

Memorandum of Understanding - Anzac Day 2026-2027

File No: S112015

Summary

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Sydney (City), The Returned and Services League of Australia (NSW Branch) (RSL NSW), and the State of New South Wales (the State) represented by Premiers Department provides a commitment between parties to cooperate in the organisation and staging of Anzac Day services (Anzac Day Dawn Service, the Anzac Day March, the Commemoration Service and the Sunset Service).

These arrangements enable the City to work collaboratively with the State and RSL NSW to deliver the annual events, which are acknowledged by all parties as significant events as part of the veteran landscape and an appropriate way to commemorate and acknowledge Anzac Day in Sydney.

This is consistent with arrangements (previous MOUs) that have been in place over a number of years to coordinate the organisation and staging of Anzac Day services.

The scope of the agreement includes the principles, roles and responsibilities that each of the 3 coordinating agencies (the City, the State and RSL NSW) will cooperate regarding the organisation and facilitation of the annual Anzac Day events.

The Memorandum of Understanding:

- defines the responsibilities of each party in regard to support, coordination and facilitation of Anzac Day events, including associated costs
- maintains the ongoing cooperative relationship with the relevant parties in regard to the organisation and facilitation of Anzac Day events
- highlights the significance of, and demonstrates the City's commitment to, the ongoing facilitation of Anzac Day events in Sydney now and into the future

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to enter into and finalise a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of New South Wales and The Returned and Services League of Australia (NSW Branch); and
- (B) Council approve for the 2026 and 2027 Anzac Day events:
 - (i) annual funding of one third of actual costs up to a maximum of \$77,000 (excluding GST) payable to the State for Hostile Vehicle Mitigation measures;
 - (ii) annual funding of \$10,000 (excluding GST) payable to The Returned and Services League of Australia (NSW Branch) to assist in the implementation and delivery of the event; and
 - (iii) annual value-in-kind support for 150 veteran's themed banners for up to 2 weeks.

Attachments

Attachment A. Key City of Sydney Roles and Responsibilities

Background

1. The City of Sydney (the City) supports Anzac Day Events and Ceremonies. This has been undertaken in conjunction with the Returned and Services League of Australia (NSW Branch) (RSL NSW) and the State of New South Wales (the State) who are the primary agencies involved in a range of events that take place annually on 25 April.
2. The City has previously provided support towards the facilitation of Anzac Day ceremonies and events in the form of pre- and post-event cleaning, lighting coordination, removal of infrastructure and equipment, access to power, provision of banners, access to the venue sites, and cash grants to assist with the cost of event facilitation.
3. The development of a Memorandum of Understanding between all agencies was undertaken in order to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each party in relation to the coordination and facilitation of the event and financial commitments specifically in relation to Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM).
4. The roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders have been defined and outline the support and coordination required from the City and other stakeholders.
5. The Memorandum of Understanding will cover the official NSW Anzac Day Dawn Service, Martin Place; Anzac Day March, Sydney CBD; the Commemoration Service at the Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park South and the Sunset Service, Martin Place Cenotaph.
6. The responsibilities of the City include:
 - (a) attend and participate in relevant stakeholder meetings, and provision of event-related documentation
 - (b) provision of representation in the event control centre to oversee the security and logistical aspects of the events on Anzac Day
 - (c) financial contribution towards the Hostile Vehicle Mitigation, event delivery, and the provision of value-in-kind for the creation of event-themed banners
 - (d) contribution to city coordination, preparation for and management of the clean-up following the event

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

7. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 8 - A thriving cultural and creative life - the Memorandum of Understanding demonstrates the City's recognition of the significance and ongoing commitment to the facilitation and support of Anzac Day Events.

Organisational Impact

8. Given the City already participates in the coordination and facilitation of Anzac Day activities, including providing financial contributions and value-in-kind support, there are no new organisational impacts.

Risks

9. Reputation and Image - We recognise the significance of our reputation as a valuable asset that influences stakeholder trust, business continuity and the short- and long-term achievement of our objectives. The City has minimal appetite for risk that impacts our reputation, standing and brand with the community, media, stakeholders, investors, other levels of government and overseas.
10. Our risk philosophy is centred around achieving a balance between innovation, community and user satisfaction and risk management, ensuring that we meet our strategic objectives while maintaining a robust control environment.

Social / Cultural / Community

11. Anzac Day is a socially significant day in that it commemorates those service men and women who served in conflict on behalf of Australia. There is a community expectation that Anzac Day traditions in the form of the dawn service and Anzac Day parade be held annually as part of this commemoration and day of reflection.

Economic

12. Whilst the significance of Anzac Day is commemoration, the day and associated events do attract a high level of foot traffic into the City which has a natural flow on effect for local businesses.

Financial Implications

13. Under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, the City agrees to contribute one third of the actual cost, up to a maximum of \$77,000 (excluding GST), annually towards the Hostile Vehicle Mitigation of Anzac Day for the 2026 and 2027 events.
14. A further \$10,000 (excluding GST) will be paid annually to the The Returned and Services League of Australia New South Wales Branch (RSL NSW) to assist in the implementation and delivery of the events.
15. Support for the event includes 150 veterans-themed banners, printed and installed for up to 2 weeks (pending availability) to the value of approximately \$30,000 value-in-kind.
16. Funding has been included in the 2025/26 operating budget and future year forward estimates.

Relevant Legislation

17. Local Government Act 1993.
18. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that a council may, in accordance with a resolution of the council, contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions.
19. Anzac Memorial (Building) Act 1923.
20. RSL NSW Act 2018.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

21. The Memorandum of Understanding is required to be in place prior to 25 April 2026 in order to enable the coordination of 2026 Anzac Day events.

Public Consultation

22. Consultation has been undertaken with the external agencies involved in the delivery of Anzac Day events in order to develop the Memorandum of Understanding and the Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders.

EMMA RIGNEY

Executive Director City Life

Adam Sherar, Manager Venue Management