

Council

Meeting No 1

Monday 23 February 2026

Notice No 1/1681

Notice Date 19 February 2026

minutes

Index to Minutes

ITEM	PAGE NO
1. Confirmation of Minutes	5
2. Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest	6
3. Minutes by the Lord Mayor	7
3.1 Vale Dame Marie Roslyn Bashir	7
3.2 The Erosion of Civil Liberties in NSW	9
4. Memoranda by the Chief Executive Officer	13
4.1 Grant Recipient Change of Entity - 2025/26 Dixon Street Improvement Grant Program	13
4.2 Rescission of the Environmental Sustainability Policy 2021.....	15
4.3 Amendment to Council and Committee Meetings for 2026	16
4.4 Extended Trading Hours.....	17
5. Matters for Tabling	19
5.1 Disclosures of Interest.....	19
6. Report of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	20
6.1 Confirmation of Minutes.....	20
6.2 Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest	21
6.3 2025/26 Quarter 2 Review - Delivery Program 2025-2029.....	21
6.4 Investments Held as at 31 December 2025	22
6.5 Investments Held as at 31 January 2026.....	22
6.6 Continuing the Transformation of Central Sydney - Project Scope - Town Hall Square.....	22
6.7 Heads of Agreement - Sydney Square Renewal.....	23
6.8 Tender - T-2025-1686 - Parks and Street Greening Maintenance Services	23
6.9 Tender - T-2025-1691 - Head Design Consultancy - Town Hall Square	25
6.10 Negotiation Outcome - T-2024-1253 - City of Sydney Leisure (Active Wellbeing) Services	25
6.11 Tender - Reject and Negotiate - T-2025-1605 - Head Contractor - Jubilee Park Amenities	27
6.12 Exemption from Tender and Contract Variation - Crowd and Transport Services for 2026 Sydney New Year's Eve	27
7. Report of the Environment and Climate Change Committee	29
7.1 Confirmation of Minutes.....	29
7.2 Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest	29

7.3	Post Exhibition - Waste Reduction and Circular Materials Strategy 2026-2035	30
7.4	Victoria Street Public Domain Upgrade.....	30
8.	Report of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee	31
8.1	Confirmation of Minutes.....	31
8.2	Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest	31
8.3	Public Exhibition - Amended Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice Policy and Sydney Busking Code	32
8.4	Grants and Sponsorship - Accommodation Grants Program - ReadyMade Works Incorporated	33
9.	Report of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee	34
9.1	Confirmation of Minutes.....	34
9.2	Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest	35
9.3	Public Exhibition - Planning Proposal - City Architect and City Landscape Architect Heritage Items - Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 Amendment	35
9.4	Public Exhibition - Planning Proposal - 41-49 Mountain Street, Ultimo - Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 Amendment.....	36
9.5	Fire Safety Reports	37
10.	Questions on Notice.....	39
11.	Supplementary Answers to Previous Questions	41
12.	Notices of Motion	42
12.1	Synthetic Turf Policy Review	42
12.2	Urban Billabongs and Additional Water Play Areas	48
12.3	Act Now - Accelerate Plastic Phase Out.....	50
12.4	E-Bike Safety for City High School Students.....	52
12.5	Advancing Our National Anthem Practice	55
12.6	Holiday Reading - Opening our Libraries over the Summer Break.....	57
12.7	Motion to the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly - National Climate Adaptation Funding and Accountability for Australian Cities	58
12.8	Require the Chief Executive Officer to Report when Contract Extension Options are Exercised	59
12.9	The Future of Victoria Barracks	61
12.10	Vale Norma Hawkins	67
12.11	NSW Police and the NSW Government's Vibrancy Reforms	69
12.12	Preventing 'Poor Doors' and Discrimination Against Low Income Tenants in New Housing Developments	72
12.13	Hot Summers and Access to Cool Spaces	74
12.14	Commemorating Charles Perkins.....	76
12.15	Fair Conditions in the Cruise Industry using Sydney Harbour	77

Present

The Right Hon Clover Moore AO – Lord Mayor of Sydney

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

At the commencement of business at 5.02 pm, those present were:

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

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

Acknowledgement of Country and Opening Prayer

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

Webcasting Statement

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

Order of Business

Council agreed that the order of business be altered such that Item 12.10 be brought forward and considered prior to Item 4, for the convenience of the public present.

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes

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

That the Minutes of the meeting of Council of Monday, 15 December 2025, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 2 Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest

Statement of Ethical Obligations

In accordance with section 233A of the Local Government Act 1993, the Lord Mayor and Councillors are bound by the Oath or Affirmation of Office made at the start of the Council term to undertake their civic duties in the best interests of the people of the City of Sydney and the City of Sydney Council and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act, to the best of their ability and judgement.

Disclosures of Interest

Councillor Olly Arkins disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 9.5 on the agenda, in that there are residents in 12 Ithaca Road, Elizabeth Bay, 2 Roslyn Street, Potts Point and 39 Dangar Place, Chippendale who are members of the Labor Party. Councillor Arkins considers that this non-pecuniary interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances as she was not contacted by them on this Item.

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

Item 3 Minutes by the Lord Mayor

Item 3.1 Vale Dame Marie Roslyn Bashir

Minute by the Lord Mayor

To Council:

We were all saddened to learn of the death of Dame Marie Roslyn Bashir, 37th Governor of New South Wales, on 20 January 2026. In the days that followed, numerous tributes provided details of her extraordinary life, career and service to the Australian community.

Dame Marie was born in Narrandera, New South Wales on 1 December 1930 to Lebanese Christian parents, Michael Bashir and Victoria Melick. On completing her secondary schooling at Sydney Girls High School in 1947, she studied at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, becoming a proficient violinist.

Her future however was in medicine, rather than music. Her father and her paternal uncle were both medical graduates from the American University of Beirut. In 1956, she completed the dual degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery at the University of Sydney.

While at university, she met Nicholas Shehadie, then a rising rugby player and they married on 23 February 1957. After their marriage, Dame Marie continued with her medical career, and eventually taking postgraduate studies in psychiatry. Nicholas meanwhile established a successful business, and was elected to the then Sydney City Council in 1962 as a Civic Reform Alderman. In 1973, he became Lord Mayor of Sydney, which meant that Dame Marie became Lady Mayoress. In 1976, when Nicholas was knighted, she acquired the courtesy title "Lady Shehadie", but chose not to use it, instead retaining her own name.

During this period Dame Marie established her own significant career in psychiatry, initially working in adolescent mental health. In 1993, she was appointed Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Sydney and as the Clinical Director of Mental Health Services for the Central Sydney Area Health Service the following year.

During her time at the Central Sydney Area Health, Dame Marie worked with the Aboriginal Medical Service in Redfern, to establish the Aboriginal Mental Health Unit and taking on the consultative role of senior psychiatrist.

She remained with the Health Service for around 7 years, when then Premier Bob Carr invited her to become Governor of New South Wales. She was sworn in on 1 March 2001. The appointment was warmly welcomed by all sides of politics, with a Sydney Morning Herald editorial describing it as "an inspired choice", while noting that she would be "a powerful advocate for the powerless".

From the beginning, Dame Marie revealed that she would be a very different Governor. On the day of her swearing in, she agreed to become Patron of the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service and in 2005 opened the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival. She launched a health initiative to support Indigenous medicine and nursing students as well as supporting the progress of reconciliation. In 2002, Marie Bashir became patron of the Australia-Vietnam Medical Trust and became intimately involved in collaborative health programs in Vietnam, particularly in rural areas. From 2007 to 2011, she served as Chancellor of the University of Sydney.

Dame Marie was Governor when I was elected Lord Mayor in 2004. Over the years that followed we shared the stage on countless civic occasions, from Sydney Festival events to Anzac Day commemorations.

For many years after the Dawn Service we would take to the balcony of Town Hall and quietly watch the Diggers pass by along the parade route. These moments captured Marie perfectly: respectful, attentive, deeply humane. Her presence at Coloured Diggers marches in Redfern Park gave that remembrance long-overdue official recognition, setting a powerful precedent for those who followed.

In 2011, her term was extended until 2014. As her term as Governor came to an end, numerous tribute events were held to honour her service. They included a reception I hosted at Sydney Town Hall. At this reception, Sir Nicholas was asked if he was looking forward to Dame Marie's retirement. He replied: "She's not going to retire. She's going back to psychiatry." This she did, working pro bono with young veterans suffering untreated posttraumatic stress disorder.

Dame Marie received many honours throughout her life. She was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1988, a Companion of the Order in 2001 and a Dame of the Order in 2014. She received Honorary Doctorate degrees from several universities. Several Institutions and buildings are named after her, including a school in Strathfield, a sports centre in Mosman and the Professor Marie Bashir Centre at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. All are well deserved.

Dame Marie was a woman of extraordinary grace, wisdom and compassion. She brought her experience as a celebrated psychiatrist and advocate for mental health, together with her trademark warmth, empathy and modesty, to the role of Governor.

When she spoke, people listened, and New South Wales is richer for her life and legacy.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) all persons attending this meeting of Council observe one minute's silence to commemorate the life of Dame Marie Roslyn Bashir and her significant contribution to the community of New South Wales and to improving mental health;
- (B) Council expresses its condolences to Dame Marie's family and friends; and
- (C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to Dame Marie's family to convey Council's condolences.

THE RT HON CLOVER MOORE AO

Lord Mayor of Sydney

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

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

Carried unanimously.

S051491

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

Item 3.2 The Erosion of Civil Liberties in NSW

Minute by the Lord Mayor

To Council:

The violent clashes between Police and protesters on 9 February 2026 were incredibly shocking and distressing. The scenes that unfolded across our city did not look like Sydney at all.

Sydney is one of Australia's most diverse cities, home to people of many cultures, faiths, identities and political views.

Our city is a beacon of acceptance for people from different parts of Australia and the world. People from different walks of life come here to live and work, because we are open to diverse opinions, world views and political and religious beliefs, even if sometimes we disagree.

9 February 2026

The protest on 9 February 2026 was legitimate. It is legitimate to use our voices to call for an end to the genocide in Gaza, especially during a visit by the Israeli head of state.

The suggestion that such protest is inappropriate as we continue to grieve for the victims of the egregious, Antisemitic terror event in Bondi is a divisive, false dichotomy. We use our voices to call on all parties to adhere to the conditions of negotiated ceasefire and usher in a just and lasting peace, and that call does not affect our deep sympathy and solidarity with Jewish communities.

Police play a critical role in maintaining community safety and ensuring the public can access shared spaces, and the complexity of this work is acknowledged. The Police Act 1990 also requires officers to uphold the rights and freedoms of the community and to exercise their authority responsibly. While protests must remain peaceful, safe and respectful, prohibiting them - or responding with disproportionate force - is not an appropriate response.

Regardless of views about particular protest groups or their causes, the use of excessive force against community members is deeply concerning. Community trust in policing depends on discretion, respect, transparency and accountability; without these, people may come to fear Police rather than feel protected by them.

For the 9 February 2026 protests, I understand that the Police had very clear instructions on where people should be, and the violent clashes may have broken out when people challenged those demarcations. But seeing the unrestrained force used to impose those demarcations was disturbing.

There has to be a better way for Police, who were out in intimidatingly large numbers, to manage crowds safely. I found the footage of men being aggressively dragged away in the midst of evening prayer, and protestors beaten while already subdued, particularly alarming.

We cannot simply say the images aren't a good look, or that Police were just doing their jobs in trying conditions or play a blame game – the community needs to be able to trust the Police, and that trust relies on transparency and accountability.

I'm pleased that the independent Law Enforcement Conduct Commission has initiated an investigation into possible serious misconduct by Police on 9 February 2026. It is essential that this investigation is properly resourced, and I propose writing to the Premier requesting that he ensures this.

I have asked the Chief Executive Officer to ensure any CCTV footage around Town Hall that evening captured through our Street Safety Camera Program is retained for longer than the normal 28-day period to assist with investigations.

Erosion of civil liberties

Both our State and Federal Governments have committed to addressing the terrible rise in Antisemitism and Islamophobia in our communities and that is most welcome. As is any effort to achieve “social cohesion”. But we should be careful not to erode civil rights or chill genuine protest in the process. That doesn’t unite us or make us feel safe.

Even before the shocking events of 9 February 2026, the City of Sydney Council had repeatedly ([November 2022](#), [December 2022](#) and [March 2023](#)) resolved support for the right of peaceful assembly and protest, and called for an end to pre-emptive and heavy-handed policing of protests.

The right to protest is not only legal, but also fundamental in a free and democratic society. Many of the rights we take for granted today came from protests. The suffragette movement won the right for women to vote. Only after tireless, sustained protest did First Nations peoples win the right to vote. Unions did not secure the 8-hour workday without protests and strikes.

In recent years, we have witnessed a global assault on democratic processes and government institutions, increased geopolitical tensions, a winding back of diversity and inclusion measures in some parts of the globe, and a renewed attack on climate action. This has prompted many to express their democratic right to peaceful protest.

However, since 2022, protest rights have been progressively eroded in NSW through a series of legislative changes, including:

- The Roads and Crimes Legislation Amendment Act 2022, preventing ‘illegal protesting’ on major roads.
- The Crimes Amendment (Obstructing a Railway) Act 2024, targeting protests that obstruct railway lines.
- The Crimes Amendment (Places of Worship) Act 2025, stopping protesters from impeding, intimidating, or harassing people at churches, synagogues, and mosques.

These amendments imposed disproportionate fines of up to \$22,000 and/or up to 2 years in gaol for a variety of offences associated with public protest activities.

While these new laws received bipartisan support, the changes were strongly, and rightly, opposed by human rights, environmental and civil liberties groups. In 2023, the NSW Council for Civil Liberties said “NSW cannot be prosecuted into social cohesion”, in response to previous erosions to free speech by the Minns Government.

Two of the amendments were challenged in court - the Roads and Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and the Crimes Amendment (Places of Worship) Bill 2025, both of which succeeded because the rushed anti-protest laws were drafted so broadly that they unjustifiably restricted the implied freedom of political communication, preventing people from being seen and heard when protesting.

Undeterred by the courts, the NSW Government doubled down with the Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2025 placing even broader restrictions on protest. The laws give Police the discretion to ban authorised public assemblies in specific areas, a fortnight at a time, for up to 3 months following a terror attack. Police were also given new powers to direct people to move on who are engaged in apparently genuine demonstrations or protests being held in an area where the Police had declared the declaration applied.

The NSW Government also activated extraordinary Police powers to control crowds, restrict movement and conduct searches declaring Israeli President Isaac Herzog's visit a "major event" under laws designed to encourage large sporting and cultural events, like the Olympics.

As a result of these legislative changes, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism says, “NSW is now one of the most draconian anti-protest jurisdictions in the democratic world”.

Failure of leadership

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development explains that “a cohesive society works towards the well-being of all its members, fights exclusion and marginalisation, creates a sense of belonging, promotes trust, and offers its members the opportunity of upward mobility.”

As citizens we have the right if not a moral duty to stand up for those who have been marginalised, and excluded, and one way we do this is through peaceful protest.

What the NSW Government fails to understand is that by eroding our civil liberties, they are in fact undermining the so-called “social cohesion” they claim to be protecting.

The restrictions introduced in December 2025 characterise every protest critical of Israel as a risk to community safety. This is despite the fact that over the past 2 years there have been dozens of peaceful protests, involving hundreds of thousands of Australians, including the historic March for Humanity across Sydney Harbour Bridge in August 2025, which I was proud to take part in along with many City of Sydney Councillors, former NSW Premier Bob Carr and the Hon. Ed Husic MP, and leaders across the political spectrum, in the pouring rain.

Applying broad, blanket limits on protest unfairly labels all protesters as safety risks. These unnecessary limits on democratic freedoms are actually creating more social division and political marginalisation. Those conditions can make protests more likely to become disorderly, not less.

Everyone has a right to safety in our city – whether that be safely accessing their workplace, or living free from discrimination and expressions of hate. It is the Government's job to protect that right.

But our civil rights – our right to gather in genuine peaceful protest – are equally important. We should be careful not to accept the erosion of these rights or to allow governments to stifle genuine political activism. If we truly value inclusion and diversity, we must ensure all our communities are permitted to gather, whether to reflect and mourn, or voice opposition to violence and war – safely and freely.

The NSW Government must urgently review and repeal those laws that stifle legitimate peaceful protest.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council welcome the decision of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission to investigate possible serious misconduct by Police at Sydney Town Hall and surrounds on the evening of Monday 9 February 2026;
- (B) Council note that NSW already has some of the most restrictive and repressive anti-protest laws in the country, and that since 2022 these democratic rights have been progressively undermined through successive legislative changes;

(C) Council again:

- (i) affirm its commitment to protecting and supporting the right to peaceful protest, which is fundamental in a democratic society;
- (ii) condemn the use of disproportionate policing practices against protesters; and
- (iii) commit to supporting the community's right to peacefully protest in the City;

(D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) monitor and provide advice to Council about recent changes to hate speech and protest laws in Australia and NSW, and implications for the City; and
- (ii) assist with investigations into Police activities on 9 February 2026 outside Town Hall, as appropriate; and

(E) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the NSW Premier and Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism with a copy of this Lord Mayoral Minute calling for the NSW Government:

- (i) to ensure the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission is properly resourced to conduct an investigation into possible serious misconduct by Police on 9 February 2026 outside Town Hall, and for an urgent review of policing at protests to ensure people's right to protest without harm; and
- (ii) urgently review and repeal legislation that stifles legitimate peaceful protest.

THE RT HON CLOVER MOORE AO

Lord Mayor of Sydney

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

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

Carried unanimously.

S051491

Procedural Motion

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

That the Order of Business be altered such that Item 12.10 be brought forward and considered before Item 4 for the convenience of the public present.

Carried unanimously.

Item 4 Memoranda by the Chief Executive Officer**Item 4.1 Grant Recipient Change of Entity - 2025/26 Dixon Street Improvement Grant Program****Memorandum by the Chief Executive Officer**

To Council:

On 15 December 2025, Council approved grant funding as part of the Dixon Street Improvement Grant program. This funding program supports capital works that improve shop and building frontages on Dixon Street south with matched funding that contributes to:

- the visible renewal of Dixon Street (south) shopfronts and facades, making the street more active and attractive
- the creation of a 'chef's gallery' bringing the theatre of food preparation to Dixon Street
- the distinct character and identity of Dixon Street as the historic heart of Chinatown.

City staff have been made aware of the need to amend one of the grants that was approved to account for a required change of recipient. The grant in question is a total of \$60,000 in cash originally awarded to Sweet Lu Pty Ltd (ABN 53 625 355 660) to support the shopfront and internal space upgrade of 2/63-69 Dixon Street.

In early January 2026, the City learnt that the lessee of the property in question is a different (but closely related) entity and therefore a change of grant recipient is required from Sweet Lu Pty Ltd (ABN 53 625 355 660) to Sweet Lu (City) Pty Ltd (ABN 87 637 193 590).

Sweet Lu (City) Pty Ltd is an Australian Private Company and is eligible to receive funding through the Dixon Street Improvement Grant program and City of Sydney staff are satisfied that providing the funds to this entity is required to ensure delivery of the project. The project, grant funding amount, and criteria for funding remain the same. In accordance with the resolution of Council of 15 December 2025 that approved this grant funding, Council is required to approve any change to the identity of a grant recipient.

Recommendation

It is resolved that Council approve the change of grant recipient for the shopfront and internal space upgrade of 2/63-69 Dixon Street as part of the Dixon Street Improvement Grant program from Sweet Lu Pty Ltd (ABN 53 625 355 660) to Sweet Lu (City) Pty Ltd (ABN 87 637 193 590).

MONICA BARONE PSM

Chief Executive Officer

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

It is resolved that Council approve the change of grant recipient for the shopfront and internal space upgrade of 2/63-69 Dixon Street as part of the Dixon Street Improvement Grant program from Sweet Lu Pty Ltd (ABN 53 625 355 660) to Sweet Lu (City) Pty Ltd (ABN 87 637 193 590).

Carried unanimously.

S117676

Item 4.2 Rescission of the Environmental Sustainability Policy 2021**Memorandum by the Chief Executive Officer**

To Council:

The Environmental Sustainability Policy 2021 was created to support the implementation of the Environmental Strategy 2021-2025 and the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019.

A review of the policy commenced in late 2024, in line with the statutory review schedule. This review determined that the policy was no longer required as a standalone document as its purpose and objectives have been superseded by strategies and policies adopted since 2021 and are adequately addressed. In line with maturity in environmental sustainability, the City of Sydney's commitments and ambitions are integrated into relevant strategies and policies (refer Attachment B - Environmental Sustainability Policy Objectives Comparison) removing the need for a dedicated policy.

The Waste Reduction and Circular Materials Strategy is the final remaining core strategy requiring update to cover the policy's objectives. This strategy is being submitted to the February 2026 Council meeting for adoption and, as such, this memorandum requests that Council rescind the Environmental Sustainability Policy 2021.

Recommendation

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) note the integration of the City of Sydney's environmental sustainability objectives into strategies developed since 2021 as shown at Attachment B to the subject memorandum; and
- (B) rescind the Environmental Sustainability Policy 2021 as shown at Attachment A to the subject memorandum.

MONICA BARONE PSM

Chief Executive Officer

Attachment A. Environmental Sustainability Policy 2021

Attachment B. Environmental Sustainability Policy Objectives comparison

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

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) note the integration of the City of Sydney's environmental sustainability objectives into strategies developed since 2021 as shown at Attachment B to the subject memorandum; and
- (B) rescind the Environmental Sustainability Policy 2021 as shown at Attachment A to the subject memorandum.

Carried unanimously.

X130931

Item 4.3 Amendment to Council and Committee Meetings for 2026

Memorandum by the Chief Executive Officer

To Council:

On 15 February 2026, the NSW Premier announced that Monday, 27 April 2026 will be designated as a public holiday in NSW to recognise Anzac Day which falls on a weekend in 2026.

On 22 September 2025, Council endorsed meeting dates for 2026, 2027 and 2028, with the April 2026 Council meeting scheduled for Monday, 27 April 2026.

Section 365 of the Local Government Act 1993 states that "the council is required to meet at least 10 times each year, each time in a different month", with "year" meaning the period from 1 July to the following 30 June (the financial year).

In order to meet the requirements of section 365, the meeting must be rescheduled to a date in April 2026.

It is proposed that the April 2026 Council meeting is rescheduled to the next business day, being Tuesday, 28 April 2026.

No adjustments are required to the program of meeting dates for 2027 and 2028 endorsed by Council on 22 September 2025.

The City's website will be updated with the revised 2026 meeting dates if endorsed by Council.

Recommendation

It is resolved that Council adopt the revised schedule of meetings for 2026 as shown at Attachment A to the subject memorandum.

MONICA BARONE PSM

Chief Executive Officer

Attachment A. Revised Schedule of Meetings for 2026

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

It is resolved that Council adopt the revised schedule of meetings for 2026 as shown at Attachment A to the subject memorandum.

Carried unanimously.

S063444-02

Item 4.4 Extended Trading Hours**Memorandum by the Chief Executive Officer**

To Council:

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is one of Australia's most significant cultural events and one of the world's leading celebrations of LGBTQIA+ pride and visibility. What began as a protest for equal rights has grown into a globally recognised festival that brings together thousands of participants and visitors each year. It plays an important role in promoting inclusion, celebrating diversity, and affirming Sydney as a welcoming and progressive city.

The City of Sydney has long been a proud supporter of Mardi Gras and the values it represents. Our support includes financial contributions, operational assistance and year-round collaboration with the Mardi Gras organisation to ensure events are safe, inclusive and successful. This work is complemented by the Oxford Street LGBTQIA+ Place Strategy, which sets a long-term vision and actions to reinforce Oxford Street as the heart of LGBTQIA+ culture and creativity. Together, these initiatives help ensure Mardi Gras continues to thrive as a vital platform for expression, visibility and community celebration.

Special event extended trading, introduced in 2025 under section 2.132A of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008*, allows councils to declare extended trading hours for unlicensed premises until midnight for events of regional, state or national significance.

The extended trading hours apply to eligible venues automatically. Venues already able to trade beyond the extended hours can trade as usual.

Eligible venues include community facilities, entertainment facilities, restaurants, cafés, shops, and takeaway food and drink premises. Home occupations (sex services), restricted premises and sex services premises are excluded.

For licensed venues, the NSW Government may separately grant extended trading under section 13 of the *Liquor Act 2007*, which it has already done for Mardi Gras 2026.

This report recommends Council declare Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras 2026 a special event to allow extended trading for unlicensed premises, supporting local businesses and contributing to a lively night-time economy. It is noted that this is consistent with and complementary to the announcement by the NSW Government on 19 February 2026 that public transport will run for 24 hours over this period.

The areas to which the extended hours will apply includes all City of Sydney suburbs identified in the NSW Government's special event declaration for the Mardi Gras Parade and near the Mardi Gras Camperdown Park Viewing Party.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is declared a special event as per the definition in 2.132A of the SEPP (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008; and
- (B) on 1 March 2026, extended trading hours until midnight will apply to eligible premises in Sydney, Darlinghurst, Surry Hills, Potts Point, Paddington, Camperdown, Newtown and Erskineville.

MONICA BARONE PSM

Chief Executive Officer

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

It is resolved that:

- (A) Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is declared a special event as per the definition in 2.132A of the SEPP (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008; and
- (B) on 1 March 2026, extended trading hours until midnight will apply to eligible premises in Sydney, Darlinghurst, Surry Hills, Potts Point, Paddington, Camperdown, Newtown and Erskineville.

Variation. At the request of Councillors Arkins, and by consent, the motion was varied such that it read as follows –

It is resolved that:

- (A) Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parade weekend is declared a special event as per the definition in 2.132A of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008; and
- (B) on Friday night 27 February, Saturday night 28 February and Sunday night 1 March 2026, extended trading hours until midnight will apply to eligible premises in Sydney, Darlinghurst, Surry Hills, Potts Point, Paddington, Camperdown, Newtown and Erskineville.

Carried unanimously.

X119331

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

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

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

Carried unanimously.

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

PRESENT

The Rt Hon Clover Moore AO – Lord Mayor of Sydney
(Chair)

Councillor Robert Kok
(Deputy Chair)

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

At the commencement of business at 3:04pm those present were -

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

Adjournment

At 4:51pm, it was moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor) seconded by Councillor Kok –

That the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee be adjourned for approximately 15 minutes.

Carried unanimously.

At the resumption of the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee at 5:09pm, all Councillors were present.

The meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee concluded at 5:11pm.

Report of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee

Moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by Councillor Miller –

That the report of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee of its meeting of 16 February 2026 be received, with Items 6.1 and 6.2 being noted, the recommendations set out below for Items 6.3 to 6.5 inclusive, 6.7, 6.11 and 6.12 being adopted in globo, and Items 6.6 and 6.8 to 6.10 inclusive being dealt with as shown immediately following those items.

Carried unanimously.

Item 6.1

Confirmation of Minutes

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

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee of Monday 8 December 2025, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

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

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

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

Item 6.3**2025/26 Quarter 2 Review – Delivery Program 2025-2029**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the financial performance of Council for the second quarter, ending 31 December 2025, including a Quarter 2 Operating Result (before interest, capital grants and contributions, depreciation and capital related costs) of \$53.3M and the full year forecast of \$115.6M and Net Operating Result of \$47.0M and a full year forecast of \$113.1M as outlined in the subject report and summarised in Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note the Quarter 2 Capital Works expenditure of \$122.4M and a revised full year forecast of \$278.3M, and approve the proposed adjustments to the adopted budget, including bringing forward \$5.5M of funds into the 2025/26 capital budget, the transfer of \$1.0M from the capital works contingency, and to reallocate funds within relevant programs within capital budget as detailed in Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) Council note the Technology and Digital Services Capital Works expenditure of \$15.0M, and a full year forecast of \$30.0M and approve the proposed adjustments to the adopted budget, including bringing forward \$4.1M of funds into the 2025/26 capital budget, the transfer of \$1.3M from the capital works contingency, and to reallocate funds within relevant programs within capital budget as detailed in Attachment B to the subject report;
- (D) Council note the Quarter 2 Plant and Equipment expenditure of \$5.3M, net of disposals, and a revised full year forecast of \$31.9M;
- (E) Council note net Property Divestment of \$8.1M as at quarter 2, and the full year forecast for net Property Divestments of \$122.3M;
- (F) Council note the operational performance indicators and quarter 2 achievements against the Operational Plan 2025/26 objectives, as detailed in Attachment C to the subject report; and
- (G) Council note the supplementary reports, which detail the quick response, street banner and venue hire support grants and sponsorship programs, major legal issues and international travel in the second quarter, as detailed in Attachment D to the subject report.

Carried unanimously.

X115821

Item 6.4

Investments Held as at 31 December 2025

It is resolved that the Investment Report as at 31 December 2025 be received and noted.

Carried unanimously.

X020701

Item 6.5

Investments Held as at 31 January 2026

It is resolved that the Investment Report as at 31 January 2026 be received and noted.

Carried unanimously.

X020701

Item 6.6

Continuing the Transformation of Central Sydney - Project Scope – Town Hall Square

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

It is resolved that Council endorse the scope of works for the Town Hall Square project as described in the subject report and as generally indicated at Attachment B to the subject report for the purposes of progression to required concept design, planning approvals, documentation and construction of works.

The motion was carried on the following show of hands –

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

Noes (1) Councillor Weldon

Carried.

X118741

Speakers at Public Forum

Michael Cook (Cook Commercial Investment Group Pty Ltd) and Mark Tait (Investa) addressed the public forum on Item 6.6 of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee.

Item 6.7**Heads of Agreement - Sydney Square Renewal**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the key terms of the Heads of Agreement with the Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney (ACPT) and St Andrew's House Corporation (SAHC) for Sydney Square as set out in the subject report;
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, finalise and execute the Heads of Agreement and the transaction documentation including the Development Deed, Lease (Main Square Lease Area), Easements and Covenants together with any other agreement, deed or instrument in accordance with the key terms of the Heads of Agreement, to effect the endorsed outcomes; and
- (C) Council note that if the key terms contemplated by (A) above are substantially changed, Council's approval will be required for those changes.

Carried unanimously.

X100212

Speaker at Public Forum

Tim Green (Sydney Anglican Property) addressed the public forum on Item 6.7 of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee.

Item 6.8**Tender - T-2025-1686 - Parks and Street Greening Maintenance Services**

Moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by Councillor Miller –

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council accept the tender offer of Tenderer B for Parks and Street Greening Maintenance Services for:
 - (i) the price and contingency outlined in Confidential Attachment B to the subject report; and
 - (ii) the schedule of rates outlined in Confidential Attachment C to the subject report, for a period of 5 years, with the option for 2 further terms of 2 years each, subject to satisfactory performance and other relevant considerations;
- (B) Council note that the total contract value including contingency for Parks and Street Greening Maintenance Services is outlined in Confidential Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise execute and administer the contract relating to the tender;

- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the options referred to in clause (A), if appropriate; and
- (E) if the Chief Executive Officer exercises the options referred to in clause (A) and clause (D), that this be reported back to Council via the CEO Update.

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

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

- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the options referred to in clause (A), if appropriate, except where options are valued at more than \$5 million. Options valued at more than \$5 million are to be determined by the elected Council;

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

Ayes (5) Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Maxwell, Thompson and Weldon

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

Pursuant to the provisions of clause 11.3 of the Code of Meeting Practice, the amendment was declared lost.

Amendment lost.

A show of hands on the substantive 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 11.2 of the Code of Meeting Practice, the motion was declared carried.

Substantive motion carried.

X128688

Item 6.9**Tender - T-2025-1691 - Head Design Consultancy - Town Hall Square**

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

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council accept the tender of Tenderer A for the provision of Head Design Consultancy Services for Town Hall Square for the price and contingency outlined in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note that the total contract sum and contingency for Head Design Consultancy Services for Town Hall Square is outlined in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report; and
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise, execute and administer the contracts relating to the tender.

The motion was carried on the following show of hands –

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

Noes (1) Councillor Weldon

Motion carried.

X118741

Item 6.10**Negotiation Outcome – T-2024-1253 – City of Sydney Leisure (Active Wellbeing) Services**

Moved by Councillor Kok, seconded by Councillor Worling –

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the outcome of the negotiations for management of the City of Sydney Leisure (Active Wellbeing) Services contract as detailed in Confidential Attachment B to the subject report;
- (B) Council accept the negotiated offer from Tenderer C for management of the City of Sydney Leisure (Active Wellbeing) Services contract for the term of 4 years with a 2-year option at the City's discretion, based on performance for the price and contingency outlined in Confidential Attachment B to the subject report, noting that the transition period will commence on 1 April 2026 and the new contract will commence on 1 July 2026;
- (C) Council note that the total contract sum and contingency for management of the City of Sydney Leisure (Active Wellbeing) Services contract is outlined in Confidential Attachment B to the subject report;
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise, execute and administer the contract relating to the negotiation outcome;
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer exercise the option referred to in clause (B), if appropriate; and

- (F) if the Chief Executive Officer exercises the option referred to in clause (B) and clause (E), that this be reported back to Council via the CEO Update.

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

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

- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer exercise the option referred to in clause (B), if appropriate except where options are valued at more than \$5 million. Options valued at more than \$5 million are to be determined by the elected Council;

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

Ayes (5) Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Maxwell, Thompson and Weldon

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

Pursuant to the provisions of clause 11.3 of the Code of Meeting Practice, the amendment was declared lost.

Amendment lost.

A show of hands on the substantive 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 11.2 of the Code of Meeting Practice, the motion was declared carried.

Substantive motion carried.

X099484.010

Misrepresentation

During discussion of Item 6.10, Councillor Miller stated that she had been misrepresented in respect to comments made by Councillor Arkins and clarified her position accordingly.

During discussion of Item 6.10, Councillor Ellsmore stated that she had been misrepresented in respect to comments made by Councillor Worling and clarified her position accordingly.

Item 6.11**Tender - Reject and Negotiate - T-2025-1605 - Head Contractor - Jubilee Park Amenities**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council decline to accept the tender offers for the Head Contractor - Jubilee Park Amenities 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.

Carried unanimously.

X089548.006

Item 6.12**Exemption from Tender and Contract Variation - Crowd and Transport Services for 2026 Sydney New Year's Eve**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve an exemption from tender in accordance with section 55(3)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993 for the provision of Crowd and Transport Management for 2026 Sydney New Year's Eve;
- (B) Council note that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders for this work because there is insufficient time to review the scope of services and re-tender prior to the upcoming 2026/27 event season;
- (C) Council approve a contract variation to Hostile Vehicle Mitigation for Major Events and Festivals for the price and contingency outlined in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report, to include the scope of work relating to Crowd and Transport Management for 2026 Sydney New Year's Eve;
- (D) Council note that the contract for Hostile Vehicle Mitigation will expire 30 June 2027, and the City will undertake market research and assess its model of delivery a new tender process (or processes) to ensure delivery of hostile vehicle mitigation and crowd and transport management can commence from 1 July 2027; and
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer/vary the contracts relating to Hostile Vehicle Mitigation for Major Events and Festivals.

Carried unanimously.

X117678.003

At this stage of the meeting, at 6:34pm, it was moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Kok –

That the meeting be adjourned for approximately 15 minutes.

Carried unanimously.

All Councillors were present at the resumption of the meeting of Council at 6:54pm.

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

The Rt Hon Clover Moore AO – Lord Mayor of Sydney
(Chair)

Councillor Adam Worling
(Deputy Chair)

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

At the commencement of business at 5:12pm those present were -

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

The meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Committee concluded at 5:35pm.

Report of the Environment and Climate Change Committee

Moved by Councillor Worling, seconded by Councillor Miller –

That the report of the Environment and Climate Change Committee of its meeting of 16 February 2026 be received, with Items 7.1 and 7.2 being noted, the recommendation set out below for Item 7.4 being adopted in globo, and Item 7.3 being dealt with as shown immediately following that item.

Carried unanimously.

Item 7.1**Confirmation of Minutes**

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

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Committee of Monday 8 December 2025, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 7.2**Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest**

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

The Environment and Climate Change Committee recommended the following:

Item 7.3

Post Exhibition - Waste Reduction and Circular Materials Strategy 2026-2035

Moved by Councillor Worling, seconded by Councillor Thompson –

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the submissions received from the community on the exhibited draft Waste Reduction and Circular Materials Strategy 2025-2035, as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;
- (B) Council adopt the Waste Reduction and Circular Materials Strategy 2026-2035, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make amendments to the Waste Reduction and Circular Materials Strategy 2026-2035 to correct any minor drafting errors and finalise design, artwork and accessible formats for publication; and
- (D) Council note the finalisation of the Leave Nothing to Waste Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2030 noting it is now replaced by the Waste Reduction and Circular Materials Strategy 2026-2035.

Amendment. Moved by Councillor Thompson, seconded by Councillor Miller -

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

- (E) Council note the timeline provided in which all City of Sydney households will be provided with a separate food organic waste recycling bin between mid-2028 and mid-2029.

Carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

X087085

Speaker at Public Forum

Michael Mobbs addressed the public forum on Item 7.3 of the Environment and Climate Change Committee.

Item 7.4

Victoria Street Public Domain Upgrade

It is resolved that Council endorse the design for the Victoria Street Public Domain Upgrade, as described in the subject report and shown at Attachment A to the subject report, for progression to detailed design, documentation and construction of the works.

Carried unanimously.

X117828

Speakers at Public Forum

Stacy Anton and Kate Richardson addressed the public forum on Item 7.4 of the Environment and Climate Change Committee.

Item 8 Report of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee**PRESENT**

The Rt Hon Councillor Clover Moore AO – Lord Mayor of Sydney
(Chair)

Councillor Olly Arkins
(Deputy Chair)

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

At the commencement of business at 5:35pm those present were -

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

The meeting of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee concluded at 6:01pm.

Report of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee

Moved by Councillor Arkins, seconded by Councillor Miller –

That the report of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee of its meeting of 16 February 2026 be received, with Items 8.1 and 8.2 being noted, and the recommendation set out below for Item 8.4 being adopted in globo, and Item 8.3 being dealt with as shown immediately following that item.

Carried unanimously.

Item 8.1**Confirmation of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Arkins, seconded by Councillor Miller –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife 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 matter on the agenda for this meeting of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee.

The Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee recommended the following:

Item 8.3

Public Exhibition - Amended Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice Policy and Sydney Busking Code

Moved by Councillor Arkins, seconded by Councillor Miller –

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the feedback received from buskers during the review, outlined in the Engagement Report, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council approve for public exhibition the draft amended Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice Policy (the Policy), as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) Council approve for public exhibition the amended Sydney Busking Code (the Code), as shown at Attachment C to the subject report, a guidance document to be published alongside the Policy;
- (D) Council note that any recommended changes to either the Policy or the Code will be reported to Council for consideration following the exhibition period; and
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to undertake minor editorial corrections prior to the exhibition of the draft amended Policy and Code.

Carried unanimously.

X130950

Item 8.4**Grants and Sponsorship - Accommodation Grants Program - ReadyMade Works Incorporated**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the new subsidy and grant level for ReadyMade Works Incorporated at Level 1, 247-257 Bulwara Road Ultimo for the remaining months of the current lease on the following rental subsidy:

	Market Rental Value	Grant Subsidy	Grant Amount	Rent Payable
Pro rata Year 5 01/01/2026 - 30/06/2026 (180 days)	\$44,404	100%	\$44,404	\$0

- (B) Council approve the backdating of this subsidy to commence from 1 January 2026;
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to enter into any documentation required to vary the lease to reflect the new rental subsidy; 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 to Council advising of any changes made in accordance with this resolution.

Carried unanimously.

S118918

Item 9 Report of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee

PRESENT

The Rt Hon Clover Moore AO – Lord Mayor of Sydney
(Chair)

Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Jess Miller
(Deputy Chair)

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

At the commencement of business at 6:01pm those present were -

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

Councillor Arkins left the meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee at 6:13pm during discussion and before the vote on Item 9.4, and did not return.

The meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee concluded at 6:16pm.

Report of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Kok –

That the report of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee of its meeting of 16 February 2026 be received, with Items 9.1 and 9.2 being noted and the recommendations set out below for Items 9.3 to 9.5 inclusive being adopted in globo.

Carried unanimously.

Item 9.1

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Worling –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee of Monday 8 December 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 9.5 on the agenda, in that there are residents in 12 Ithaca Road, Elizabeth Bay, 2 Roslyn Street, Potts Point, and 39 Dangar Place, Chippendale, who are members of the Labor Party.

Councillor Arkins considers that this less than significant non pecuniary interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances as she was not contacted by the residents regarding this item.

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

The Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee recommended the following:

Item 9.3**Public Exhibition - Planning Proposal - City Architect and City Landscape Architect Heritage Items - Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 Amendment**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the Planning Proposal - City Architect and City Landscape Architect Heritage Items, shown at Attachment A to the subject report, for submission to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure with a request for a gateway determination;
- (B) Council approve the Planning Proposal - City Architect and City Landscape Architect Heritage Items as shown at Attachment A for public authority consultation and public exhibition in accordance with any conditions imposed under the gateway determination;
- (C) Council seek authority from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure 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 - City Architect and City Landscape Architect Heritage Items; and
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor variations to the Planning Proposal - City Architect and City Landscape Architect Heritage Items to correct any drafting errors or to ensure consistency with the gateway determination.

Carried unanimously.

X093489.007

Speaker at Public Forum

Kris Leveson addressed the public forum on Item 9.3 of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee.

Item 9.4**Public Exhibition - Planning Proposal - 41-49 Mountain Street, Ultimo - Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 Amendment**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve Planning Proposal - 41-49 Mountain Street, Ultimo, 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 - 41-49 Mountain Street, Ultimo, 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 - 41-49 Mountain Street, Ultimo;
- (D) Council approve the Draft Sydney Development Control Plan 41-49 Mountain Street, Ultimo, 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 - 41-49 Mountain Street, Ultimo, to correct any drafting errors or to ensure consistency with the Gateway Determination;
- (F) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make any variations to Draft Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 - 41-49 Mountain Street, Ultimo, to correct any drafting errors or ensure it is consistent with the Planning Proposal following the Gateway Determination;
- (G) Council note the Chief Executive Officer will prepare a draft planning agreement in accordance with the letter of offer dated 10 November 2025 at Attachment C to the subject report, and the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, to be exhibited in accordance with the Act; and
- (H) Council note that the Central Sydney Planning Committee, as consent authority in relation to a development application, is recommended to approve the design excellence strategy in principle for 41-49 Mountain Street, Ultimo, as shown at Attachment D.

Carried unanimously.

X117267

Speakers at Public Forum

Stewart Doran (Urbis) and Matt Carolan (Apt.Residential) addressed the public forum on Item 9.4 of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee.

Item 9.5

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 M 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 12 Ithaca Road, Elizabeth Bay 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 68-68A Darlinghurst Road, Potts Point 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 44-44B Darlinghurst Road, Potts Point at this time;
- (F) note the contents of Attachment E and exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 2 Roslyn Street, Potts Point;
- (G) note the contents of Attachment F and not exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 1 Martin Place, Sydney at this time;
- (H) note the contents of Attachment G and not exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 60-70 Elizabeth Street, Sydney at this time;
- (I) note the contents of Attachment H and not exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 78-80 George Street, Redfern at this time;
- (J) note the contents of Attachment I and not exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 49-53 Regent Street, Chippendale at this time;
- (K) note the contents of Attachment J and not exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 2-4 Cunningham Street, Haymarket at this time;
- (L) note the contents of Attachment K and not exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 398-402 Sussex Street, Haymarket at this time;

- (M) note the contents of Attachment L and not exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 14-18 Lee Street, Haymarket at this time; and
- (N) note the contents of Attachment M and exercise its power under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to issue a Fire Safety Order at 39 Dangar Place, Chippendale.

Carried unanimously.

S105001.002

Item 10 Questions on Notice

1. Palm Trees

By Councillor Arkins

Question

1. Why did Council staff decide to plant palm trees at the Loftus Street pedestrianisation project?
2. What are the benefits of planting palms across the City given how little shade they provide?

X113776

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. The Loftus Street upgrade project involved planting of both Cabbage Tree Palms (*Livistona australis*), interplanted with canopy trees – both Water Gum (*Tristania laurina* 'Luscious') and Southern Hackberry (*Celtis australis*).

Palms are specified as the required species for Loftus Street in the City's Street Tree Masterplan, with Southern Hackberry (*Celtis australis*) included as a secondary species. The Street Tree Masterplan nominated the native palms for the north-south running streets connecting to Circular Quay in order to balance the provision of greenery with the retention of important views to the harbour, historic buildings and squares. With the pedestrianisation project there was a need to balance views and heritage with the provision of shade, so the design team worked with the City's arborists to expand the palette to include additional canopy trees. Southern Hackberry provides a large deciduous canopy, and Water Gums were also included to provide evergreen canopy shelter and shade.

The upgrade project was completed in late 2025 and the canopy trees are therefore still small. They will grow to a substantial size and spread (Southern Hackberry to 20m height and Water Gum to 8m height) – and together with the palms will provide significant shade and shelter at maturity.

2. Cabbage Tree Palms are native and endemic to Sydney, particularly around the harbour and coast. They are present in remnant bushland around Sydney Harbour and have been used successfully around the Circular Quay precinct - thriving in a harsh and constrained planting environment due to their compact root system and shade tolerance. The architectural form of the palms (tall slender trunk and compact foliage) enables their use in the curtilage of significant heritage buildings and precincts, where retaining views is of high value. Whilst the canopy is small, strategic placement of palms and street furniture can provide shade at key times. It is recommended to interplant palms with other, wider canopy tree species in pedestrian areas where greater shade or shelter is required.

2. City Staff Working at Night

By Councillor Arkins

Question

1. How many City staff work between the hours of 6pm and 6am?
2. Can you provide a list of roles that the City's night workers do?

X113776

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The table below represents the number of employees who regularly work the majority of a shift between 6:00pm and 6:00am. With the exception of the City Cleansing night shift team, the number of night shift employees vary from day to day depending on workload and roster requirements.

Position Title	Number of night shift employees
Cleansing Coordinator	1
Team Leader City Cleansing (Night Shift)	3
Cleansing Crew Operator (Night Shift))	23
Cleansing Crew Member (Night (Shift)	5
City Ranger - Ordinance	4
City Ranger - Parking	4
Electrician - Licenced	3
Security Operations Coordinators	4
Security Operators	11
Total	58

There are also employees who work between 6:00pm and 6:00am when operationally required. Examples include venue management and events employees, employees required to attend Council meetings, and City Cleansing employees who work an afternoon shift that concludes at 9:00pm.

Item 11 Supplementary Answers to Previous Questions

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

Item 12 Notices of Motion

Item 12.1 Synthetic Turf Policy Review

Moved by Councillor Thompson, seconded by Councillor Arkins –

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 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 contemporary research and best-practice;

(B) Council further note:

- (i) synthetic turf sports fields attract extreme 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 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);
 - (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 vs. 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.

Amendment. Moved by Councillor Worling, seconded by Councillor Miller –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the City's 17 sports fields are important spaces that serve sporting clubs, local communities and recreational users and are under increasing demand as our population grows and availability of suitable sites for new sports fields is limited;
- (ii) the Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study (2016) forecasts the need to increase capacity by [16,000 playable hours](#) by 2030;
- (iii) the City currently has 4 synthetic turf fields located throughout the Local Government Area (LGA) that provide an extra 11,000 playing hours per year, achieving about 70% of our playable hours target;
- (iv) the City is considering a new synthetic turf field at the proposed Mandible Street Sports Precinct, Alexandria, and will consult the community about this proposal before a decision is made;
- (v) 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. As a result:
 - (a) [Council resolved](#) not to proceed with Synthetic Fields at Turruwul Park and Waterloo Oval; and
 - (b) the [City indicated](#) that they would follow recommendations of forthcoming advice by the NSW Chief Scientist and NSW Government Guidance in the development of any future synthetic fields;
- (iv) synthetic turf sporting fields can play an important role in meeting shortfall in playable hours and meet community needs, but should only be considered on a case-by-case basis, in line with the [NSW Governments Synthetic Turf in Public Open Space Guidelines for Decision-Makers](#) and with comprehensive social and environmental impact assessments in line with legislative requirements as outlined in the NSW Governments Guidelines for [Division 5.1 Assessments - Addendum for Synthetic Sports Fields](#);

(B) Council further note:

- (i) unshaded synthetic turf sports fields can attract high temperatures in the summer, potentially 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 parts of suburbs near the proposed Mandible Street Sports Precinct, such as Alexandria, Rosebery and Beaconsfield experienced some of the highest daytime temperatures in the LGA;
- (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 in the suburbs of Banksia and Penrith were double those on nearby natural fields, but notes that more systematic assessments on the impact on microclimates and urban heat island effect is needed;
- (v) published in 2024, The [National Urban Policy](#), prepared by the Department of Infrastructure, suggests that 'sustainable and resilient urban places should' consider urban heating in planning and incorporate appropriate mitigation strategies including through blue-green infrastructure;
- (vi) there is an environmental risk associated with synthetic sports fields exposed to waterways, particularly during maximum flooding events. The NSW Government's new guidelines and recommendations for councils in [Division 5.1 Assessments - Addendum for Synthetic Sports Fields](#) indicates that without structures to reduce infill loss (such as barrier walls, brush mats, drainage around the field and pits to contain and collect microplastics, and rubber crumbs) tens to 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. However, where the City builds synthetic sports fields, if they are located in a flood zone, they are built above the flood level;
- (viii) some modern, well-designed and highly maintained grass turf sports fields are proving capable of delivering more playable hours compared to older turf sports fields, but without the potential social and environmental risks of synthetic turf fields;
- (ix) the [Natural Turf Alliance](#)'s case study says [Middle Head Oval in Mosman](#) is used between 49 to 55 Hours per week in winter and has seen a reduction of cancelled games, mitigation of flooding impacts with appropriate infrastructure, and decreased costs associated with ongoing and long-term maintenance compared to the previous turf field; and
- (x) Mosman Council advises Middle Head Oval is available 7am to 9pm 7 days per week (98 hours per week) and it is currently used between 22.5 and 27.5 Hours per week, mostly on evenings and weekends, which represents a utilisation rate of between 23 to 28%;

- (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;
- (D) Council endorse that the City take the following approach to decisions about any potential future synthetic sports fields:
- (i) the City recognises that synthetic turf sport fields can play an important role in meeting shortfall in playable hours and meeting community needs, but that environmental risks exist and must be carefully managed;
 - (ii) the City remains open to new science and will always follow the most recent NSW Government guidance and legislation when considering synthetic sports fields;
 - (iii) synthetic sports fields will only be considered on a case-by-case basis, and taking into account current NSW Government Guidance and legislative requirements for detailed impact assessments and community consultation as part of the required Review of Environmental Factors;
 - (iv) the City will report the draft project scope and the completed impact assessments required for the Review of Environmental Factors for any proposed synthetic sports field seeking Council's approval to consult the community on the proposal; and
 - (v) the final Project Scope and Engagement Report will be reported to Council for their approval to proceed to detailed design and to finalise the Review of Environmental factors incorporating community feedback; and

- (E) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to report the draft project scope and the completed impact assessments required for the Review Of Environmental Factors in line with [Division 5.1 Assessments - Addendum for Synthetic Sports Fields](#) for the Mandible Street Sports Precinct seeking Council's approval to consult the community on the proposal, taking into account:
- (i) the recommendation that a heritage impact statement should be prepared for any synthetic turf fields within conservation areas, including areas of Aboriginal significance;
 - (ii) active and passive recreational usage demands;
 - (iii) impacts of the proposed synthetic surfaces on waterway pollution, biodiversity and the local environment, particularly in regard to microplastics;
 - (iv) impacts of the proposed synthetic surfaces on the microclimate, including potential urban heat island effects; and
 - (v) a comparison of the estimated capital, maintenance and ongoing operational costs of the proposed field as a natural versus synthetic fields, including end-of-life costs.

A show of hands on the amendment 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 amendment.

Pursuant to the provisions of clause 11.2 of the Code of Meeting Practice, the amendment was declared carried.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

X113760

Item 12.2 Urban Billabongs and Additional Water Play Areas

Moved by Councillor Weldon, seconded by Councillor Thompson –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) 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 areas at Tumbalong and Pirrama Parks;
- (ii) 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;
- (iii) 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;
- (iv) 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;
- (v) 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
- (vi) making the harbour swimmable will require a whole of government approach. Given the age of pipes in the inner city, and pollution levels from past industrial uses, fixing water quality will require significant investment by Sydney Water and the NSW Government;

(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, using natural filtration and implementing Aboriginal-led design principles that recognise the cultural and ecological significance of these places – a priority aspiration of the City's 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 inclusion of urban billabongs and/or water play areas as part of designs for the future parks and public spaces within the City of Sydney, including Wentworth Park. Investigations should include:

- (i) site suitability and proximity to other pools and harbour swimming locations;
- (ii) the cost of design, construction and ongoing operations;
- (iii) public safety and accessibility requirements; and
- (iv) the role of these facilities as local heat refuges and their contribution to reducing the urban heat island effect; 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.

Carried unanimously.

X113759

Item 12.3 Act Now - Accelerate Plastic Phase Out

Moved by Councillor Worling, seconded by Councillor Miller –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) according to Clean Up Australia, 60% of all litter comes from plastic packaging, the largest component of litter in NSW. Plastic also accounts for up to 80% of litter in our waterways;
- (ii) each Australian state has its own rules for phasing out plastics. For example, in the Northern Territory, plastic straws and utensils are still made available, while South Australia banned soy sauce fish containers on 1 September 2025;
- (iii) the NSW Government's first plastic plan was implemented on 1 June 2022 and banned lightweight plastic shopping bags. On 1 November 2022 plastic straws, cutlery and certain food service products were banned;
- (iv) in November 2025, the NSW Government launched their Plastics Plan 2.0 which aims to reduce plastic litter in our environment and reduce all litter items by 60% by 2030:
 - (a) the plan proposes reducing plastic waste and scaling up reusable alternatives for unnecessary and harmful plastics from 2026-2030;
 - (b) however, under the plan, the government will not start phasing out fruit and vegetable stickers, soy sauce fish, single use sauce squeeze packs or implement a product stewardship scheme for plastic takeaway cups and food containers until 2030; and
 - (c) delaying action until 2030 means 5 more years of plastic pollution, microplastics entering food chains, and landfill pressure; and
- (v) the City's Waste Reduction and Circular Materials Strategy 2026-2035 supports the NSW plastic bans by encouraging the use of sustainable, reusable alternatives to replace the banned plastic items. The City promoted a toolkit on eliminating single-use items and guidelines on reducing event waste for business owners and created online articles and ads about the banned items for residents;

(B) Council further note that:

- (i) the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation set out a National Plastics Plan in 2018 which was endorsed by the Federal and all Australian State and Territory Governments. Aimed at phasing-out problematic and unnecessary single-use plastics packaging, with targets including 100% reusable, recyclable, or compostable packaging. To date, only 40% of targets for phasing out problematic and unnecessary single use plastic packaging achieved nationally and progress remains slow;
- (ii) the Australian Packaging Covenant focused on ensuring plastic packaging was recyclable. The collapse of RedCycle meant that tonnes of "recyclable" soft plastic was being stored in warehouses. The Covenant did not include enough focus on reducing the amount of unnecessary plastic packaging in the first place;
- (iii) supermarkets have a real opportunity to reduce unnecessary plastics, particularly packaging for fresh fruit and vegetables, which seem to prioritise bulk goods packaged in plastic with bar codes for easy self-scanning; and

- (iv) supermarkets must demonstrate leadership by accelerating their transition to a plastic-free model. By investing in new technology and adopting sustainable plastic free alternatives, supermarkets can reduce the amount of plastic produced and consumers are forced to take home; and

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

- (i) the NSW Minister for Environment to bring forward the phasing out of non-compostable fruit and vegetable stickers from 2030 to 2027;
- (ii) the Federal Minister for the Environment to review the progress of the goals and transparency of the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation targets, and urging mandatory product packaging stewardship for supermarkets, instead of voluntary schemes; and
- (iii) the Chief Executive Officers of the 2 major supermarket chains Coles and Woolworths, and in addition the Chief Executive Officers of IGA and Aldi urging them to reduce plastic packaging in fresh food and to take the lead on the introduction of a plastic free loose produce campaign.

Carried unanimously.

X113756

Item 12.4 E-Bike Safety for City High School Students

By Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Miller

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) [the City of Sydney's Cycling Strategy and Action Plan](#) encourages families and children to cycle to school; this is a means to reduce congestion, improve health and well-being, and reduce air pollution;
- (ii) since 2007 the City of Sydney has constructed 30km of separated cycleways, and we now have a rideable network of more the 220km throughout the city;
- (iii) in the last 12 months, approximately 3 million share bike trips were taken in the City of Sydney, almost double the number from the previous year;
- (iv) as of February 2026, Police have been given expanded powers to seize and crush illegal electric motorbikes defined as having a motor over 250W or a throttle that works above 6km/h;
- (v) in the City of Sydney, share e-bike providers have a speed restriction of 25km/h and in high pedestrian zones bike speeds are limited to 10km/h through geofencing technology. While it is legal for people under 18 to ride e-bikes, shared e-bike providers require riders to be 18 years or older;
- (vi) notwithstanding restrictions, it is predicted that e-bike sales will hit 300,000 units in 2026, with significant growth being given by people aged 15 to 24 with 'seize and crush' orders likely to inundate the second-hand market with high-powered, illegal e-bikes; and
- (vii) children's hospitals in Sydney report 94 e-bike related injuries in 2025. Police are reluctant to engage in pursuits of children on e-bike 'ride outs' due to the risk of injury;

(B) Council further note:

- (i) there are currently a range of programs being developed for people to learn how to ride safely such as:
 - (a) the City of Sydney's [Cycling in the City](#) course for people who want to learn to ride on roads safely;
 - (b) a high school pilot program at Newtown Performing Arts High School for students in years 8, 9 and 10;
 - (c) bike safety courses developed by Transport for NSW; and
 - (d) Bicycle NSW and Student Bicycle License Scheme pilots with the Northern Beaches Council, Sutherland Shire Council and the City of Newcastle;
- (ii) there are no mandatory bike rider education programs in NSW and specifically none designed with a harm minimisation approach to bicycle safety that address:
 - (a) managing higher speeds and risks associated with bikes and e-bikes, as devices capable of inflicting harm on the rider and others;
 - (b) cognitive and behavioural de-risking geared specifically to adolescent risk-taking behaviour and peer-group pressure; and

- (c) road rules such as education on speed limits, no-ride zones, parents' legal liabilities, and seize and crush rules; and
- (C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Minister for Transport and the Parliamentary Secretary for Transport requesting:
 - (i) that Transport for NSW's bicycle education course, currently in development, focus on the harm minimisation principles outlined above; and
 - (ii) that given usage of e-bikes and the extensive access to separated cycleway infrastructure that high schools in the City of Sydney be considered as a priority location for a pilot program.

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

Moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Worling –

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note:
 - (i) [the City of Sydney's Cycling Strategy and Action Plan](#) encourages families and children to cycle to school; this is a means to reduce congestion, improve health and well-being, and reduce air pollution;
 - (ii) since 2007 the City of Sydney has constructed 30km of separated cycleways;
 - (iii) in the last 12 months, approximately 4 million share bike trips were taken in the City of Sydney, almost double the number from the previous year;
 - (iv) as of February 2026, Police have been given expanded powers to seize and crush illegal electric motorbikes defined as having a motor over 250W or a throttle that works above 6km/h;
 - (v) in the City of Sydney, share e-bike providers have a speed restriction of 25km/h and in high pedestrian zones bike speeds are limited to 10km/h through geofencing technology. While it is legal for people under 18 to ride e-bikes, shared e-bike providers require riders to be 18 years or older;
 - (vi) notwithstanding restrictions, it is predicted that e-bike sales will hit 300,000 units in 2026, with significant growth being driven by people aged 15 to 24 with 'seize and crush' orders likely to inundate the second-hand market with high-powered, illegal e-bikes; and
 - (vii) children's hospitals in Sydney report 94 e-bike related injuries in 2025. Police are reluctant to engage in pursuits of children on e-bike 'ride outs' due to the risk of injury;
- (B) Council further note:
 - (i) there are currently a range of programs being developed for people to learn how to ride safely such as:
 - (a) the City of Sydney's [Cycling in the City](#) course for people who want to learn to ride on roads safely;
 - (a) a high school pilot program at Newtown Performing Arts High School for students in years 8, 9 and 10;
 - (b) bike safety courses developed by Transport for NSW; and

- (c) Bicycle NSW and Student Bicycle License Scheme pilots with the Northern Beaches Council, Sutherland Shire Council and the City of Newcastle;
- (ii) there are no mandatory bike rider education programs in NSW and specifically none designed with a harm minimisation approach to bicycle safety that address:
 - (a) managing higher speeds and risks associated with bikes and e-bikes, as devices capable of inflicting harm on the rider and others;
 - (d) cognitive and behavioural de-risking geared specifically to adolescent risk-taking behaviour and peer-group pressure; and
 - (e) road rules such as education on speed limits, no-ride zones, parents' legal liabilities, and seize and crush rules; and
- (C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Minister for Transport and the Parliamentary Secretary for Transport requesting:
 - (i) that Transport for NSW's bicycle education course, currently in development, focus on the harm minimisation principles outlined above; and
 - (ii) that given usage of e-bikes and the extensive access to separated cycleway infrastructure that high schools in the City of Sydney be considered as a priority location for a pilot program.

Carried unanimously.

X113761

Item 12.5 Advancing Our National Anthem Practice

By Councillor Maxwell

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) that “Advance Australia Fair” contains 2 official verses, as recognised in the Australian National Anthem protocols administered by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet;
- (ii) that the second verse is included in Our Common Bond, the official citizenship test resource, and is material that prospective citizens may be examined on, despite it rarely being sung at public events;
- (iii) that the second verse contains inspiring sentiments about unity, shared endeavour and contributing to the common good, welcoming peoples from ‘across the seas’. These themes speak to contemporary Australia and are consistent with the values of the City of Sydney;
- (iv) that the anthem has undergone several revisions throughout its history to reflect Australia’s evolving national identity, most recently updating the wording ‘young and free’, to ‘one and free’;
- (v) greater public familiarity with the second verse can support civic literacy by improving understanding of this evolution, and strengthen a sense of public affinity with its positive sentiments about our national identity; and
- (vi) that City of Sydney citizenship ceremonies include the second verse of the National Anthem; and

(B) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Prime Minister, requesting that the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet update national protocols to encourage the use of the second verse at federal, state and local civic ceremonies, and outline steps to improve public familiarity with both verses.

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

Moved by Councillor Maxwell, seconded by Councillor Arkins –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) that “Advance Australia Fair” contains 2 official verses, as recognised in the Australian National Anthem protocols administered by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet;
- (ii) that the second verse is included in Our Common Bond, the official citizenship test resource, and is material that prospective citizens may be examined on, despite it rarely being sung at public events;
- (iii) that the second verse contains inspiring sentiments about unity, shared endeavour and contributing to the common good, welcoming peoples from ‘across the seas’. These themes speak to contemporary Australia and are consistent with the values of the City of Sydney;

- (iv) that the anthem has undergone several revisions throughout its history to reflect Australia's evolving national identity, most recently updating the wording 'young and free', to 'one and free'.
 - (v) greater public familiarity with the second verse can support civic literacy by improving understanding of this evolution, and strengthen a sense of public affinity with its positive sentiments about our national identity; and
 - (vi) that the City of Sydney holds significant civic ceremonies, including citizenship ceremonies and adopts thoughtful and inclusive ceremonial practice by appropriately incorporating the second verse of the national anthem;
- (B) Council endorse the following motion for submission to the 2026 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly:
- This National General Assembly requests the Australian Government to update national protocols to encourage the use of the second verse of the national anthem at federal, state and local civic ceremonies, and outline steps to improve public familiarity with both verses and asks the Governor-General to support the promotion of the second verse as part of national civic practice, acknowledging the role of the Commonwealth in proclaiming and stewarding the anthem.
- (C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the President of Local Government NSW about encouraging councils to use the second verse of the national anthem at local civic ceremonies, and outline steps to improve public familiarity with both verses.

The motion was carried on the following show of hands –

Ayes (6) The Chair (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Arkins, Gannon, Kok, Maxwell and Worling

Noes (4) Councillors Ellsmore, Miller, Thompson and Weldon*

Carried.

*Note – Councillor Weldon abstained from voting on this matter. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 11.4 of the Code of Meeting Practice, Councillor Weldon is taken to have voted against the motion.

X113762

Item 12.6 Holiday Reading - Opening our Libraries over the Summer Break

Moved by Councillor Arkins, seconded by Councillor Worling –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the important service our libraries provide as a safe and quiet place, connected to community resources and shielded from weather;
- (ii) the emerging role our libraries are providing as a hub of internet access and incidental social support, in an increasingly fragmented social setting;
- (iii) that not all residents have somewhere safe to retreat to over what can be isolating holiday periods, nor do all residents have one singular time of holiday celebration;
- (iv) the City's Libraries were closed from 4pm, Christmas Eve until 2 January during the recent holiday period; and
- (v) that nearby Councils such as Bayside and Willoughby operated libraries on the days between Christmas and New Year; and the Northern Beaches Council Forestville Library returned to its 24/7 operating hours on 29 December; and

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to investigate opening the City's libraries over the holiday break going forward, for Council's consideration as part of the preparation of the 2026/27 Operational Plan.

Carried unanimously.

X113758

Item 12.7 Motion to the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly - National Climate Adaptation Funding and Accountability for Australian Cities

Move by Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Worling –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) while the Australian National Adaptation Plan (2025) invites local governments to develop climate adaptation plans, it creates an "unfunded mandate" by failing to provide the necessary capital to execute them;
- (ii) across Australia, local councils are facing a crisis where communities are becoming "uninsurable," shifting the ultimate financial safety net onto municipal budgets;
- (iii) this motion seeks a federally-administered solution that shifts the fiscal burden from ratepayers to the industries primarily responsible for climate-related damage;
- (iv) local councils own and manage billions of dollars in infrastructure currently threatened by climate-impacted events, including floods, water damage, and bushfires;
- (v) existing constraints on local government revenue-raising mean councils cannot address these increasing costs without significantly compromising other essential local services; and
- (vi) a Parliamentary Inquiry with regional hearings is essential to capture the lived experience of climate-impacted communities and the specific insights of local government leadership; and

(B) Council endorse the following motion for submission to the 2026 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly:

That ALGA calls on the Federal Government or Parliament to:

1. acknowledge that the increasing costs of climate change—including disaster recovery from storms, floods, and bushfires, and community resilience building for heatwaves and sea-level rise—place an unsustainable financial burden on local government.
2. recognise the inequity where local governments and communities bear these costs despite not being responsible for the 75% of climate pollution generated by major coal, oil, and gas corporations.
3. establish a Parliamentary Inquiry into the adequacy of the 2025 National Adaptation Plan, specifically addressing the lack of additional funding for local governments to deliver mandated adaptation responses.
4. ensure this Inquiry identifies concrete revenue sources to meet investment needs, including the implementation of taxes or levies on the coal, oil, and gas industries aligned with the climate damage their products cause.
5. establish a National Climate Compensation Fund with a dedicated funding stream for local governments, commensurate with the scale of the financial risks identified in the 2025 National Climate Risk Assessment.

Carried unanimously.

X113761

Item 12.8 Require the Chief Executive Officer to Report when Contract Extension Options are Exercised

By Councillor Arkins, seconded by Councillor Ellsmore –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note that:

- (i) currently when an option to extend a service contract is exercised by the City's Chief Executive Officer, Councillors are not advised;
- (ii) in September 2025, Ventia notified the Australian Stock Exchange that the City of Sydney had exercised an option to extend the City's \$400 million facilities management contract for 2 years from January 2026, yet Councillors were not advised that this decision had been made;
- (iii) City staff regularly recommend contract terms beyond a 4-year Council term, with multiple multi-year options to extend the contract beyond the initial term delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to exercise;
- (iv) as a result, a number of major service contracts don't come before Council for decision for multiple Council terms, limiting the community's ability to democratically influence decisions on the delivery model for Council services at local government elections every 4 years;
- (v) Council adopted the Sourcing Framework Principles in August 2025, which sets out Council's policy and approach to determining the delivery model for the City's major services; and
- (vi) information about contracts over \$150,000 in value are publicly disclosed by the City of Sydney under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, inclusive of start date, duration and options, and published on the City of Sydney's website; and

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to report to Councillors via the CEO Update when an option to extend a major service contract over \$5 million is exercised under delegation.

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

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note that:

- (i) currently when an option to extend a service contract is exercised by the City's Chief Executive Officer, Councillors are not advised;
- (ii) in September 2025, Ventia notified the Australian Stock Exchange that the City of Sydney had exercised an option to extend the City's \$400 million facilities management contract for 2 years from January 2026, yet Councillors were not advised that this decision had been made;
- (iii) City staff regularly recommend contract terms beyond a 4-year Council term, with multiple multi-year options to extend the contract beyond the initial term delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to exercise;

- (iv) as a result, a number of major service contracts don't come before Council for decision for multiple Council terms, limiting the community's ability to democratically influence decisions on the delivery model for Council services at local government elections every 4 years;
 - (v) Council adopted the Sourcing Framework Principles in August 2025, which sets out Council's policy and approach to determining the delivery model for the City's major services; and
 - (vi) Information about contracts over \$150,000 in value are publicly disclosed by the City of Sydney under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, inclusive of start date, duration and options, and published on the City of Sydney's website; and
- (B) Council agree that where an option to extend a major contract is valued at over \$5 million, this is to be determined by the elected Council rather than under delegation;
- (C) when an option to extend a major service contract over \$5 million is proposed for extension, the Chief Executive Officer be requested to report to the elected Council with sufficient notice for Council to decide in a way which manages potential disruption to services; and
- (D) Council delegations and other relevant documents be updated to reflect this decision.

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

Ayes (5) Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Maxwell, Thompson and Weldon

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

Pursuant to the provisions of clause 11.3 of the Code of Meeting Practice, the amendment was declared lost.

Amendment lost.

Substantive motion carried unanimously.

X113758

Item 12.9 The Future of Victoria Barracks

Moved by Councillor Maxwell, seconded by Councillor Arkins –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) on 4 February 2026, the Federal Government announced its intention to divest Victoria Barracks, Paddington, as part of the Defence Estate Review;
- (ii) Victoria Barracks is an approximately 15-hectare Commonwealth-heritage-listed sandstone precinct established in the 1840s and one of the most significant intact military sites in Australia;
- (iii) the Defence Strategic Review stated that the Defence estate must be “fit for purpose” and that properties with historic legacy but limited contemporary strategic relevance may require rationalisation;
- (iv) Defence has previously indicated that while the functions and units based at Victoria Barracks are critically important, they are not inherently tied to that specific geographic location;
- (v) despite this, the site is one of Sydney’s most significant heritage sites, a symbol of 175 years of military service and an integral part of Australia’s defence history. It has both national and local heritage listing;
- (vi) Victoria Barracks is still owned by the Federal Government. It is operated by the Australian Defence Force;
- (vii) in anticipation of potential divestment, Council resolved in November 2024 to undertake community engagement and develop Guiding Principles for the future of the site;
- (viii) in March 2025, City of Sydney staff met with Department of Defence staff to discuss the development of the Guiding Principles. City staff extended an invitation to formally collaborate which was not possible at the time, being in advance of any decision;
- (ix) the City received 1,092 pieces of feedback through that engagement process. The Engagement Outcomes Report demonstrates strong community support for maximising public accessibility, enhancing green open space and maintaining the site in public ownership;
- (x) Council subsequently endorsed the following eight Guiding Principles to guide any future transformation of the site:
 - 1. Conserving and enhancing heritage and military significance.
 - 2. Maximising public accessibility and maintain public ownership.
 - 3. Enhancing and expanding green open space.
 - 4. Prioritising cultural and community uses.
 - 5. Incorporating diverse residential development including public housing.

6. Encouraging compatible and viable commercial uses.
 7. Supporting resilience and environmental sustainability.
 8. Careful planning, implementation and management.
- (xi) in December 2025, the Lord Mayor sent a copy of the Guiding Principles to the Minister for Defence Richard Marles with an invitation to further discuss should divestment be contemplated. The Minister has not yet responded;
- (xii) the Planning Institute of Australia has emphasised that surplus Defence land should be subject to coordinated, strategic planning processes prior to divestment or redevelopment to ensure long-term public value, infrastructure alignment and good urban outcomes;
- (xiii) across Australia and internationally, former military sites have been successfully transformed through strategic planning into major civic precincts;
- (xiv) the rezoning of a site of this scale and complexity requires comprehensive technical investigation, including heritage conservation, infrastructure capacity, transport, sustainability, open space provision, housing feasibility and governance modelling. This would require agreement from the landowner to obtain full access to the site;
- (xv) currently, the City of Sydney does not have any control over Victoria Barracks and is not the consent authority for planning of the site; and
- (xvi) strategic planning undertaken prior to formal rezoning can:
1. Provide clarity to other levels of government and potential purchasers.
 2. Preserve public value.
 3. Reduce speculative uplift and land banking.
 4. Embed infrastructure, public domain and heritage obligations from the outset.
 5. Enable orderly, staged implementation.
- (B) Council reaffirm its commitment to the 8 Guiding Principles endorsed for Victoria Barracks as the foundation for any future planning of the site;
- (C) Council further note that Victoria Barracks is currently not zoned for residential or mixed-use development, meaning any future transformation would require formal planning processes;
- (D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) commence scoping the preparation of a City-led strategic planning framework, including the technical studies required to inform a future planning proposal, consistent with the endorsed Guiding Principles, to be included in the budget process;
 - (ii) include in the said strategic planning framework investigation of:
 - (a) heritage conservation, interpretation and adaptive re-use models
 - (b) public access, public domain and open space opportunities;
 - (c) infrastructure capacity, staging and transport impacts;
 - (d) environmental sustainability, climate resilience and biodiversity;
 - (e) housing capacity, including affordable and diverse housing options;

- (f) financial, governance, ownership and delivery models capable of giving effect to the Guiding Principles, especially sustaining long-term heritage management; and
- (g) mechanisms to preserve public value and minimise speculative uplift prior to any formal rezoning;
- (iii) proactively monitor and engage with the divestment process for Victoria Barracks, which is being led by the Federal Government, with a view to seeking opportunities for the City to play a leadership role in shaping the future of Victoria Barracks in line with the community vision embodied in the Guiding Principles, including through planning;
- (iv) prepare a report to Council that includes outlining of:
 - (a) resourcing requirements;
 - (b) staging options;
 - (c) indicative timeframes; and
 - (d) governance and intergovernmental coordination considerations;
 for inclusion in the forthcoming budget process;
- (E) Council note that preparation of a strategic planning framework does not constitute a formal rezoning of the site, but ensures the City is prepared to respond promptly and constructively should a planning proposal pathway proceed; and
- (F) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to:
 - (i) the Federal Minister for Finance and the Federal Minister for Defence;
 - (ii) the NSW Premier and NSW Ministers for Planning, Housing, and Veterans; and
 - (iii) any other relevant stakeholders;
 asking them to consult the City of Sydney on any future use of the site, and advising that the City of Sydney is exploring the possibility of leading a coordinated, City-led planning as outlined in this motion, and request meetings to discuss.

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

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note:
 - (i) on 4 February 2026, the Federal Government announced its intention to divest Victoria Barracks, Paddington, as part of the Defence Estate Review;
 - (ii) Victoria Barracks is an approximately 15-hectare Commonwealth-heritage-listed sandstone precinct established in the 1840s and one of the most significant intact military sites in Australia;
 - (iii) the Defence Strategic Review stated that the Defence estate must be “fit for purpose” and that properties with historic legacy but limited contemporary strategic relevance may require rationalisation;
 - (iv) Defence has previously indicated that while the functions and units based at Victoria Barracks are critically important, they are not inherently tied to that specific geographic location;

- (v) despite this, the site is one of Sydney's most significant heritage sites, a symbol of 175 years of military service and an integral part of Australia's defence history. It has both national and local heritage listing;
- (vi) Victoria Barracks is still owned by the Federal Government. It is operated by the Australian Defence Force;
- (vii) in anticipation of potential divestment, Council resolved in November 2024 to undertake community engagement and develop Guiding Principles for the future of the site;
- (viii) in March 2025, City of Sydney staff met with Department of Defence staff to discuss the development of the Guiding Principles. City staff extended an invitation to formally collaborate which was not possible at the time, being in advance of any decision;
- (ix) the City received 1,092 pieces of feedback through that engagement process. The Engagement Outcomes Report demonstrates strong community support for maximising public accessibility, enhancing green open space and maintaining the site in public ownership;
- (x) Council subsequently endorsed the following eight Guiding Principles to guide any future transformation of the site:
 - 1. Conserving and enhancing heritage and military significance.
 - 2. Maximising public accessibility and maintain public ownership.
 - 3. Enhancing and expanding green open space.
 - 4. Prioritising cultural and community uses.
 - 5. Incorporating diverse residential development including public housing.
 - 6. Encouraging compatible and viable commercial uses.
 - 7. Supporting resilience and environmental sustainability.
 - 8. Careful planning, implementation and management.
- (xi) in December 2025, the Lord Mayor sent a copy of the Guiding Principles to the Minister for Defence Richard Marles with an invitation to further discuss should divestment be contemplated.
- (xii) the Assistant Minister for Defence responded on 20 February 2026. He said the Government is committed to preserving the site's historical significance and enhancing public access. He also said the Minister for Finance will lead the divestment process who will explore options to manage heritage obligations as a condition of sale with future owners.
- (xiii) the Planning Institute of Australia has emphasised that surplus Defence land should be subject to coordinated, strategic planning processes prior to divestment or redevelopment to ensure long-term public value, infrastructure alignment and good urban outcomes;
- (xiv) across Australia and internationally, former military sites have been successfully transformed through strategic planning into major civic precincts;
- (xv) the rezoning of a site of this scale and complexity requires comprehensive technical investigation, including heritage conservation, infrastructure capacity, transport, sustainability, open space provision, housing feasibility and governance modelling. This would require agreement from the landowner to obtain full access to the site;

(xvi) currently, the City of Sydney does not have any control over Victoria Barracks and is not the consent authority for planning of the site; and

(xvii) strategic planning undertaken prior to formal rezoning can:

1. Provide clarity to other levels of government and potential purchasers
2. Preserve public value
3. Reduce speculative uplift and land banking
4. Embed infrastructure, public domain and heritage obligations from the outset
5. Enable orderly, staged implementation

(B) Council reaffirm its commitment to the 8 Guiding Principles endorsed for Victoria Barracks as the foundation for any future planning of the site;

(C) Council further note that Victoria Barracks is currently not zoned for residential or mixed-use development, meaning any future transformation would require formal planning processes;

(D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to proactively monitor and engage with the divestment process for Victoria Barracks, which is being led by the Federal Government, and update Council via the CEO Update; and

(E) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Federal Minister for Finance, the NSW Premier and NSW Ministers for Planning, Housing, and Veterans to request:

(i) they consult the City of Sydney on any future use of the site; and

(ii) Victoria Barracks is not sold unless the future use of the site is in accordance with the City of Sydney's Guiding Principles, which were developed in consultation with the community.

The amendment was carried on the following show of hands –

Ayes (7) The Chair (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Ellsmore, Gannon, Kok, Miller, Thompson and Worling

Noes (3) Councillors Arkins, Maxwell and Weldon*

Amendment carried.

*Note – Councillor Weldon abstained from voting on this matter. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 11.4 of the Code of Meeting Practice, Councillor Weldon is taken to have voted against the motion.

The amended motion was carried on the following show of hands –

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

Noes (1) Weldon*

Amended motion carried.

*Note – Councillor Weldon abstained from voting on this matter. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 11.4 of the Code of Meeting Practice, Councillor Weldon is taken to have voted against the motion.

X113762

Misrepresentation

During discussion of Item 12.9, Councillor Maxwell stated that he had been misrepresented in respect to comments made by Councillor Worling and clarified his position accordingly.

Item 12.10 Vale Norma Hawkins

By Councillor Thompson

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the passing of Norma Hawkins on 23 January 2026, a community champion passionate about the arts and biodiversity, who made significant contributions to Sydney's theatre and film industries, and the advocacy of biodiversity conservation in Glebe; and
- (ii) Norma Hawkins was born in 1922, in Bega on the New South Wales south coast. The eldest child in her family of 5, Norma moved to Sydney, aged 14, following the passing of her mother;

(B) Council further note:

- (i) in 1980, Norma and her husband, Bruce joined the Glebe Society, shortly after moving in their home on St James Avenue in Glebe. This family home backed into John Street Reserve, with Norma observing, in 2005, that Superb Fairy Wrens were feeding young birds in their backyard. This has been lauded as potentially the last breeding event of wrens in Glebe;
- (ii) concerns around the survival of these birds led to the formation of the Glebe Society's Blue Wren Subcommittee, with Norma acting as a founding member in 2007;
- (iii) Norma continued as an active and enthusiastic member of the Subcommittee for the next 19 years right up to the time of her death at 103 years of age. She also made a significant financial contribution to the Subcommittee which supported the competitive Craney Small Grants Program in providing funds for biodiversity teaching and learning projects in our local preschools and schools. Norma's donation also supported the Society's annual biodiversity lecture; and
- (iv) members of the Blue Wren Subcommittee have said:

'Norma was a Glebe icon, a treasure, a great community member, a wonderful and amazing person who contributed so much to all the lives she touched, how lucky we were to have her on our side and I wish she was still with us.'

(C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to Norma's family expressing Council's condolences; and

(D) all persons attending this meeting of Council observe one minute's silence to commemorate Norma's life.

Variation. At the request of Councillor Miller, and by consent, the motion was varied, such that it read as follows –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the passing of Norma Hawkins on 23 January 2026, a community champion passionate about the arts and biodiversity, who made significant contributions to Sydney's theatre and film industries, and the advocacy of biodiversity conservation in Glebe; and
- (ii) Norma Hawkins was born in 1922, in Bega on the New South Wales south coast. The eldest child in her family of 5, Norma moved to Sydney, aged 14, following the passing of her mother;

(B) Council further note:

- (i) in 1980, Norma and her husband, Bruce joined the Glebe Society, shortly after moving in their home on St James Avenue in Glebe. This family home backed into John Street Reserve, with Norma observing, in 2005, that Superb Fairy Wrens were feeding young birds in their backyard. This has been lauded as potentially the last breeding event of wrens in Glebe;
- (ii) concerns around the survival of these birds led to the formation of the Glebe Society's Blue Wren Subcommittee, with Norma acting as a founding member in 2007;
- (iii) Norma continued as an active and enthusiastic member of the Subcommittee for the next 19 years right up to the time of her death at 103 years of age. She also made a significant financial contribution to the Subcommittee which supported the competitive Craney Small Grants Program in providing funds for biodiversity teaching and learning projects in our local preschools and schools. Norma's donation also supported the Society's annual biodiversity lecture; and
- (iv) members of the Blue Wren Subcommittee have said:

'Norma was a Glebe icon, a treasure, a great community member, a wonderful and amazing person who contributed so much to all the lives she touched, how lucky we were to have her on our side and I wish she was still with us.'

- (C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to Norma's family expressing Council's condolences;
- (D) all persons attending this meeting of Council observe one minute's silence to commemorate Norma's life; and
- (E) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to investigate re-naming a park in Glebe to Norma Hawkins Park or some other way to honour Norma, in accordance with the City of Sydney's Naming Policy, and report back to Council via the CEO Update.

Carried unanimously.

X113760

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

Item 12.11 NSW Police and the NSW Government's Vibrancy Reforms

By Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Miller

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note that:

- (i) the NSW Government has introduced several legislative and policy changes known as the "Vibrancy Reforms" that aim to improve the night-time economy in NSW by simplifying regulation, removing red tape, supporting outdoor activation and modernising the liquor licensing system;
- (ii) at the NEON Forum hosted by the Office of the 24 Hour Economy Commissioner in October 2025, the recently appointed Police Commissioner, Mal Lanyon, publicly stated that he supported the Government's Vibrancy Reforms;
- (iii) the Objects of the Liquor Act 2007 as stated in section 3 include:
 - (1)(c) to contribute to the responsible development of related industries such as the live music, entertainment, tourism and hospitality industries.
 - (2)(d) the need to support employment and other opportunities in the—
 - (i) live music industry, and
 - (ii) arts, tourism, community and cultural sectors;
- (iv) NSW Police may recommend that conditions be imposed on individual liquor licences, with such recommendations generally emanating from Police at the local level;
- (v) venue operators have raised concerns that such conditions are onerous, unduly restrictive and are inconsistent with the objects of the Liquor Act 2007 as set out above and the NSW Government's Vibrancy Reforms, to the extent that they undermine the intent and successful implementation of these reforms, including: mandatory facial recognition technology, restrictive dance floor capacity limits of one person per square metre, and post-midnight drink restrictions (Marlborough Hotel, Newtown); and
- (vi) onerous and restrictive police measures have been demonstrated to have a devastating impact on the City of Sydney's late-night economy, and that by 2026, over half of the city's music venues had shuttered in the decade following the lockdown laws introduction, according to the NSW Government's own [reporting](#). Financial impacts were estimated by Deloitte to be \$16 billion in forgone revenue per annum;

(B) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Minister for the Night-time Economy, Minister for Police and Minister for Gaming and Racing requesting that they initiate such legislative and policy change to ensure when NSW Police recommend that conditions be imposed on liquor licenses, such conditions advance the Objects of the Liquor Act as set out above and the intent of the NSW Government's Vibrancy Reforms and support the successful implementation of these reforms;

(C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to write to the Commissioner of Police and the 24 Hour Economy Commissioner requesting that they take action to ensure that when local police recommend that conditions be imposed on liquor licensees that any such conditions advance the Objects of the Liquor Act as set out above and the intent of the NSW Government's Vibrancy Reforms and support the successful implementation of these reforms.

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

Moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Arkins –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note that:

- (i) the NSW Government has introduced several legislative and policy changes known as the “Vibrancy Reforms” that aim to improve the night-time economy in NSW by simplifying regulation, removing red tape, supporting outdoor activation and modernising the liquor licensing system;
- (ii) at the NEON Forum hosted by the Office of the 24 Hour Economy Commissioner in October 2025, the recently appointed Police Commissioner, Mal Lanyon, publicly stated that he supported the Government's Vibrancy Reforms;
- (iii) the Objects of the Liquor Act 2007 as stated in section 3 include:
 - (1)(c) to contribute to the responsible development of related industries such as the live music, entertainment, tourism and hospitality industries.
 - (2)(d) the need to support employment and other opportunities in the—
 - (i) live music industry, and
 - (ii) arts, tourism, community and cultural sectors;
- (iv) NSW Police may recommend that conditions be imposed on individual liquor licences, with such recommendations generally emanating from Police at the local level;
- (v) the Police have proposed licensing conditions through an application to the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority on the Marlborough Hotel;
- (vi) venue operators have raised concerns that such conditions are onerous, unduly restrictive and are inconsistent with the objects of the Liquor Act 2007 as set out above and the NSW Government's Vibrancy Reforms, to the extent that they undermine the intent and successful implementation of these reforms, including: mandatory facial recognition technology, restrictive dance floor capacity limits of one person per square metre, and post-midnight drink restrictions (Marlborough Hotel, Newtown); and
- (vii) onerous and restrictive police measures have been demonstrated to have a devastating impact on the City of Sydney's late-night economy, and that by 2026, over half of the city's music venues had shuttered in the decade following the lockdown laws introduction, according to the NSW Government's own [reporting](#). Financial impacts were estimated by Deloitte to be \$16 billion in forgone revenue per annum;

(B) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Minister for the Night-time Economy, Minister for Police and Minister for Gaming and Racing requesting that they initiate such legislative and policy change to ensure when NSW Police recommend that conditions be imposed on liquor licenses, such conditions advance the Objects of the Liquor Act as set out above and the intent of the NSW Government's Vibrancy Reforms and support the successful implementation of these reforms;

- (C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to write to the Commissioner of Police and the 24 Hour Economy Commissioner requesting that they take action to ensure that when local police recommend that conditions be imposed on liquor licensees that any such conditions advance the Objects of the Liquor Act as set out above and the intent of the NSW Government's Vibrancy Reforms and support the successful implementation of these reforms; and
- (D) City of Sydney Councillors agree to co-signing a submission to the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority to oppose conditions imposed by police on the Marlborough Hotel as circulated.

Carried unanimously.

X113761

Item 12.12 Preventing ‘Poor Doors’ and Discrimination Against Low Income Tenants in New Housing Developments

Moved by Councillor Ellsmore, seconded by Councillor Thompson –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the term “poor door” refers to a separate entrance made for a residential building that segregates social, affordable or lower income housing tenants from the private or higher income tenants in a housing development;
- (ii) in cities like London and New York, ‘poor doors’ became more common in response to rules offering density bonuses, tax concessions or other incentives to developers in return for setting aside some units for affordable housing in their buildings;
- (iii) when social or affordable housing was required to be included in a building, some developers began segregating tenants on lower incomes from other tenants, by restricting their access to the common entrance, lobby, general tenant spaces and/ or services in the building;
- (iv) in NSW, developers are increasingly offered planning, zoning and tax benefits in return for the inclusion of some social or affordable housing in new developments. The current NSW Government’s approach to planning and development is estimated to lead to a significant increase in mixed-tenure apartment developments in Sydney;
- (v) recent reporting from Guardian Australia highlighted an example of a poor door in the Watermanns Residence at Barangaroo, where affordable housing tenants are required to use a separate entrance from other residents, who pass through a grand glass foyer with a concierge desk;
- (vi) other examples have also been reported, in some cases imposed by developers or landlords, and in some cases negotiated by Community Housing Providers to facilitate those providers to reduce their costs (for example by avoiding high strata fees);
- (vii) locally and internationally, ‘poor doors’ have been recognised as harmful to lower income communities and to social cohesion; and
- (viii) strong public opposition to ‘poor doors’ led to rule changes by London and New York councils, aimed at ensuring tenants with different incomes were treated equitably. Both cities introducing planning requirements in favour of ‘tenure-blind’ design in developments, and restrictions on the physical segregation of tenants, including restricting or banning ‘poor doors’;

(B) Council further note:

- (i) the City of Sydney’s current policy requires that affordable rental dwellings are designed and constructed to a standard which, in the opinion of the City, is generally consistent with other dwellings the same building. That is, affordable social housing is not differentiated as affordable housing compared with the design of the other housing;
- (ii) current Council requirements do not ban separate entrances or physical segregation for lower income tenants;

- (iii) the City recently exhibited the Affordable Housing Contributions Review 2024 and related documents, which seek changes to the Sydney LEP 2012, Affordable Housing Program and other documents, to improve the way affordable housing is delivered within the Local Government Area;
 - (iv) changes being considered by Council include that the City will have more powers to require affordable housing to be built as part of private developments; and
 - (v) the review creates an opportunity to consider updates to the council's requirements around separate entrances and equitable access to common spaces and services in a building for people on low incomes;
- (C) Council in principle agree:
- (i) that low income tenants should not be physically segregated from other tenants in building developments; and
 - (ii) that Council planning and affordable housing rules should encourage equitable access to spaces and services, and encourage social connection between different kinds of tenants, especially those living in the same building or local community; and
- (D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) provide advice to Council about how Council's existing affordable housing program and policies protect against tenure-based, physical segregation, including 'poor doors' or restricted access to common areas and building services;
 - (ii) seek feedback and input from Council's Housing for All Advisory Panel;
 - (iii) include collated advice in the report-back to Council with the final recommendations from the Affordable Housing Contributions Review;
 - (iv) if needed, provide advice about possible amendments to the Sydney LEP 2012, Affordable Housing Program and relevant documents, to ensure future affordable housing developments, facilitated by the City, are 'tenure blind' and facilitate all residents to have equitable access to areas within residential buildings; and
 - (v) refer this resolution, and any relevant later Council decisions, to Council's Design Advisory Panels and relevant Council staff who may be considering or assessing developments whose design proposes segregated entrances or services for lower income or affordable housing tenants.

Carried unanimously.

X113765

Item 12.13 Hot Summers and Access to Cool Spaces

Moved by Councillor Ellsmore, seconded by Councillor Thompson –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) Wednesday, 4 February 2026 was *Extreme Heat Awareness Day*. This day aimed to draw attention to the growing health and social challenge of extreme heat and raise people awareness about staying safe when temperatures soar for extended periods;
- (ii) Council supported the event, including holding awareness stalls in partnership with groups like the Red Cross and Sweltering Cities;
- (iii) the City of Sydney has taken important action to address climate change and the growing threat of extreme heat in the city. This includes:
 - (a) specific actions to reduce and mitigate urban heat in Council's Homelessness, Resilience, Environmental and Greening Sydney strategies;
 - (b) work through Resilient Sydney, and partnerships with community groups including Sweltering Cities;
 - (c) communication for residents via the Council's website and other communication channels about how to manage extreme heat;
 - (d) regularly update to planning controls to encourage building and place design which mitigates heat; and
 - (e) research to map and track temperatures in the Local Government Area (LGA), including those that impact people's health, trees, green spaces and wildlife;
- (iv) the City has a range of programs to support people at risk in extreme weather events and hot days. This includes the award-winning Mobile Cooling Hubs, a program to support people sleeping rough, which is delivered in partnership with St Vincent's Health Network and others, and extreme heat management protocols implemented in coordination with other government agencies and services; and
- (v) at its October 2025 meeting Council resolved to request that the Chief Executive Officer:
 - (a) consider extended opening hours for one or more of Council's airconditioned and accessible indoor community spaces as a heat relief space over the summer; and
 - (b) investigate the budget implications of extended and night-time opening hours for staffed libraries and community centres (as heat relief spaces) for Council's consideration as part of the preparation of the 2026/27 Budget and Operational Plan; and

(B) Council further note:

- (i) other LGAs in NSW and Victoria have also been mapping patterns of extreme heat in their areas, and developing strategies to mitigate its effects for residents, particularly low-income residents and people with specific needs; and
- (ii) some examples of the strategies to address extreme heat being trialled or implemented by other local councils (variously by Parramatta, Hawkesbury, Charles Sturt, Blacktown, Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla, Yarra City and Merri-bek Councils) focused on use of public or council spaces include:
 - (a) extended hours opening for council owned spaces like libraries – including the trial of later hours especially over this past summer;
 - (b) using Council facilities as ‘heatwave havens’ – allocating or setting up dedicated spaces in leisure centres and council customer service centres for this purpose;
 - (c) helping establish other public spaces as ‘heatwave havens’ – for example adding solar, batteries, air conditioning, backup generators, electric signboards and other equipment to community locations so they also can serve as suitable and welcoming ‘heatwave havens’ in periods of extreme heat; and
 - (d) mobilising volunteers and council staff to activate community locations where councils want to encourage people to go in extreme heat, and ensuring active transport is available so people can access them.

Carried unanimously.

X113765

Item 12.14 Commemorating Charles Perkins

Moved by Councillor Weldon, seconded by Councillor Arkins –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) Dr. Charles (Charlie) Perkins AO, a proud Arrernte/Kalkadoon man, was a seminal figure in the Aboriginal rights movement. He dedicated his life to public service, challenging injustice and improving the welfare of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
- (ii) Charlie Perkins is most famously known for leading the 1965 Freedom Ride, which brought national attention to the systemic racism and segregation in rural New South Wales. He did so as a student at the University of Sydney, becoming one of the first Indigenous university graduates in Australia;
- (iii) having moved to Sydney to study, Charlie Perkins made a home at 27 Catherine Street in Glebe with his wife Eileen. It was here they started a family, with the birth of their first daughter Hetti;
- (iv) in 2021, the NSW Government launched a Blue Plaque program to celebrate notable people and events. The Glebe Society nominated the Perkins' former home. Charlie Perkins was commemorated the following year, but the plaque was installed at the Charles Perkins Centre at the University of Sydney. The Glebe Society remains interested in a plaque at the Perkins' former home;
- (v) the City of Sydney has its own historic plaque program (a precursor to the NSW program) and is currently developing special markers for sites of Aboriginal significance. The Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council has endorsed the prospective inclusion of 27 Catherine Street as a site of Aboriginal significance; and
- (vi) last year marked the sixtieth anniversary of the Freedom Rides. The City of Sydney celebrated the occasion with a reception at Town Hall, the launch of a photo exhibition at 119 Redfern Street, and support for an Aboriginal community anniversary gala; and

- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to include 27 Catherine Street in the roll-out of new Aboriginal significant site markers, in consultation with the owners of the property and the family of Charlie Perkins.

Carried unanimously.

X113759

Item 12.15 Fair Conditions in the Cruise Industry using Sydney Harbour

By Councillor Ellsmore

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) Sydney Harbour is home to numerous cruise liners from all around the world;
- (ii) Carnival Cruises is one of the main cruise companies offering cruises around, and to, Australia. It has 2 “home ports” in Sydney - Circular Quay and White Bay;
- (iii) a number of Councillors in the City of Sydney have been made aware of alleged systematic, and ongoing, industrial exploitation of Carnival Cruise workers on Sydney-based vessels;
- (iv) the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) have indicated that Carnival crew members are regularly transported to Australia, by Carnival Cruise, and provided with short-term, insecure contracts. Workers are commonly from countries such as Indonesia, India and the Philippines. They are flown into Circular Quay where they join the ship, and then sail the Australian coast for a short-term contract of around 9 months, before being driven back to the airport where they are flown home;
- (v) the MUA advises that crew members on these contractual arrangements report wages of less than \$2.50 per hour, worker hours exceeding 10 hours per day with no penalty rates, and limited days off between consecutive days of work; and
- (vi) the workers don't have the protection of minimum wages and conditions which would be offered to Australian workers under Australian industrial systems. The MUA has been advocating for Carnival Cruise to sign up to international minimum standards for cruise workers which – while lower than the conditions and wages generally offered to Australian workers – which be significantly better and safer than current conditions;

(B) Council also note:

- (i) the City of Sydney has consistently advocated for the protection and extension of human rights, including labour rights, and is committed to its obligations under Modern Slavery legislation;
- (ii) these obligations include an ethical, reputational, and financial imperative to prevent Modern Slavery in all its forms and set the highest possible standard to safeguard human rights;
- (iii) earlier this year the City of Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore, and the City of Melbourne Lord Mayor, wrote to Carnival Cruises expressing concern about the human rights and conditions of cruise workers; and
- (iv) Melbourne Councillors are considering what support the Council currently offers to Carnival Cruises, and whether this should be withdrawn or revised; and

(C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to investigate if the City of Sydney provides any support to Carnival Cruises through City policy or programs and report back to Council via a CEO Update. This may include tourism support.

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

Moved by Councillor Ellsmore, seconded by Councillor Thompson –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) Sydney Harbour is home to numerous cruise liners from all around the world;
- (ii) Carnival Cruise Line is one of the largest cruise line companies operating in Australian waters, and internationally. Carnival Cruise Line currently has 2 vessels home-ported in Sydney, the Carnival Adventure, and the Carnival Splendor;
- (iii) a number of Councillors in the City of Sydney have been made aware of alleged systematic, and ongoing, industrial exploitation of Carnival Cruise Line workers on Australian-based vessels;
- (iv) the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) have indicated that Carnival crew members are regularly transported to Australia, by the company, and provided with short-term, insecure contracts. Workers are commonly brought in from countries such as Indonesia, India and the Philippines. They are transported immediately to Circular Quay where they join the ship, and then sail the Australian coast for a short-term contract of around 9 months, before being driven back to the airport where they are flown home;
- (v) the MUA advises that crew members on these contractual arrangements report wages of as little as \$2.50 per hour, worker hours exceeding 10 hours per day with no penalty rates, and have reports of crew working months without a day off;
- (vi) the MUA has reported that whistle-blowers have told them about cramped living conditions, contributing to a high incidence of disease amongst crew - particularly skin infections, and company doctors requiring crew to work while sick;
- (vii) these workers don't have the protection of minimum wages and conditions which would be offered to Australian workers under Australian industrial systems. The MUA has been advocating for Carnival Cruise Line to negotiate an International Transport Worker's Federation agreement which would significantly improve the pay and conditions of the workforce; and
- (viii) these vessels are sailing the Australian coast, using Australian ports, carrying Australian passengers and charging Australian fares. The workforce on board, and broader community, should expect Australian industrial standards;

(B) Council also note:

- (i) the City of Sydney has consistently advocated for the protection and extension of human rights, including labour rights, and is committed to its obligations under Modern Slavery Legislation;
- (ii) these obligations include an ethical, reputational, and financial imperative to prevent Modern Slavery in all its forms and set the highest possible standard to safeguard human rights;
- (iii) earlier this year the City of Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore, and the City of Melbourne Lord Mayor of Mayor, wrote to Carnival Cruise Line expressing concern about the human rights and conditions of cruise line workers; and
- (iv) Melbourne Councillors are considering what support the council currently offers to Carnival Cruises, and whether this should be withdrawn or revised;

- (C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to investigate if the City of Sydney provides any support to Carnival Cruises through City policy or programs and report back to Council via a CEO Update. This may include tourism support; and
- (D) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development Catherine King in support of the proposal that Coastal Trading Act 2012 exemptions, provided to Australian home-ported Cruise Ships, be made conditional on the provision of fair working conditions, such as those proscribed by the International Transport Workers' Federation Agreement.

Carried unanimously.

X113765

Monday 23 February 2026

80

At 8.24 pm the meeting concluded.

Chair of a meeting of the Council of the City
of Sydney held on Monday 23 March 2026 at which
meeting the signature herein was subscribed.