determination to appropriately increase the fees for City of Sydney Councillors to ensure that these fees appropriately recognises their roles and responsibilities as members of the governing body of Australia’s only global city.
4. Provide a comprehensive response to the specific matters raised in this submission.
5. Request a reference from the Minister for Local Government to undertake a comprehensive review of the remuneration framework for Councillors and Mayors, taking into account the issues raised in this submission.

Introduction

In her letter to Mayors and General Managers of 16 October 2025, Joanne Nava of the Remuneration Tribunal Secretariat wrote:

"Section 239 of the LG Act requires the Tribunal to determine the category of councils and mayoral offices at least once every three years.

"The Tribunal last undertook a review of the categories and the allocation of councils into each of these categories in 2023. Therefore, the Tribunal will undertake a review of the categories, as part of the 2026 review."

This submission therefore requests the Tribunal to:

1. recategorise the City of Sydney as "Principal City"
2. make a determination setting fees for City of Sydney Councillors which appropriately recognises their roles and responsibilities as members of the governing body of Sydney as both a "Principal City" and as Australia’s only global city and which address the issues raised in this submission.

In making this request, the City of Sydney is not seeking any increase in the fees payable to the Lord Mayor of Sydney.

s240 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993 requires the Remuneration Tribunal to determine categories for councils and mayoral offices according to the following matters including:

- the population of areas and the distribution of the population
- the nature and volume of business dealt with by each council
- the nature and extent of the development of areas
- the diversity of communities served
- the regional, national and international significance of the council
- such matters as the Remuneration Tribunal considers relevant to the provision of efficient and effective local government

Recategorising the City of Sydney as “Principal City”

The City’s unique category

The City of Sydney has enjoyed its own unique category since the Tribunal’s first determination was published on 22 April 1994. Over time the category name has changed: Initially “S1” in 1994, changed to “Principal City” in 2009, and to “Principal CBD” in 2017.

Regardless of the category name, the Tribunal has consistently recognised the City of Sydney for “its role as the commercial, cultural, entertainment and ceremonial centre of the City and State”.¹

This recognition reflects submissions to the Tribunal made by the City of Sydney in 1994, 1995, 1997 and 2000. As such, they reflect the City as it was between 1 January 1989 and 8 May 2003.

As the map below shows, the City then covered the Sydney CBD, Haymarket, The Rocks, Millers Point, Dawes Point, Pyrmont, Ultimo and the edges of Potts Point and Darlinghurst, an area totalling 6.19km². The City’s residential population at the 1991 census was 13,501, increasing to 24,883 at the 1996 census.



On 8 May 2003, the NSW Government expanded the City by transferring Darlinghurst and the 2011 Postcode area from the former South Sydney Council and Glebe and Forest Lodge from the former Leichardt Council. On 6 February 2004, the remaining areas of South Sydney were forcibly amalgamated with the City of Sydney. This increased the City’s area to 25km² (see map on the following page).

¹ Report and Determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal under sections 239 and 241 of the Local Government Act 1993, 29 April 2009 p21. Other reports have provided more detailed statements.

In its 1994 determination the Tribunal drew on the City's submission to note that the City was:

“... the seat of Government and the focus for the judiciary of the State's Legal System; the centre for the major financial and commercial institutions of the State and the financial centre of the Pacific; the cultural and entertainment centre of the State and a mirror of Australian culture and tradition; the gateway to Australia for overseas tourists and visitors and the main centre for tourism in Australia; the focus for the major civic, ceremonial and religious activities of the City ... a principal centre of intellectual activity, media and communications ... through its Universities an educational centre of excellence; a principal centre for the provision of higher order, specialised medical services ...”²



City of Sydney from 2004

This continued to be the case following the 2004 amalgamation. The expanded boundaries included within them the University of Sydney, Notre Dame University, St Vincent's Hospital, Taylor Square Law Courts, the North and South Eveleigh precincts, Belvoir Theatre, Carriageworks (from 2007), the Kings Cross and Oxford Street entertainment districts and the site for major events such as Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. The City of Sydney's role as "the commercial, cultural, entertainment and ceremonial centre of the City and State" was no longer confined to the CBD.

Moreover, while the primary focus of the former City was on central Sydney business activity (as acknowledged in its submissions to the Tribunal) the expanded City includes village centres such as Glebe, Newtown, Erskineville, Darlinghurst, Surry Hills and East Sydney, along with the Green Square urban renewal area.

² Report and Determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal under sections 239 and 241 of the Local Government Act 1993, p12 22 April 1994

In addition to these village centres, the City has eight distinct economic precincts. As shown in the map below, four are in the area added to the City in 2004:



Data from the City's most recent Floorspace and Employment Survey shows that 27.9% of businesses within the City of Sydney are located in the Tech Central West, Eastern Creative, Economic and Recreation and Southern Enterprise Precincts.

While the amalgamation enhanced Sydney's position as Australia's only global city it also required Councillors to extend their focus beyond the city centre. Sydney City Councillors must also devote their attention, policy deliberation and time to the needs of the wider local government area in the interests of residents and the city, NSW and Australian economy. Thus their role is more complex and demanding than that of city Councillors in the 1990s.

Impact on representation

Between 1985 and 2003, the former City was served by a directly elected Lord Mayor and six other Councillors. After the amalgamation, the expanded city was served by a directly elected Lord Mayor and nine other Councillors. Between 1989 and 2004, the former South Sydney Council was served by nine Councillors including a Mayor elected by the council.

At the 2006 census, the residential population for the expanded City was 164,597

ABS census data shows six Sydney City Councillors represented 24,883 residents in 1996, or one Councillor for every 4,147 residents. In 2021, nine Councillors represented 214,703 residents, that is one Councillor for every 23,856 residents. In 2021 each Councillor notionally represented almost 6 times as many residents as former City Councillors were required to represent in 1996.

The challenges of representing residents will only increase. Over the past decade the population has increased almost 20% to an estimated 237,238 as at 30 June 2024. This is one Councillor for 26,600 residents, compared to six Councillors representing 24,883 residents in 1996.

Recognising the increasingly complex role of City of Sydney Councillors

s240 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993 requires the Remuneration Tribunal to determine categories for councils and mayoral offices according to the following matters including:

- the population of areas and the distribution of the population
- the nature and volume of business dealt with by each council
- the nature and extent of the development of areas
- the diversity of communities served
- the regional, national and international significance of the council
- such matters as the Remuneration Tribunal considers relevant to the provision of efficient and effective local government

Over the past 20 years, the Tribunal has recognised the important role played by the Lord Mayor of Sydney. In doing so, it has reflected the regional, national and international significance of the City of Sydney and set commensurate Lord Mayoral fees.

It has however not similarly recognised the important and increasingly demanding and complex role and responsibilities of City of Sydney Councillors. This is demonstrated by the maximum fees for City Councillors being only 18.22 % of the maximum Mayoral fee. For all other NSW councils, the maximum fee ranges from 30.95% to 46.61%.

Increased responsibilities and obligations

Between 1994 and 2003, the Act required former City Councillors to represent the collective interests of residents, ratepayers and the local community and to facilitate communication between the community and the council. This remains part of the Councillor's role. Successive amendments to the Local Government Act 1993 have increased the statutory role and responsibilities of Sydney City Councillors which they must fulfil while actively and collectively ensuring Sydney builds on its position as Australia's only global city.

These include amendments in 2016 which require Councillors to be active and contributing members of council, and to make considered and well informed decisions.

Strategic Planning – the Councillor's role and responsibilities

For example, since 2009, Councils have been required to prepare a community strategic plan which:

- addresses civic leadership, social, environmental and economic issues in an integrated manner, and
- is based on social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights, and
- is adequately informed by relevant information relating to civic leadership, social, environmental and economic issues, and
- is developed having due regard to the State government's State Plan and other relevant State and regional plans of the State government.³

Councils are required to review this plan by 30 June following each Council election.

Councillors also have a statutory role to represent the "collective interests of residents, ratepayers and the local community". Given that the community strategic plan should reflect the aspirations, needs and "collective interests of residents, ratepayers and the local community",

³ Local Government Act 1993 s402 (3) (a)

Councillors have a statutory role relation to the community strategic plan. This statutory role requires Councillors to collectively:

- identify and prioritise key local community needs in developing the community strategic plan
- develop and endorse the community strategic plan, delivery program and other strategic plans, programs, strategies and policies of the council
- regularly review implementation of the community strategic plan and its delivery program
- review and if required, amend the community strategic plan following each Council election.

During the last term, City Councillors collectively developed and adopted Sustainable Sydney 2030 to 2050, the successor to our initial long term strategic plan, Sustainable Sydney 2030. This Plan is unique in that it in addition to providing for the immediate local government area, it reflects the City's regional, national and international economic, social and cultural significance.

Current City Councillors are responsible for overseeing the implementation of this plan, along with the operational plan, delivery program and many strategies which sit under it. These include our detailed Economic Development Strategy, Environmental Strategy, Social Sustainability Strategy and Cultural Strategy.

Implementing these strategies also require our Councillors to make significant financial and budgetary decisions. The finances for which Councillors are now ultimately responsible are significantly greater than those than City Councillors in the 1990s, or indeed when the first Councillors of the expanded City took office.

(Note: All amounts referred to below have been taken from City of Sydney Annual Reports and Financial Statements for the relevant financial years and have been adjusted for inflation using the Reserve Bank of Australia's inflation calculator).

At the end of the 1998-1999 financial year the total assets* of the then City of Sydney were valued at \$4.3 billion. At the end of the 2004-2005 financial year (the first complete financial year for the expanded City), the City's total assets* were valued at \$5.4 billion. At the end of the 2024/25 financial year the City's total assets* were valued at \$16.1 billion. This is an increase of 198% since 2005.

Included in the City's assets are infrastructure, property, plant and equipment. In 2005 their combined value was \$5.4 billion. By 2025 this value had risen to \$15.2 billion, an increase of 181%.

In 1999, six Councillors and a directly elected Lord Mayor had \$291** million in operating revenue to allocate. In 2025 nine Councillors and a directly elected Lord Mayor were responsible for allocating \$798*** million.

The above demonstrates the extent to which the "nature and volume of business" they are required to deal with under the Act has changed over the past 20 years. Their fees must reflect this.

*excluding cash and investments

** City of Sydney only - excludes \$167 million South Sydney revenue

*** excluding capital grants

Training and Professional Development

Since 2016, s232 (g) of the Act has required Councillors “to make all reasonable efforts to acquire and maintain the skills necessary to perform the role of a Councillor”.

This section is reinforced by s183 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021. This section requires the general manager to ensure each new and re-elected Councillor receives induction training courses or refresher induction courses within six months of an election. These courses must provide Councillors with information about the functions and obligations of councils and Councillors and the administrative procedures and operations of the council. Councillors must make all reasonable efforts to participate in these inductions.

The general manager must also ensure Councillors receive ongoing professional development during the course of their term of office. This must provide support and assistance in the development of the skills necessary to perform the role of Councillor and ensure that these skills are maintained.

Councillors must make all reasonable efforts to participate in the induction training and ongoing professional development. The regulation requires participation by Councillors (and implicitly non-participation) in this training and professional development to be included in the Council’s annual report.

These near mandatory requirements have imposed a significant additional time burden on Councillors in carrying out their statutory roles. The Tribunal has yet to consider this in determining Councillor remuneration. It must now do so.

Ensuring Councillors are representative of our diverse communities

The 2023 Tribunal Report acknowledged the detailed submission by Associate Professor Tanya Jakimow of the Australian National University, which outlined the negative impacts of inadequate Councillor and Mayoral remuneration, and observed that:

“... inadequate pay has significant negative consequences: low quality local democracy, an unacceptable burden on Councillors and their families, and poor Councillor diversity.”⁷

Professor Jakimow’s submission also argued that remuneration levels did not adequately reflect the hours and complexity of the work of Councillors and Mayors.

Her submission reflected the extensive research she had undertaken in conjunction with others. This included a 2021 survey of NSW Councillors which examined whether the impact of low pay and high workloads determined who could become a Councillor. It received 389 responses. In a subsequent article⁸ she wrote:

“The complexity of the role, which requires understanding of changing legislation and knowledge of operational and strategic matters, all while being responsive to constituents, has increased the demands on Councillors, leading to workloads in excess of 40 hours a week for some. Councillors frequently described their work as ‘full-time’ for part-time pay and outlined the financial sacrifices they bore in order to undertake their council activities to a satisfactory level. This juggling is intensified for Councillors with significant caring responsibilities. As one Councillor said, women’s underrepresentation ‘reflects the demands on women in employment and also looking after the family, which together does not leave a lot of room for council’.

“‘Role-strain’ of juggling family, paid employment and council work more accurately captures the reason for the missing cohort in councils. One answer to the enduring problem of women’s underrepresentation is then to increase Councillor pay so that women (and men) do not need to balance it with full-time employment.”

Professor Jakimow also observed that in addition to the impact on women’s underrepresentation on councils, there were also impacts for men without an independent source of income, and for cultural and ethnic diversity.

“Being a Councillor ‘is not a full-time job, and this puts a lot of people off’, as migrant families are often aspirational and want their children to have decent jobs.”

The Tribunal should consider the impact of the levels of Councillor remuneration on the diversity of Councillor representation, and thus effective local government.

On 3 April, 2023 Jess Scully resigned as a City of Sydney Councillor after becoming pregnant with her second child. During her approximately five years and six months on Council. Ms Scully made a significant contribution, including serving as Deputy Lord Mayor for three years. This extensive contribution was set out in the Lord Mayoral Minute which informed Council of her resignation. The Minute also observed:

"I think that in 2023, it is appalling that Councillors aren't eligible for parental leave, sick leave, compassionate leave, or carer's leave, or even payment beyond a minor stipend when they have to make important decisions for their communities and spend serious time on their council responsibilities. Because of that, there are fundamental barriers to public service for many in our community, because it's necessary to earn a living and contribute to family needs.

"If we want diverse representation in local government -- to have younger people, people in caring stages of their lives, parents, people from diverse backgrounds, people with disabilities -- we have to ensure that structures are in place to support people like Councillor Scully with caring responsibilities."

Another Councillor discovered after being elected that their role and responsibilities effectively required a full-time commitment observing:

"In order for me to service community, ratepayers and businesses I am required to do council work seven days a week. We have 10 Committee meetings per year and 10 Council meetings per year. The papers alone for this might be anywhere between 800 and 3,000 pages; all to be read over the weekend. That's 20 weekends per year I spend reading and preparing for my 'part-time' job. My evenings are now filled with community obligations, additional briefings and inductions, the list goes on. Weekends, meanwhile, see me attending park openings and other events and one on one meetings with residents. While I love being a Councillor, I am left with little time for my actual day job, which has resulted in my experiencing significant loss of income."

While these challenges are widespread, those faced by the City of Sydney are particularly acute and need to be addressed.

This must not be allowed to continue.

Recognising the increasing demands of “civic service”.

In its 2025 Report, the Tribunal stated that “people enter local government representation do so from a sense of civic service, rather than remuneration”.

This is certainly the primary motivation of City of Sydney Councillors. However, the current level of remuneration does not reflect the civic service they have provided.

The Tribunal has, in the past, rejected submissions suggesting any relationship between Councillor remuneration and the willingness of “quality candidates” to seek election⁴. We note however, the following observation in a recent report of the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal:

“Not only should Members of Parliament be fairly remunerated for their important and challenging work, within the State’s means, but it must also be remembered that such **remuneration and the other conditions and entitlements** provided by the Determination **play a real role in attracting people of high intellect, integrity and vigour to stand for election to the Parliament** (our emphasis). People who have the necessary skills to perform such work well and who are prepared to devote their time to serving the public interest, rather than only their own interests. Appropriate salary and conditions also help to ensure that such people are also prepared to continue seeking re-election in order to continue performing the important work of their offices”⁵.

The same must surely apply for local government Councillors. We note there is no legislation which sets out the statutory roles and responsibilities of Members of Parliament. In contrast, and has been demonstrated above, the statutory roles and responsibilities of Mayors and Councillors are extensive, as are the obligations imposed on them.

The need for structural reform

The City’s 2024 submission to the Tribunal presented a comprehensive case for a comprehensive review of the framework for Mayoral and Councillor remuneration arguing there was an urgent need for structural reform. In its 2024 Report the Tribunal responded at paragraphs 84 and 85:

LRGT response

“84. The LG Act does not specify that the Tribunal is able to carry out a comprehensive review of the framework. As such, it is not within the Tribunal’s remit to undertake such a review, unless such a function is conferred or imposed on it by the Minister, as per s.238(2) of the LG Act.

“85. Should such a function be conferred on the Tribunal, it will of course carry out its functions and undertake a review.”

We therefore request that the Tribunal request the Minister to confer such a function so it may conduct such a review.

In the absence of this review, we request that the Tribunal:

1. Revert to the term “Principal City” as the unique category for the City of Sydney, to recognise that the City’s regional, national and international significance and contribution extends beyond the Sydney CBD.

⁴ See, for example, Report and Determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal under Sections 239 and 241 of the Local Government Act 1993, 28 April 2011 p7

⁵ Annual Determination Report and Determination of additional entitlements for Members of the Parliament of New South Wales pursuant to the Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1989, 24 May 2024 p12.

Submission by the Council of the City of Sydney to the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

2. Give detailed consideration to the significant increase in the roles and responsibilities of City of Sydney Councillors as members of the governing body of Australia's only global city and in recognition of its more appropriate status as "Principal City", as set out in this submission.
3. Make a specific determination to appropriately increase the fees for City of Sydney Councillors to ensure that these fees appropriately recognises their roles and responsibilities as members of the governing body of Australia's only global city.
4. Provide a comprehensive response to the specific matters raised in this submission.

Item 5

Matters for Tabling

5.1 Disclosures of Interest

Disclosure of Interest returns that have been lodged in accordance with the City of Sydney Code of Conduct will be tabled.

Recommendation

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

Item 6

Report of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee - 8 December 2025

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 November 2025, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

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

Councillor Olly Arkins disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 6.6 on the agenda, in that there are residents in 59-99 Belmont Street, Alexandria who are members of the Labor Party (NSW Branch). Councillor Arkins considers that this non-pecuniary interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because they have not been contacted by them on this matter.

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

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

Item 6.3**Investments Held as at 30 November 2025**

It is resolved that the Investment Report as at 30 November 2025 be received and noted.

(Note – at the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee, this recommendation was moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by Councillor Miller, and carried unanimously.)

X020701

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

Item 6.4

Public Exhibition - Grants Policy and Guidelines

It is resolved that:

(A) Council approve for public exhibition the draft Grants Policy and Guidelines, as shown at Attachments A and B to the subject report, subject to the following amendments to the Grants Guidelines:

(i) insertion of the below clause into the 'General exclusions and ineligibility' section:

- appear to be associated with a previous Recipient of grants project that didn't comply with their contractual obligations or complete the grants project satisfactorily

(ii) replace the table of eligible entities with the following:

	Quick response grants	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collaboration fund	Economic grants	Social and community projects	Creative grants - projects and infrastructure	Creative grants - artist support	Environmental grants	Major grants	Affordable and diverse housing fund	Accommodation grants	Creative live and work spaces grants	Short-term empty properties grants	Street banner support	Venue hire support	Dixon Street improvement grant
Eligible Not-For-Profit Organisation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Incorporated Association	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Individual	✓														
Unincorporated Community Group auspiced by an Eligible Not-For-Profit Organisation	✓	✓		✓ ¹	✓						✓	✓			
Unincorporated Community Group Note an Individual or Eligible Not-For-Profit Organisation will need to enter into the contract on your behalf													*		
Individual auspiced by an Eligible Not-For-Profit Organisation		✓		✓ ²	✓ ³	✓									
Government Entity							✓		✓						
Government cultural institution				✓ ⁴			✓					✓			
Community Housing Provider								✓							
Co-operative		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Corporation		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Partnership	✓				✓		✓		✓		✓				✓
Sole Trader	✓	✓	✓		✓ ⁵	✓			✓	✓	✓				✓
Owners Corporation							✓								
Trustee of a Trust		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Business Advocacy Organisation			✓												

¹ Social and community projects and small scale food support projects only

² Social and community projects and small scale food support projects only

³ Creative projects only

⁴ Creative projects only

⁵ Creative projects only

* Community venues only

- (B) Council approve that the Ethics Framework included in the Grants Policy and detailed in the subject report be adopted as the Ethics Framework across the Council and be posted on the City of Sydney website;
- (C) Council note that the Grants Policy and Guidelines, including any recommended changes, will be reported to Council for adoption following the exhibition period; and
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make minor editorial amendments for clarity or correction of drafting errors prior to the exhibition of the draft Grants Policy and Guidelines.

(Note – at the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee, this alternative recommendation was moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by Councillor Miller, and carried unanimously.)

X119718

Item 6.5**Post Exhibition - Code of Meeting Practice**

The Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee decided that consideration of this matter shall be deferred to the meeting of Council on 15 December 2025.

Staff Recommendation

The staff recommendation to the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee was as follows -

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the submissions received from the community on the draft Code of Meeting Practice as outlined in the engagement report shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council adopt the revised City of Sydney Code of Meeting Practice as shown at Attachment B to the subject report, subject to any amendment of section 422 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 to defer the time of commencement of the new Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils;
- (C) Council endorse that if section 422 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 is amended to defer the mandating of the new Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Council, Council's current Code of Meeting Practice remain in force until further resolution of Council;
- (D) Council fix the order of business of meetings of council as the following:
 - (i) opening of the meeting;
 - (ii) acknowledgement of country;
 - (iii) prayer at the discretion of the Chair;
 - (iv) apologies and applications for a leave of absence by councillors;
 - (v) confirmation of minutes;
 - (vi) statement of ethical obligations and disclosures of interest;
 - (vii) minutes by the Lord Mayor;
 - (viii) memoranda by the Chief Executive Officer;
 - (ix) matters for tabling;
 - (x) reports of committees;
 - (xi) reports to council;
 - (xii) questions on notice;
 - (xiii) supplementary answers to previous questions;
 - (xiv) notices of motion; and
 - (xv) conclusion of the meeting;

- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make amendments to the Code of Meeting Practice in order to correct any minor drafting errors and finalise design, artwork and accessible formats for publication;
- (F) Council endorse the City of Sydney Public Forum Guidelines as shown at Attachment C to the subject report;
- (G) Council note that the Public Forum Guidelines can be amended from time to time by Council; and
- (H) Council note that public notification and communications will be undertaken in early 2026 (unless deferred) to advise members of the public of the Public Forum Guidelines and how they can address Council going forward.

Staff Report

The staff report on this matter can be found at Item 5 on the agenda of the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee on 8 December 2025.

Speakers

Zena Vaassen addressed the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee on Item 6.5.

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

Item 6.6**Land Classification - 99A Belmont Street, Alexandria**

It is resolved that Council endorse the classification of 99A Belmont Street, Alexandria (being Lot 101 in Deposited Plan 1314191) as operational land in accordance with section 31 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

(Note – at the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee, this recommendation was moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), and carried unanimously.)

2025/654437

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

Item 6.7

Tender - T-2024-1383 - City Structures Works

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council accept the tender offer of Tenderer E for the City Structures Works contract for:
 - (i) the price outlined in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report; and
 - (ii) the Schedule of Rates outlined in Confidential Attachment B to this report, for a contract term of 4 years, with the option for 2 two-year extensions, subject to satisfactory performance and other relevant considerations;
- (B) Council note that the total contract value for City Structures Works Contract is outlined in Confidential Attachment A to the subject Information Relevant To memorandum;
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise, execute and administer the contracts relating to the tender; and
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the options referred to in clause (A), if appropriate.

(Note – at the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee, this alternative recommendation was moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor)

Procedural Motion

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

That Item 6.7 be recommitted to clarify the vote.

Carried unanimously.

A show of hands on the motion resulted in an equality of voting as follows –

Ayes (5) The Chair (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Gannon, Kok, Miller and Worling

Noes (5) Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Maxwell, Thompson and Weldon.

The Chair (the Lord Mayor) exercised her casting vote in favour of the motion.

Pursuant to the provisions of clause 10.2 of the Code of Meeting Practice, the motion was declared carried.

Carried.)

X118015.003

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

Item 6.8**Tender - T-2025-1492 - Barges and Tugs for Sydney New Year's Eve**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council accept the tender offer of Tenderer A for the provision of Barges and Tugs for Sydney New Year's Eve for:
 - (i) the price and contingency outlined in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report; and
 - (ii) the schedule of rates outlined in Confidential Attachment B to the subject report,
 - (iii) for a period of 2 years (2026 and 2027), with the option of an extension of 2 years (2028 and 2029) if appropriate;
- (B) Council note that the total contract sum and contingency for Barges and Tugs for Sydney New Year's Eve 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 option referred to in clause (A), if appropriate.

(Note – at the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee, this recommendation was moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by Councillor Worling, and carried unanimously.)

X117678.003

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

Item 6.9**Tender - Reject and Negotiate - T-2025-1437 - Board Meeting Management Solution**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council decline to accept the tender offers for the Board Meeting Management Solution for the reasons set out 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 vendors over and above those that have responded to this tender;
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to enter into negotiations with any person with a view to entering into a contract on terms that are appropriate in relation to the subject matter of the tender;
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer the contracts relating to the tender; and
- (E) Council be informed of the successful vendor via the CEO Update.

(Note – at the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee, this recommendation was moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by Councillor Worling, and carried unanimously.)

X111683

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

Item 6.10

Exemption from Tender - Water Feature Maintenance Services

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve an exemption from tender in accordance with section 55(3)(i) of the local Government Act 1993 to extend the existing contract for water features maintenance services for 8 months, noting that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders at this time;
- (B) Council note that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders for this work because there is insufficient time to conduct a tender process for the services and execute a new contract before the expiry of the existing contract for water feature maintenance services;
- (C) Council note that the tender documents for the procurement are near completion and will be issued in early 2026;
- (D) Council approve a variation to the existing contract with Water Features Australia Pty Ltd (ABN: 66 076 262 809) to extend the contract term, with a revised expiry date of 31 August 2026;
- (E) Council note the revised contract sum for the extended term is set out in the Confidential Attachment A to the subject report; and
- (F) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and vary the contract relating to water feature maintenance services.

(Note – at the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee, this recommendation was moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by Councillor Miller, and carried unanimously.)

X018336

Item 7

Report of the Environment and Climate Change Committee - 8 December 2025

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 November 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 recommends the following:

Item 7.3

Post Exhibition – Register of Significant Trees

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council adopt the Register of Significant Trees 2025 as shown in Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note the engagement report summarising consultation for the development of the Register of Significant Trees 2025, as shown at Attachment B to the subject report; and
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make amendments to the Register of Significant Trees 2025 to correct minor drafting errors, update tree photographs, and to update a tree's status following its physical removal to ensure Register remains accurate.

(Note – at the meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Committee, this recommendation was moved by Councillor Worling, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), and carried unanimously.)

X117628.003

Item 8

Report of the Innovation, Business and Economy Committee - 8 December 2025

Item 8.1

Confirmation of Minutes

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

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Innovation, Business and Economy Committee of Monday 10 November 2025, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 8.2

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 Innovation, Business and Economy Committee.

The Innovation, Business and Economy Committee recommends the following:

Item 8.3

Grants and Sponsorship - Dixon Street Improvement Grant

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the cash recommendations for the Dixon Street Improvement grant program as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST;
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer agreements with any organisation approved for a grant or sponsorship under terms consistent with this resolution and the Grants and Sponsorship Policy; and
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to correct minor errors to the matters set out in this report, noting that the identity of the recipient will not change, and a CEO Update will be provided.

(Note – at the meeting of the Innovation, Business and Economy Committee, this recommendation was moved by Councillor Gannon, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), and carried unanimously.)

S117676

Item 9

Report of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee - 8 December 2025

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 November 2025, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 9.2**Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest**

Councillor Olly Arkins disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 9.7 on the agenda, in that there are residents in 299 Forbes Street, Darlinghurst who are members of the Labor Party (NSW Branch).

Councillor Arkins considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because they have not been contacted by them on this matter.

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

The Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee recommends the following:

Item 9.3

Public Exhibition - Draft Outdoor Dining Guidelines

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the updated draft Outdoor Dining Guidelines shown at Attachments B and C to the subject report, for public exhibition;
- (B) Council note that following engagement, a subsequent report to Council will set out an implementation plan including costs for the roll-out of footpath extensions; and
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make minor amendments, corrections or design improvements to the updated draft Outdoor Dining Guidelines, to prepare them for public exhibition.

(Note – at the meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee, this recommendation was moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), and carried unanimously.)

X037861

Item 9.4**Public Exhibition - Planning Proposal - 580 George Street, Sydney - Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 Amendment**

The Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee decided that consideration of this matter shall be deferred to the meeting of Council on 15 December 2025.

Staff Recommendation

The staff recommendation to the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee was as follows -

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve Planning Proposal - 580 George Street, Sydney, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report, to be submitted to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces with a request for Gateway Determination;
- (B) Council approve Planning Proposal - 580 George Street, Sydney, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report, for public authority consultation and public exhibition in accordance with any conditions imposed under the Gateway Determination;
- (C) Council seek authority from the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to exercise the delegation of all the functions under section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to make the local environmental plan and to put into effect Planning Proposal - 580 George Street, Sydney;
- (D) Council approve the Draft Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 - 580 George Street, Sydney, as shown at Attachment B to the subject report, for public authority consultation and public exhibition concurrent with the Planning Proposal;
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make any variations to Planning Proposal - 580 George Street, Sydney, to correct any drafting errors or to ensure consistency with the Gateway Determination; and
- (F) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make any variations to Draft Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 - 580 George Street, Sydney, to correct any drafting errors or ensure it is consistent with the Planning Proposal following the Gateway Determination.

Staff Report

The staff report on this matter can be found at Item 4 on the agenda of the meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee on 8 December 2025.

X124325

Speaker

Sophy Purton (Urbis) addressed the meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee on Item 9.4.

The Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee recommends the following:

Item 9.5

Post Exhibition - Planning Proposal - Oxford Street LGBTIQA+ Heritage Items (Stage 1) - Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 Amendment

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the submissions received during the public exhibition of the Planning Proposal - Oxford Street LGBTIQA+ Heritage Items (Stage 1), shown at Attachment F to the subject report;
- (B) Council approve the Planning Proposal - Oxford Street LGBTIQA+ Heritage Items (Stage 1), shown at Attachment A to the subject report to be made as a local environmental plan under section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979; and
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor variations to the Planning Proposal - Oxford Street LGBTIQA+ Heritage Items (Stage 1) shown at Attachment A to the subject report, to correct any drafting errors prior to finalisation of the local environmental plan.

(Note – at the meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee, this recommendation was moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), and carried unanimously.)

X091578

The Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee recommends the following:

Item 9.6**Post Exhibition - Planning Proposal - Chinatown Heritage Items - Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 Amendment**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the submissions received during the public exhibition of the Planning Proposal - Chinatown Heritage Items, Haymarket, shown at Attachment H to the subject report
- (B) Council approve the Planning Proposal - Chinatown Heritage Items, Haymarket, shown at Attachment A to the subject report, to be made as a local environmental plan under section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979; and
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor variations to the Planning Proposal - Chinatown Heritage Items, Haymarket shown at Attachment A to the subject report, to correct any drafting errors prior to finalisation of the local environmental plan.

(Note – at the meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee, this recommendation was moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Worling, and carried unanimously.)

X099927

Speakers

Giovanni Cirillo (Planning Lab) and Angelo Candalepas (Candalepas Associates) addressed the meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee on Item 9.6.

The Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee recommends the following:

Item 9.7

Fire Safety Reports

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) note the contents of the Fire Safety Reports Summary Sheet, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) note the inspection reports by Fire and Rescue NSW, as shown at Attachments B to E to 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 6 Central Park Avenue, Chippendale 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 299 Forbes Street and 63-69 Burton Street, Darlinghurst 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 10-14 Oxford Square, Darlinghurst at this time; and
- (F) note the contents of Attachment E and not exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 48-50 Stanley Street, Darlinghurst at this time.

(Note – at the meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee, this recommendation was moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Kok, and carried unanimously.)

S105001.002

Item 10**Questions on Notice****1. Public Housing Redevelopment in the City of Sydney Council**

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

1. What State public housing (that is, housing owned by Homes NSW or another NSW agency) within the City of Sydney Local Government Area (LGA) is currently:
 - (a) Under development?
 - (b) Proposed for development?
2. Since July 2025, has Homes NSW, or another NSW agency or their representative, made any applications to Council for the development of additional public housing in the LGA? If yes, please provide details.
3. Since July 2025 has Homes NSW, or another NSW agency or their representative, made any inquiries about potential redevelopment of additional public housing sites in the LGA, including pre-DA inquiries? If yes, please provide details.
4. Is the City of Sydney aware of any other proposed redevelopments of public housing in the LGA, other than those noted above? If yes, please provide details.

X113783

2. Free Wi-Fi in Council Buildings and Public Places

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

1. Please provide details of the public buildings where Council currently provides Wi-Fi for free to the public.
2. For which other public places - including parks - does Council currently provide free Wi-Fi?
3. What contracts does Council currently have to provide free Wi-Fi to the public? Who is/are the contract/s with?
4. Approximately what is the cost of free Wi-Fi provided by Council to the public this financial year?
5. Is Council planning to provide free Wi-Fi in any additional buildings or public places in the next 12 months? If yes, please provide details.

6. Has Council undertaken any recent investigations to consider the cost of expanding free Wi-Fi to more Council buildings or public places? If yes, please provide details.

X113783

3. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

1. Does the City of Sydney currently have an Aboriginal cultural heritage strategy? If yes, please provide details.
2. Is the City of Sydney planning to develop an Aboriginal cultural heritage strategy? If yes, please provide details.
3. Since 2021, has the City of Sydney undertaken any major Aboriginal cultural heritage studies or similar? If yes, please provide details.

X113783

4. Friends of Chippendale Community Action Plan

By Councillor Thompson

Question

Council considered a proposed Chippendale Community Sustainability Precinct and the Friends of Chippendale Community Action Plan at its June 2025 Council meeting. Council unanimously agreed to consider the measures proposed and report back to Council with relevant advice.

Can an update be provided on the investigation into the Friends of Chippendale Community Action Plan and what measures proposed could be incorporated into the overall precinct development.

X113778

5. Fee Waivers for Use of Sporting Fields

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

The City's sporting fields are in high demand. The City of Sydney's annual report of the implementation of Council's Delivery Program indicates 96.5% usage -v- capacity of sports fields (booked use) in 2024/25 financial year.

In the 2024/25 financial year:

1. Which sporting clubs, schools or other organisations hired Council's sporting fields? If Council has a breakdown of who hired which sporting fields, and for how many hours, please provide this.
2. What fees or costs does Council charge for hire of its sporting fields?
3. Who can access fee waivers or discounts for hire of Council's sporting fields?
4. Which schools and secondary colleges (if any) accessed fee reductions or waivers for the use of Council's sporting fields?
5. Which sporting clubs (if any) accessed fee reductions or waivers for the use of Council's sporting fields?
6. What was the monetary value (if any) of fee reductions and waivers provided to:
 - (a) Schools?
 - (b) Sporting clubs? *If a breakdown by type of club is known, please provide*

X113783

Item 11

Supplementary Answers to Previous Questions

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

Item 12.1**Notices of Motion****Vale David Carey**

By Councillor Maxwell

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) with sadness the passing of long-time Labor activist, trade unionist and community advocate David Carey, and records its appreciation for his lifetime of service to the people of Sydney and the Australian labour movement;
- (ii) David Carey was a true gentleman and a tireless champion for fairness, equality and workers' rights. A totally committed member of the Australian Labor Party, David's work as a union official and later as a union secretary placed him at the heart of the movement's efforts to improve the lives of working people;
- (iii) over many decades, David held numerous offices within the Labor Party - including Vice President of the Kings Cross Branch, President of the Sydney State Electorate Council, and Secretary of the Wentworth Federal Electorate Committee. He was active in every campaign that the Kings Cross Branch participated in over more than thirty years — from local government contests for the City of Sydney and the former South Sydney Council, to campaigns for the State and Federal seats of Sydney and Wentworth;
- (iv) he supported countless Labor candidates during that time, including Tanya Plibersek, Tim Murray, George Newhouse, Evan Hughes, Steven Lewis and Savanna Peake in federal campaigns; Linda Scott in her campaigns for both the State seat of Sydney and as Labor's Lord Mayoral candidate; and many others including Barri Phatarfod, Sacha Blumen, Eddie Lloyd, Jo Holder and Skye Tito for the State seat of Sydney. At local government level, he worked alongside Greg Shaw, Michael Lee, Tony Pooley, Verity Firth, Meredith Burgmann, and more recently Zann Maxwell and Olly Arkins;
- (v) David was tireless during campaigning - taking the lead at the Kings Cross stall at the Fitzroy Gardens fountain, pressing how-to-vote cards into the hands of voters at the Rex Centre pre-poll booth through all kinds of weather, and serving faithfully as Booth Captain at the Reg Murphy Centre polling booth in Elizabeth Bay from dawn until close on polling day;
- (vi) beyond party politics, David brought the same energy and conviction to national causes. He campaigned passionately for the 1999 Australian Republic Referendum, the 2017 Marriage Equality Postal Survey, and the 2023 referendum to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution and establish a Voice to Parliament;

- (vii) David was known for speaking with sense and reason in debate, always on the side of the underdog. He was respected by all who knew him for his kindness, decency and thoughtfulness, and for his enduring belief in fairness for all; and
- (viii) he was a friend to many in our area, and his passing leaves a great void in Sydney's civic and political community. His memory is fresh in the minds of all who worked alongside him, and his example will continue to inspire;
- (B) all persons attending this meeting of Council observe one minute's silence to commemorate the life of David Carey and his significant contribution to Sydney's civic, political and community life;
- (C) Council express its condolences to David's family and friends, and to the members of the Kings Cross, City and Haymarket Branches of the Australian Labor Party; and
- (D) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to David's family to convey Council's condolences.

X113762

Item 12.2**Notices of Motion****Securing The Legacy of The Bookshop Darlinghurst**

By Councillor Thompson

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) The Bookshop Darlinghurst is closing down after more than 4 decades of providing Sydney's queer community with a safe, welcoming, cultural landmark on Oxford Street;
- (ii) originally opening in 1982, The Bookshop served the queer community through decriminalisation, the AIDS epidemic, marriage equality and has continued to stand at the forefront for trans rights and liberation; and
- (iii) in the words of the current owner, Charles Gregory, "The Bookshop Darlinghurst has been more than a store. It has been a meeting place, a refuge, and a beacon for queer literature." Its closure will be sorely felt across the queer community in Sydney; and

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) investigate ways in which the City of Sydney can recognise the historic contributions of The Bookshop Darlinghurst to the queer community, including, but not limited to, a commemorative plaque on Oxford Street;
- (ii) ensure the collection currently held within The Bookshop Darlinghurst is reflected and made available in the City's public libraries;
- (iii) assess whether the queer cultural programming currently provided at our libraries and community centres meets community need and report back to Council; and
- (iv) investigate the potential establishment of a queer library hub in one of the City's libraries to ensure the legacy of the Darlinghurst Bookshop is maintained.

X113760

Item 12.3

Notices of Motion

Synthetic Turf Policy Review

By Councillor Thompson

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the City's sports fields are important spaces that serve sporting clubs, local communities and recreational users, despite being in limited supply;
- (ii) the City currently has 4 synthetic turf fields located throughout the Local Government Area (LGA) and plans to construct a new synthetic turf field at the proposed Mandible Street Sports Precinct, Alexandria;
- (iii) community consultation carried out by the City in 2021 revealed 89% of respondents opposed a proposal to install a synthetic sports field to replace an existing natural turf field at Turruwul Park, Rosebery; and
- (iv) synthetic turf sporting fields should only be considered on a case-by-case basis, following comprehensive social and environmental impact assessments in line with legislative requirements and with contemporary research and best-practice;

(B) Council further note:

- (i) synthetic turf sports fields attract high temperatures in the summer, creating unsafe conditions for users and contribute to the urban heat island effect;
- (ii) the 'Mapping Summer Microclimates' report published on 5 March 2025 by the University of Western Sydney found suburbs near the proposed Mandible Street Sports Precinct, such as Alexandria, Rosebery and Beaconsfield experienced the highest daytime temperatures in the LGA, with some sites recording maximum temperatures over 40°C;
- (iii) published in 2022, the 'Synthetic Turf in Public Spaces' assessment prepared for the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer found when daytime temperatures rise above 27°C, synthetic turf fields can inflict serious skin burns on users;
- (iv) research conducted by Associate Professor in Urban Management and Planning at Western Sydney University, Dr Sebastian Pfautsch, indicates ground temperatures on synthetic playing surfaces often double those on nearby natural fields;
- (v) published in 2024, The National Urban Policy, prepared by the Department of Infrastructure, directed that 'sustainable and resilient urban places should' consider urban heating in planning and incorporate appropriate mitigation strategies through blue-green infrastructure;

- (vi) there is broad consensus on the environmental risk associated with synthetic sports fields exposed to waterways, particularly during flooding events. Experts indicate hundreds of kilograms of microplastic fibres may be lost from each field, each year;
 - (vii) most sports fields (natural turf and synthetic turf) within the LGA are located on flood prone sites;
 - (viii) modern, well-designed and highly maintained natural turf sports fields are proving capable of delivering the benefits of synthetic turf fields, without the social and environmental impacts; and
 - (ix) modern natural fields, such as Middle Head Oval in Mosman have demonstrated an evident increased usage and capacity, reduction of injuries, mitigation of flooding impacts with appropriate infrastructure, and decreased costs associated with ongoing and long-term maintenance;
- (C) Council further note the NSW Government's new guidelines and recommendations for councils in Division 5.1 Assessments - Addendum for Synthetic Sports Fields, published in May 2025, following an independent review by the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, which included the following guidance:
- (i) a heritage impact statement should be prepared for the construction of any synthetic turf fields within conservation areas, including areas of Aboriginal significance;
 - (ii) the cumulative impacts from synthetic turf fields should be assessed at a local climate scale, including heat, extent of impenetrable surfaces, light, soil and water health;
 - (iii) sports fields located in proximity to or draining into a sensitive ecosystem must be independently assessed;
 - (iv) synthetic turf sports fields should not be constructed in areas of extreme flood risk;
 - (v) a biodiversity impact assessment must be conducted to identify potential impacts of synthetic turf sports fields, including impacts of habitat loss, heat effects on fauna and light spill; and
 - (vi) when preparing a Review of Environmental Factors (REF), an end of life (EOL) management plan must be prepared and included and should be consistent with the intent and provisions of the NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy and the NSW Plastic Reduction and Circular Economy Act 2021; and
- (D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) conduct a review into the City's policies which guide use of synthetic turf in new or redeveloped sporting fields, including the Mandible Street Sports Precinct, taking into account:
 - (a) the recent NSW Government guidelines for synthetic sports fields, in particular (C)(ii) above;
 - (b) active and passive recreational usage demands;

- (c) the number of estimated playable days given projected flooding and heatwave events;
 - (d) efficacy of flood mitigation methods and infrastructure deployed by other Councils to reduce wet weather field closures for natural turf fields;
 - (e) impacts of synthetic surfaces on waterway pollution, biodiversity and the local environment, particularly in regard to microplastics;
 - (f) impacts of synthetic surfaces on the microclimate, including potential urban heat island effects; and
 - (g) the ongoing financial cost of natural versus synthetic fields, including end-of-life costs;
- (ii) prepare changes to the City's policies which guide use of synthetic turf in accordance with the findings of the review and report back to Council; and
 - (iii) provide the outcome of this investigation to Council prior to the March 2026 Council meeting to ensure Councillors have the opportunity to deliberate on its findings and include relevant considerations in the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs review in 2026.

X113760

Item 12.4**Notices of Motion****Coordination of the King Street, Newtown Special Entertainment Precinct with Inner West Council**

By Councillor Arkins

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the City of Sydney is progressing plans to introduce Special Entertainment Precincts to support live music, performance, streamlined approvals, and a stronger night time economy;
- (ii) the proposed Special Entertainment Precinct in King Street, Newtown spans both the City of Sydney and Inner West Council local government areas;
- (iii) residents, businesses and visitors experience King Street as one continuous precinct and do not distinguish between local government boundaries;
- (iv) a consistent policy approach between the City of Sydney and Inner West Council will provide clarity and certainty for local residents and businesses;
- (v) alignment between both councils will strengthen the delivery of the precinct, improve outcomes for live performance, and support shared objectives for a safe, inclusive, and sustainable night time economy;
- (vi) City staff have been investigating upgrading the late-night trading tier of King Street, Newtown alongside the introduction of Special Entertainment Precincts;
- (vii) the City's late night trading and Special Entertainment Precinct model, which includes a long standing tiered approach to areas and venues, incentives for live music and trial periods, differs from that of Inner West Council;
- (viii) Inner West Council recently passed an equivalent motion moved by Deputy Mayor Chloe Smith expressing support for this coordinated approach to implementation of the Precinct; and
- (ix) a unique approach for King Street is worth investigating given it is the boundary between the two council areas and the shared objectives to support late night trading and entertainment along the street;

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) work collaboratively with the Inner West Council staff on a generally aligned approach to trading hours and sound levels for the King Street, Newtown Special Entertainment Precinct;

- (ii) continue to incentivise live music and performance, good business operations and a diversity of venues;
 - (iii) coordinate joint community and stakeholder engagement processes with Inner West Council to ensure consistent messaging and a shared understanding of the precinct objectives; and
 - (iv) ensure that public consultation on the Special Entertainment Precinct in Newtown is conducted concurrently with Inner West Council's process wherever practicable; and
- (C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to Mayor Darcy Byrne of Inner West Council noting the City of Sydney's commitment to a coordinated and smooth rollout of the King Street, Newtown Special Entertainment Precinct and requesting both Councils work collaboratively together in the interest of our communities and local businesses.

X113758

Item 12.5**Notices of Motion****The City of Sydney Welcomes New and Additional Public Housing in Glebe**

By Councillor Arkins

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the NSW Labor Government's \$6.6 Billion Building Homes for NSW package is delivering the first new public housing stock in over a decade;
- (ii) this is the largest investment by the NSW Government into social housing in the state's history, delivering over 8,000 new public homes;
- (iii) the funding is delivering new social housing properties, improving maintenance of existing public housing and boosts homelessness support services;
- (iv) it invests in new homes for women and children escaping domestic violence, Aboriginal people and their families, older Australians, those living with disability and young people without family support; and
- (v) construction has started on new public housing at 82 Wentworth Park Road in Glebe;

(B) Council support:

- (i) the delivery of 43 new public homes at 82 Wentworth Park Road, Glebe, up from 17, an increase of 26 new public homes; and
- (ii) the NSW Government's plans for brand new public housing in the City of Sydney at Glebe, Waterloo, Eveleigh and across NSW; and

(C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to Premier Chris Minns and Minister for Housing Rose Jackson welcoming this investment in new public housing in our City and the delivery of more public housing in Glebe.

X113758

Item 12.6**Notices of Motion****Easing the Impact of High Speed E-Bikes Around Rope Walk Park in Waterloo**

By Councillor Arkins

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the significant increase in the delivery rider workforce across our City, particularly in the Waterloo, Green Square and Zetland areas;
- (ii) there are 2 paths running through Rope Walk Park which have become popular for cyclists travelling between Joynton Avenue, Waterloo and suburbs to the north; and
- (iii) residents in surrounding buildings have raised concerns about the path along the western side of the park, including:
 - (a) safety risks, citing poor sight lines when stepping out of their properties and the speed of approaching e-bikes; and
 - (b) noise disturbances at night, as this path is a timber boardwalk and rattles when ridden over;

(B) Council further note:

- (i) City staff implemented measures to help manage rider volume and speed on paths in Rope Walk Park, including:
 - (a) in 2024, the City installed sandstone blocks to slow down high speed e-bike riders on the gravel path on the eastern side of the park; and
 - (b) in 2025, signage requesting cyclists to dismount was installed on the western boardwalk path;
- (ii) following a recent site assessment, City staff are investigating other ways to reduce rider volumes and speed along the western side of the park; and
- (iii) construction of the O'Dea Avenue cycleway will commence in 2026, providing an alternative north/south route including the Gadigal Avenue cycleway, which staff anticipate will provide a safe and fast alternative to riding in Rope Walk Park; and

(C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) investigate issues relating to bike delivery workers riding through Rope Walk Park to:
 - (a) make deliveries to properties fronting the park; and
 - (b) as through trips to destinations beyond the park;
- (ii) investigate the installation of additional sandstone bollards at both ends of the wooden boardwalk path on the western side of Rope Walk Park between Archibald Avenue near the Rope Walk Park Playground and O'Dea Avenue near Joynton Avenue; and
- (iii) report back to Council via CEO Update as soon as possible.

X113758

Item 12.7**Notices of Motion****City of Sydney Supports Rising Tide**

By Councillor Thompson

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the City of Sydney has a proud history of supporting the right to peaceful protest as a fundamental cornerstone of democracy;
- (ii) the 2025 People's Blockade, organised by Rising Tide, took place from 27 November to 2 December 2025. This event saw over 8,000 people, from all over the country, come together in Newcastle to peacefully protest the climate emergency; and
- (iii) Rising Tide organise around 3 key demands: ending the expansion of new fossil fuel projects, significantly increasing funding for the community and industrial green transition – funded by increased taxes on fossil fuel exports, and end all coal exports from the Port of Newcastle – the world's largest coal port – by 2030;

(B) Council further note:

- (i) in 2019, the City of Sydney declared a climate emergency, calling for urgent, and comprehensive action to decarbonise the Australian economy, and fund a just transition for effected industries and communities;
- (ii) last year, following the 2024 People's Blockade, the City of Sydney voted in support of the principles of the event, condemned the NSW Government's criminalisation of protest and inaction on climate change, and provided a donation of \$22,000 to Rising Tide;
- (iii) at this year's November 2025 Council meeting, Council called for bold action to phase out fossil fuel exports, tax concessions for coal and gas companies and redirect these funds towards net zero and climate adaptation;
- (iv) Rising Tide has a history of advocating for these principles and policy outcomes through peaceful, non-violent direct action;
- (v) nevertheless, in recent years the NSW Labor Government has consistently legislated new, and increasingly punitive, laws to encroach on the democratic right to protest in response to peaceful action from organisations like Rising Tide;
- (vi) the 2025 People's Blockade saw over 141 people arrested for non-violent, civil disobedience in pursuit of a just transition and meaningful action on the climate crisis, including local activist Wendy Bacon;

- (vii) from the suffragettes to land rights, the labour movement and beyond, non-violent, peaceful protest has been a cornerstone of Australian democracy and a fundamental part of delivering lasting, progressive change in this country; and
 - (viii) it is beholden on all who believe, both in the fundamental right to democracy, and in protecting a safe, sustainable future for this planet and its people, to stand with movements like Rising Tide;
- (C) Council acknowledge and support the commitment of Rising Tide, and the People's Blockade, in peacefully advocating for urgent action in line with overwhelming climate science;
- (D) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Premier of NSW, Chris Minns, and the Prime Minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese, noting Council's support of Rising Tide and reiterating the City's support for the demands of the People's Blockade; and
- (E) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to meet with the organisers of Rising Tide, before the February 2026 Council meeting, to discuss how the City may provide support to the organisation, including, but not limited to, access to a City venue for a public event, as it plans the 2026 People's Blockade.

X113760

Item 12.8

Notices of Motion

Pill Testing Not Sniffer Dogs

By Councillor Worling

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the NSW Government released the [Drug Summit 2024 Co-Chair Report](#) in October 2025, acknowledging the significant impact of drug use on individuals, families, and communities;
- (ii) of the 56 recommendations outlined in the Report, Recommendation 12.10, which relates to ending the use of sniffer dogs and strip searching for suspected drug possession during the current trial of drug-checking services, was entirely unsupported by the NSW Government in their formal response to the summit recommendations; and
- (iii) several recommendations, including those relating to integrated health services, mental health, custodial drug programs, increased funding for treatment and prevention, Aboriginal-led initiatives, and reforms to diversion programs, were only supported in principle. Others, such as expanding medically supervised injecting centres and youth diversion programs, were merely noted, while legislation for medical cannabis driving defence requires further consideration;

(B) Council further note that:

- (i) while the NSW Government's commitment to reducing drug-related harm is commendable, further reforms are needed to protect the dignity and integrity of all individuals;
- (ii) the current 12-month trial of drug checking services is limited to a maximum of 12 selected music festivals, excluding other major events, such as the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras; one of Australasia's largest LGBTQIA+ events.
- (iii) pill testing saves lives: studies show 10 to 20% of people discard drugs after testing reveals harmful substances;
- (iv) the use of sniffer dogs at music festivals and the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras undermines safety and generates mistrust within an already marginalised community, while failing to prevent health risks; and
- (v) drug detection dogs have a poor success rate: Data from 2013 to mid-2023, of 94,000 interactions between event goers and sniffer dogs nearly 71,000 found no drugs on the person searched;

- (C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to:
- (i) the NSW Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism and the Minister for Health requesting the removal of sniffer dogs and strip searches at all music festivals and at the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, based on evidence that shows their ineffectiveness and the loss of personal dignity;
 - (ii) the NSW Minister of Health urging the expansion of the pill testing trials to include the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, as part of a community health and harm-reduction strategy; and
 - (iii) the NSW Premier advocating for urgent action on the recommendations marked as noted, for further consideration, and not supported in the Drug Summit 2024 Co-Chair Report, in particular Recommendation 12.10; and
- (D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to liaise with relevant organisations such as ACON and Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras about opportunities for the City of Sydney to support harm reduction initiatives by appropriate organisations with suitable expertise and experience, at major events in our area.

X113756

Item 12.9**Notices of Motion****Maximising Community Benefits from Tech Infrastructure in the City of Sydney**

By Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Miller

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note that:

- (i) data centres facilitate the secure storage and transmission of vast amounts of data on which much of modern life now depends, including banking, travel, entertainment, communications, and secure digital operations for government and defence clients handling classified and sensitive encrypted data;
- (ii) recently, at the C40 World Mayor's Summit, Mayors from 10 cities including Athens, Paris, Milan, Johannesburg, Melbourne, and Sydney signed an agreement to address the environmental impact of data centres;
- (iii) already there are 9 major data centre facilities either operational, under construction, or in the advanced planning stages within the City of Sydney Local Government Area. Currently there are no mandated requirements for data centres to:
 - (a) use recycled water; or
 - (b) use renewable energy;
- (iv) according to the Knight Frank Data Centre Report, direct investment in physical data centre infrastructure in Australia totalled \$AU10 billion in 2024/25;
- (v) data centres of 20-megawatt power consumption, like the Equinix centre in Alexandria, consume power equivalent to that of at least 10,000 homes;
- (vi) the Australian Market Energy Regulator predicts that data centres in Sydney will consume 11% of grid-supplied electricity by 2030;
- (vii) the Sydney Morning Herald reported that Labor's federal cabinet is looking to apply pressure to tech firms including Amazon and Microsoft to tie local investment in data centres with corresponding investment in renewables;
- (viii) Sydney Water projects that data centre usage will account for 20% of Sydney's drinking water by 2030;
- (ix) the City's Net Zero planning controls do not apply to data centres, so instead they have to work to a "best practice" voluntary NABERS rating;

- (x) the City of Sydney successfully adopted its "All-Electric" planning controls this year. The City's strictest sustainability rules apply specifically to offices, hotels, and shopping centres. Data centres, classified as "High Technology Industry", are subject to a more generalised set of rules under the Sydney Development Control Plan (DCP) 2012;
 - (xi) outlined in the City of Sydney's recently adopted Environmental Strategy 2025-2030 is the ambition to:
 - (a) reduce potable water use to 204 litres per person per day by 2030; and
 - (b) reduce emissions by 70% (from 2006 levels) across our entire area by 2030; and reach Net Zero emissions across our entire area by 2035;
 - (xii) Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision outlines the ambition to revitalize the Alexandra Canal, located in the Southern Enterprise Area within the southern part of the City, site to existing data centres, to include setback from the canal for new developments to contribute to greenspace;
- (B) Council further note that:
- (i) the City of Sydney has the authority to assess data centres as local development;
 - (ii) the approval of new digital infrastructure and data centres within the City of Sydney requires that:
 - (a) they be located with Zones E3 and E4 of Employment Zones; and
 - (b) with R1/R2 (Residential) or E1 (Local Centre/Village) Zones excluded due to excessive noise posed to residents from facilities that run 24/7;
 - (iii) the City of Sydney's Design Excellence process enables increased floorspace and benefits to developers as well as the community; and
 - (iv) the Southern Enterprise Area has a potential rooftop solar area of ~1,500,000sqm (or 150 hectares), according to modelling from the Australian Photovoltaic Institute, capable of meeting significant amounts of the Local Government Area's local electricity demand. This could be harnessed and used to power the data centres and other industrial buildings within the Southern Employment Lands by using rooftop solar and batteries on site, in a local renewable energy zone;
- (C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) work with data centre operators, the NSW Government and Sydney Water to identify best practice landscape design, architecture and engineering models for data centre design that ensures water and energy efficiency, demand/loading flexibility and to minimise the use of drinking water, harness renewable energy, and enhance visual impact and amenity;
 - (ii) investigate the potential for developer contributions to fund water and energy sustainability programs for the wider City of Sydney area, particularly for the sites of data centres to recycle water and install solar power on-site;

- (iii) consider how existing mechanisms such as design excellence, planning agreements, and increased financial contributions might be used to deliver co-benefits, such as the ability to locally power the Southern Enterprise Area with solar power from the vast available rooftop space in the area, via on-site batteries; and
- (iv) report back to Council.

X113761

Item 12.10**Notices of Motion****Access to All Ability Playgrounds in the Inner City**

By Councillor Ellsmore

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) playgrounds play a vital role in the wellbeing of children and communities. They are a vital support for children's development, social interaction, creativity and imagination, emotional and cognitive growth, and the development of risk-taking and problem-solving skills. They also provide opportunities for intergenerational play and offer adults stress relief, improved brain function and physical health, stronger social bonds and enhanced creativity;
- (ii) many standard playgrounds include equipment and design features that are not suitable or safe for people with disability;
- (iii) the City of Sydney is committed to ensuring playgrounds and public spaces are accessible for everyone. The City of Sydney is increasingly including inclusive design features and play equipment in council playgrounds, recreation areas and other public spaces;
- (iv) playgrounds which are designed as "all-abilities playgrounds" are purposefully designed so that people with a wide range of needs can play together, with minimal barriers. Well-designed "all ability playgrounds" are developed with feedback from local families and disability support organisations, and prioritise meeting the diversity need of people living with a disability;
- (v) all-abilities playgrounds prioritise disability inclusion and the inclusion of diverse spaces that might not otherwise be available in smaller playgrounds. This can include: diverse equipment at different levels for a range of age, size and challenge levels, swings and other play equipment that can accommodate a wheelchair or participation of a person and their carer together; step free entry to equipment, gentle ramps, ground-level platforms and wheelchair-friendly carousels; sensory-rich zones and safe retreat spaces; clear lighting and accessible pathways between transport to the park and the playgrounds to encourage people from across the Local Government Area (LGA) or the region to visit; and
- (vi) several other councils across NSW - including the Inner West, Sutherland Shire, and Wollongong - have recently adopted strategies to prioritise delivering, or have delivered, all abilities" playgrounds which is designed to be fully inclusive, ensuring people of all abilities can play, learn and participate equally;

(B) Council further note:

- (i) with 5,812 residents living with a disability in the City of Sydney, and 1.3 million people with disability across NSW, ensuring play spaces reflect this diversity and are accessible to everyone is a priority for the community;
- (ii) the City of Sydney's Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2025–2029 commits the City to “continue to improve the accessibility of streets, footpaths, parks and open places through renewal programs, upgrades and new capital works projects, in line with the inclusive and accessible public domain policy and guidelines” and to “explore opportunities to provide designated quiet spaces and quiet times, places for sensory seeking and places for respite in City of Sydney facilities, including parks and playgrounds”; and
- (iii) Council is currently updating its Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study, which will help identify and guide the development of future playgrounds, parks and other public spaces in the City of Sydney LGA. The study will consider accessibility, and is likely to be tabled at the March 2026 Council meeting; and

(C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) assess and consider the inclusion of all-abilities spaces or playgrounds in the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Study 2026; and
- (ii) include consideration of:
 - (a) existing and planned accessible playgrounds in the City of Sydney LGA and nearby LGAs;
 - (b) accessible transport connections to and from play spaces, including continuous accessible paths of travel and appropriate parking;
 - (c) best-practice models from other NSW councils, including Wollongong City Council, which have delivered high-quality all-abilities playgrounds or otherwise expanded recreational opportunities for children with disabilities; and
 - (d) feedback from local families about the need for accessible play spaces for people living with disability.

X113765

Item 12.11**Notices of Motion****Council Review for MacDonald Street, Erskineville**

By Councillor Ellsmore

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) Councillors have received significant feedback from concerned community members objecting to the proposal to develop a new road between MacDonald Street, Mitchell Road and Maddox Street in Erskineville;
- (ii) residents are concerned that traffic changes may increase traffic on existing quiet local streets, and reduce pedestrian safety;
- (iii) at a recent event celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Erskineville 'Road Wars' and local Green Bans - where the community successfully fought to pedestrianise and green local Erskineville streets - a campaign was launched calling for Council to review current plans for MacDonald Street;
- (iv) Councillors have received over 500 submissions from residents concerned about the potential impact of this development on local traffic, as well as noise and air pollution; and
- (v) that the Lord Mayor has written to the petition organiser responding to the issues raised and is also preparing responses to others who have made submissions through the petition;

(B) Council further note:

- (i) the plan for the road was first established in the 2013 planning proposal for the precinct and forms part of the redevelopment plans of the Ashmore Precinct including 155 Mitchell Road in Erskineville;
- (ii) the Local Planning Panel approved the development application for the redevelopment (D/2023/962) on 5 February 2025; and
- (iii) staff have advised that:
 - (a) the proposed new section of Macdonald Street would have 2 travel lanes (one in each direction) and some on-street parking on each side of the street, interspersed with in-road street tree planting and low level greenery, a two-way cycleway along the northern side and footpaths on each side; and

- (b) the extension has been designed to allow people who need to access the Ashmore precinct by car to do so, particularly residents who live in the area, and includes traffic calming measures, such as raised pedestrian crossings and a low traffic speed environment, to discourage through traffic from using this route (rat running); and
- (C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to provide urgent advice to the community about the stage of planning for the road, including existing traffic modelling and traffic calming plans.

X113765

Item 12.12**Notices of Motion****Pedestrian Safety Audit – Glebe Markets**

By Councillor Gannon

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) Glebe Public School has a Crossing Supervisor for the Glebe Point Road pedestrian crossing for its 318 students. This arrangement is in place during school days;
- (ii) the Glebe Markets attracts many thousands of visitors each Saturday, with many more children attending the markets than regularly attend the school;
- (iii) to improve pedestrian safety, the City previously installed 3 raised pedestrian crossings near the entrance to the markets on Glebe Point Road, and 2 crossings near the Derwent Street entrance; and
- (iv) as the markets are held at Glebe Public School, the operating requirements are determined by the Department of Education; and

(B) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Minister for Education:

- (i) requesting that pedestrian safety and traffic management on Glebe Point Road during the weekend markets be investigated;
- (ii) asking her to confirm if a Crossing Supervisor is employed during the markets operation as part of the operating requirements / traffic management plan determined by the Department of Education; and
- (iii) asking her to ensure operating requirements include a comprehensive and appropriate traffic management plan.

X113764

Item 12.13**Notices of Motion****Affordable Housing in Perpetuity in Waterloo South**

By Councillor Ellsmore

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note:
- (i) the NSW Government's "Waterloo South Renewal Project" involves the redevelopment of one of Australia's largest and most significant public housing estates;
 - (ii) of the proposed homes, 50% is to be allocated for social and affordable housing, to be managed by Community Housing Providers;
 - (iii) the social housing is to be managed by Link Wentworth and Birribee Housing, with the NSW Government retaining ownership of the buildings. The affordable housing is to be managed by City West Housing. It has not been confirmed whether this housing will be affordable in the long term (i.e. in perpetuity); and
 - (iv) the City of Sydney Council have consistently and strongly advocated that any affordable housing delivered must be genuinely affordable and must be in perpetuity; and
- (B) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the NSW Minister for Housing Rose Jackson, and the NSW Minister of Planning and Public Spaces Paul Scully, seeking confirmation that both the social and affordable housing in Waterloo South will be maintained in perpetuity.

X113765

Item 12.14**Notices of Motion****Artificial Intelligence in Council Operations and Strategy**

By Councillor Maxwell

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the recent presentation at the Local Government NSW Conference on the opportunities, limitations and governance risks associated with the growing use of artificial intelligence (AI), including generative AI, in local government;
- (ii) that councils across Australia and internationally are deploying specific AI applications to improve service delivery, including in:
 - customer service chatbots and request triage;
 - asset inspections using computer vision;
 - traffic and parking management;
 - planning and development assessment workflows;
 - community consultation and large-scale submission analysis;
 - infrastructure maintenance prioritisation; and
 - disaster preparedness and response;
- (iii) that the City of Sydney:
 - has operated a public-facing customer chatbot since 2020;
 - provides staff access to Microsoft Copilot as its approved enterprise AI platform;
 - has adopted a Generative AI Procedure to guide safe and appropriate staff use;
 - provides regular staff training on safe AI use; and
 - has an internal governance process for staff proposing AI-driven projects;
- (iv) that unions including the Australian Services Union have identified AI as a major workplace transition, with members reporting:
 - increasing use of AI tools in daily work;

- uneven access to structured training and support; and
 - the importance of clear guardrails around privacy, bias and job quality;
- (v) that AI offers significant opportunities to improve productivity and service delivery, but also presents material risks relating to privacy, bias, automated decision-making, records management, workforce impacts and public trust if not governed appropriately;
- (B) Council further note that:
- (i) AI should be used to support and augment staff, not remove human accountability for decisions affecting residents, workers or businesses;
 - (ii) automated or semi-automated systems must retain clear human oversight, particularly where rights, safety, access to services or regulatory outcomes are affected;
 - (iii) the City's use of AI should align with its commitments to equity, accessibility, transparency, privacy and public trust;
 - (iv) where AI delivers productivity gains, those gains should primarily be directed toward improving public services and job quality, not solely headcount reduction;
 - (v) AI should, wherever practicable, be used to reduce low-value, repetitive tasks and enhance the quality of work, rather than displacing workers; and
 - (vi) meaningful staff and union consultation should be a core principle where AI may affect work design, workloads or job content; and
- (C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested, as part of the forthcoming review of the Information and Technology Strategy within the Resourcing Strategy, to consider and report to Council on whether the City should develop a dedicated Artificial Intelligence Strategy or AI governance framework to maximise opportunities and mitigate risks, and in doing so, have regard to:
- (i) the principles in (B) above;
 - (ii) the City's existing Generative AI Procedure and governance arrangements;
 - (iii) emerging best-practice approaches across local government and the public sector;
 - (iv) the City's existing and potential future use of applied AI in areas such as customer service, asset management, infrastructure, planning, consultation and emergency response; and
 - (v) workforce, training, change-management, privacy, bias and transparency considerations.

Item 12.15**Notices of Motion****Stop the EV Public Charging Bay Hack**

By Councillor Maxwell

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the recent rollout of public electric vehicle (EV) charging bays across the City of Sydney, providing essential infrastructure to support the transition to zero emissions transport;
- (ii) that the conversion of public parking spaces into dedicated EV charging bays represents a significant investment that contributes to the City's and the nation's emissions reduction goals;
- (iii) that under current policy, only EVs that are actively charging may lawfully occupy these bays without incurring a penalty;
- (iv) that it appears possible for some EV drivers to plug their vehicle into a charging unit without initiating a charging session, allowing them to avoid both parking and charging fees while occupying a bay and preventing its use by others; and
- (v) that improving compliance is necessary to ensure fair and efficient use of the City's limited public charging infrastructure; and

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) work with EV charging providers to explore developing solutions to address non-initiated charging behaviour, including clearer activation indicators, stronger app-based authentication and automated alerts when a vehicle is connected but not drawing power; and the introduction of an idle fee or similar mechanism;
- (ii) improve signage and user information to make clear that bays are for active charging only; and
- (iii) report back to Council via the CEO Update on practical measures to strengthen compliance and improve access to public EV charging infrastructure.

X113762

Item 12.16**Notices of Motion****Urban Billabongs and Additional Water Play Areas**

By Councillor Weldon

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) with climate change increasing the frequency and severity of extreme heat events, accessible public spaces to cool off in summer are vital for community safety and wellbeing;
- (ii) there is a growing national and global trend for incorporating open and free swimming areas, splash pools, and water play areas into public space design to promote cooling and to enhance liveability;
- (iii) the City of Sydney is committed to providing more opportunities for casual swimming, in addition to operating 6 high-quality and well-utilised public lap pools and aquatic centres;
- (iv) this includes working with Sydney Water to restore local waterways and improve water quality, with the long-term aspiration of creating more locations for safe harbour swimming, as identified within Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050; and
- (v) there is significant community interest in open and free swimming areas, demonstrated by the popularity of the new harbourside swimming area at Marrinawi Cove and the water play area at Pirrama Park;

(B) Council also note:

- (i) urban billabongs are shallow man-made lagoons designed to provide a safe and accessible place for people of all ages to take a quick dip and cool off in summer;
- (ii) urban billabongs could be integrated with the restoration of Sydney's waterways by tracing historic routes and implementing Aboriginal-led design principles that recognise the cultural and ecological significance of these places – a priority aspiration of the First Peoples Dialogue Forum in 2019; and
- (iii) the concept could also allow for water to be drained in cooler months to support other community uses, including as a gathering space and a site for cultural activations and community events;

- (C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to investigate the budget implications of undertaking a feasibility study as part of the preparation of the 2026/27 Budget and Operational Plan which would include the costs, and potential locations for establishing up to 5 new urban billabongs and/or water play areas within the City of Sydney for Council's consideration. The investigation should:
- (i) prioritise locations in neighbourhoods without public pools or harbour swimming opportunities, including:
 - (a) Alexandria, Erskineville and Sydney Park;
 - (b) expanding existing water features at Redfern Park and Green Square Plaza; and
 - (c) incorporating an urban billabong and/or water play area into the vision and plan for the redevelopment of Wentworth Park;
 - (ii) include, but not be limited to, analysis of:
 - (a) site suitability and integration with existing parks and open space;
 - (b) public safety and accessibility requirements, including provisions for lifeguard supervision, regular water testing and maintenance;
 - (c) detailed financial estimates for the design, construction, provision of accompanying amenities (e.g. showers, change rooms and shading) and ongoing operational costs; and
 - (d) the role of these facilities as local heat refuges and their contribution to reducing the urban heat island effect through evaporative cooling; and
- (D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to include the potential provision of urban billabongs and additional water play areas in the upcoming Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs review.

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Item 12.17**Notices of Motion****Retaining Business Services Access on Wilson Street in Newtown**

By Councillor Weldon

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) Transport for NSW (TfNSW) is planning a new 2-way separated cycleway connecting Eliza Street to the existing cycleway on Wilson Street (north of Erskineville Road;
- (ii) the proposed cycleway on this section of Wilson Street is intended to connect established cycling routes in the Inner West with the City of Sydney's cycling network, forming a safer cycling connection between Newtown, Redfern, Central and beyond;
- (iii) TfNSW has recently published a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the proposed design and is currently assessing community and stakeholder feedback;
- (iv) the current proposed design requires the removal of a 12-metre loading zone and 13 parking spaces on Wilson Street, which provide essential access for local business services requirements;
- (v) in particular, the proposal will significantly impact the operations of Thai Pothong which relies on Wilson Street as a goods entrance for essential daily operations, including for high-volume deliveries, daily waste and recycling collection, grease-trap servicing, safe forklift access and service-vehicle access;
- (vi) Thai Pothong is a beloved Newtown institution. With 500+ seating capacity, and employing 70-odd staff, it is one of the largest restaurants in the City of Sydney;
- (vii) TfNSW is proposing to relocate the Wilson Street loading zone to a timed access area on Erskineville Road. Local businesses, including Thai Pothong, do not consider this to be a feasible or adequate replacement for services access;
- (viii) the City of Sydney's practice is to make sure we take into consideration the operation of adjacent businesses and incorporate their needs into the design as much as is possible; and
- (ix) similarly, TfNSW's Movement and Place Framework and associated design manuals guide practitioners to design streets that accommodate the needs of all road users, including freight and deliveries;

- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
 - (i) contact Thai Pothong to discuss the critical operational impacts resulting from the proposed cycleway design; and
 - (ii) engage with appropriate TfNSW staff regarding the operational impacts resulting from the proposed cycleway; and
- (C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the NSW Minister for Transport and Minister for Roads calling on them to further consider operational impacts resulting from the proposed cycleway design.

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