



Council Chambers  
31 January 2025

An Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Cammeraygal lands at the Council Chambers, North Sydney at 7.00pm on Monday 10 February 2025. The agenda is as follows.

**THERESE COLE**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

North Sydney Council is an Open Government Council. The records of Council are available for public viewing in accordance with this policy, with the only exception being made for certain confidential documents such as legal advice, matters required by legislation not to be divulged, and staff matters.

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- 1. Opening of Meeting**
  - 2. Acknowledgement of Country**
  - 3. Apologies and applications for leaves of absence or attendance by audio-visual link by councillors**
  - 4. Confirmation of Minutes**
  - 5. Disclosures of Interests**
  - 6. Public Forum**
  - 7. Items by Exception**
  - 8. Mayoral Minutes**  
  
Nil
  - 9. Reports of Committees**
    - 9.1 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Minutes - 22 November 2024
    - 9.2 Traffic Committee Minutes - 29 November 2024
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## **10. Reports to Council**

- 10.1 Informing Strategies - planning for our next 10 years
- 10.2 Asset Management Strategy and Asset Management Plans
- 10.3 Proposed special rate variation for long term financial sustainability

## **11. Notices of Motion/Questions with Notice**

- 11.1 Notice of Motion 1/25: Contamination of Long Bay, Cammeray - Crs Carr & Keen
- 11.2 Notice of Motion 2/25: North Sydney Parkrun - Crs Carr & Keen
- 11.3 Notice of Motion 3/25: Preventing net loss of housing units in development projects - Cr Welch
- 11.4 Notice of Motion 4/25: Proposed night works for the construction of Sydney Harbour Bridge bike ramp by Transport for NSW - Crs Carr & Keen
- 11.5 Notice of Motion 5/25: Special Rate Variation – request for transparency, analysis, and immediate financial reforms - Crs Carr & Keen

## **12. Matters of Urgency**

Raised by Councillors

## **13 Closure of Meeting**

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**TO:** The Mayor Zoë Baker, and Councillors Antonini, Beregi, Carr, Holding, Hoy, Keen, Santer, Spenceley, and Welch

**MEETING OF COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2025**

**1. OPENING MEETING**

**2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

**3. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVES OF ABSENCE OR ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK BY COUNCILLORS**

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**THAT THE MINUTES** of the Ordinary Council meeting held on Monday 9 December 2024 be taken as read and confirmed.

**5. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

**6. PUBLIC FORUM**

**7. ITEMS BY EXCEPTION**

**8. MINUTES OF THE MAYOR**

**9. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**9.1 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Minutes - 22 November 2024**

Report of Peita Rose, Governance Officer

The purpose of this report is to enable Council to consider the Minutes of this Committee as required under the Audit, Risk, and Improvement Committee Terms of Reference.

- This report presents the decisions of the last meeting of the Audit, Risk, and Improvement Committee held on 22 November 2024 for Council adoption. The minutes are attached for information.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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**1. THAT** the Minutes of the Audit, Risk, and Improvement Committee meeting held on 22 November 2024 be endorsed.

## **9.2 Traffic Committee Minutes - 29 November 2024**

Report of Ian Curry, Manager Governance

Council is required to consider the Minutes of this Committee. Section 5.3.2 of the RMS Delegation to Council for the Regulation of Traffic states that: *All proposals recommended by the LTC must still be formally endorsed by the elected Council (or their sub-delegate), subject to certain limitations.*

- This report presents the Minutes of the last meeting of the Traffic Committee held 29 November 2024 for Council adoption. The Minutes are attached for information.
- The full reports to the Traffic Committee can be viewed at <https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/homepage/82/traffic-committee>.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**1. THAT** the Minutes of the Traffic Committee meeting dated 29 November 2024 be received.

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## 10. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

### 10.1 Informing Strategies - planning for our next 10 years

Report of Emma FitzRoy, Executive Manager Organisational Performance

The purpose of this report is to present the following informing strategies to Council for adoption:

- Open Space and Recreation Strategy
- Integrated Transport Strategy
- Social Inclusion Strategy
- Culture and Creativity Strategy
- Environment Strategy
- Economic Development Strategy
- Governance Strategy

The Housing Strategy supplement is also provided to Council for adoption. This supplement was developed to highlight the key projects and initiatives from the existing North Sydney Local Housing Strategy (NSLHS) that are ongoing, incorporate new/modified actions that align with the new housing targets, and update the format to match Council's other informing strategies. It does not replace the existing adopted NSLHS.

- In 2024, Council undertook a comprehensive community engagement program, the 'Have your say on North Sydney's next ten years' campaign, to understand the needs and priorities of our community.

- The valuable insights gathered through engagement, along with extensive research, have shaped a suite of informing strategies that articulate the planning, projects, and services that are required to meet changing community needs and priorities over the next 10 years.

- Following consideration by Council on 25 November 2024, the draft informing strategies were placed on public exhibition from 27 November 2024 to 10 January 2025. 501 YourSay survey responses and 13 emailed submissions were received and considered.

- A number of amendments have been made to the informing strategies to address feedback and to make minor administrative changes. These amendments are outlined in this report.

- Once adopted, the informing strategies will take precedence over all existing Council strategies and plans except where required by legislation, and will replace the following existing Council strategies:

- Economic Development Strategy 2016;
- Transport Strategy 2017;
- Open Space Provision Strategy 2009; and
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021.

- To achieve the outcomes and objectives of the informing strategies, it is estimated Council will require the following funding over the ten-year period:

Strategy	Total estimated funding \$,000	Grants \$,000	Developer Contributions \$,000	Additional rating revenue \$,000
Open Space and Recreation	\$112,835	\$39,915	\$8,911	\$64,009
Integrated Transport	\$38,995	\$18,861	\$0	\$20,134
Social Inclusion	\$37,961		\$1,200	\$36,761
Culture and Creativity	\$16,570		\$500	\$16,070
Environment	\$12,609	\$1,500	\$253	\$10,856
Economic Development	\$45,550		\$22,750	\$22,800
Governance	\$21,165			\$21,165
Housing	\$440			\$440

A separate report (10.3 - Proposed Special Rate Variation for long term financial sustainability) is presented to Council that considers Council's financial position and provides options for delivery of a financial strategy (including a special rate variation (SRV)) that fixes the current financial deficit and provides sufficient resources to deliver the projects and services identified in the strategies.

- Whilst the ability of Council to fully deliver the actions identified in the informing strategies is dependent on funding availability, adoption of the strategies may occur before a decision is made on the SRV. The strategies are intended to articulate where North Sydney wants to be in 10 years and what needs to be done to get there. Each strategy notes that timing and delivery of new projects and initiatives will be dependent on availability of funding.

- As the strategies are ten-year strategies, they therefore span multiple terms of Council. The contribution of each elected Council during their term will be determined by each elected Council through the development of their four-year Delivery Program, which must be supported with required resources to achieve the actions of the plan. Achieving the outcomes and objectives of the strategy will be dependent upon the performance of Council over more than one term.

- Once the preferred funding option is determined (report 10.3), Council's next four-year delivery program will be developed based on the priorities identified in the informing strategies and resource availability.

- **Recommending:**

**1. THAT** Council adopts the following informing strategies:

- Open Space and Recreation Strategy
- Integrated Transport Strategy
- Social Inclusion Strategy
- Culture and Creativity Strategy
- Environment Strategy
- Economic Development Strategy
- Governance Strategy

**2. THAT** the informing strategies take precedence over all existing Council strategies and plans except where required by legislation, and will replace the following existing Council strategies:

- Economic Development Strategy 2016
- Transport Strategy 2017

- Open Space Provision Strategy 2009
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021
- 3. THAT** Council adopt the Housing Strategy Supplement, noting that it does not replace the existing North Sydney Local Housing Strategy.
- 4. THAT** the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to make minor corrections and administrative amendments to the strategies, if required.

## 10.2 Asset Management Strategy and Asset Management Plans

Report of Ibrahim Malla, Asset Management Coordinator

This report presents feedback received in relation to the public exhibition of Council's Revised Asset Management Strategy, and seeks Council's adoption of the Asset Management Strategy and Asset Management Plans

– At its meeting on the 25 November 2024 Council resolved to place the draft updated 2022/26 Delivery Program, revised Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and revised Asset Management Strategy on public exhibition from 27 November 2024 to 10 January 2025.

- When the public exhibition period closed, 262 responses specifically mentioned the Revised Asset Management Strategy.

○ 152 of these responses received were general comments in relation to the general or financial management of Council.

○ 53 respondents (approximately 20% of all respondents) wanted Council to explore divestment or leasing of community assets.

○ 29 respondents (approximately 11% of all respondents) made comments or sought technical information in relation to the revised Asset Management Strategy.

○ 17 Respondents (approximately 6.5% of respondents) noted their general support for the revised Asset Management Strategy.

○ 2 respondents wanted Council to increase user charges to users of Council facilities to achieve full cost recovery.

○ 3 respondents noted that they were uncertain in relation to the revised Asset Management Strategy and therefore unable to comment.

- Asset Management Plans have now been prepared in alignment with the revised Asset Management Strategy.

- The Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) Guidelines as enacted through the NSW Local Government Amendment (Governance and Planning) Act 2016, require Councils to prepare and adopt an Asset Management Strategy and Asset Management Plans for each class of asset.

### **Recommending:**

**1. THAT** Council notes the responses received from the public exhibition of the Revised Asset Management Strategy

**2. THAT** Council adopt the Revised Asset Management Strategy.

**3. THAT** Council notes the suite of Asset Management Plans that have been developed for each of the classes of Assets outlined within the Asset Management Strategy; and

**4. THAT** the Council adopts the suite of Asset Management Plans that have been developed for each of the classes of Assets outlined within the Asset Management Strategy.

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5. **THAT** Council note that Asset Management Plans are operational in nature and will be updated under delegation to the Chief Executive Officer on a regular basis.

### 10.3 Proposed special rate variation for long term financial sustainability

Report of Aigul Utegenova, Chief Financial Officer, and Luke Harvey, Director Corporate Services

1. Determine a financial strategy to address Council's financial position and ensure strength and sustainability for the future;
2. Consider its rating structure and strategy, including consideration of Special Rate Variation;
3. Consider the feedback from the community engagement on the proposal to make an application for a special rate variation and increase to minimum rates, and to adopt the revised 2025-2035 Long Term Financial Plan and Amended 2022-2026 Delivery Program.

- Council maintains its commitment to productivity savings and to reduce the burden on rates. Council has been on a continuous improvement journey over the past two years as outlined in the Organisational Improvement Plan. In addition, measures have been taken to maintain budgets in a highly inflationary environment. While these initiatives have assisted Council's financial sustainability to date, they are not of a scale that can ensure its long-term financial sustainability including service delivery and infrastructure responsibilities.

- In considering the Draft Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024, Council's Audit, Risk, and Improvement Committee (consisting of three skills-based independent members) noted the need for 'a complete strategic overhaul of Council's finances is urgently required to ensure the ongoing viability of the Council'.

- Under the Local Government Act 1993, Council has responsibilities for financial management, strategic planning through the integrated planning and reporting framework and intergenerational equity.

- A report was presented to Council on 25 November 2024 that provided the background to Council's financial position, and a proposed strategy for its return to financial sustainability.

- On 25 November 2024, Council resolved to undertake community consultation between 27 November 2024 and 10 January 2025 on a revised Long-Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Strategy and addendum to its Delivery program, alongside four proposed options for a special variation to rates, changes to minimum rates, and a roll-up of special levies.

- Throughout the consultation period there was a high level of engagement, with all rate payers receiving a mailed physical information pack, over 16,000 views of related social media posts, articles in ABC Online, the Sydney Morning Herald and local newspapers, and receipt of over 1,000 submissions from the community.

- The dedicated YourSay webpage attracted 4,494 unique visitors, of which 792 (17.6%) completed the survey, an additional 245 submissions were received via email and 22 in person or by phone.

- In addition to open community consultation, a workshop was undertaken with a demographically selected group of residents to provide representative feedback towards Council's challenges and forward strategic position.

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- Amendments have been made to the draft 2025-2035 Long-Term Financial Plan and Addendum to the 2022-26 Delivery Program to incorporate updated information and changes following community consultation.
- Based on the need to achieve financial sustainability, continue to deliver services and assets as expected by our community, and prepare for the high expected growth in our community, a revised Option 2A is proposed. This option reflects an increase of rates of 45% in 2025/26 and 29% in 2026/27, with an increase of the minimum residential rate to \$1,200 in 2025/26 and minimum business rate to \$1,400 in 2025/26. This also incorporates the current Infrastructure Levy, Environmental Levy, Crows Nest Mainstreet Levy, and Neutral Bay Mainstreet Levy into the ordinary rates.
- The cumulative impact of the proposed special rate variation revised Option 2A is 87.05% over two years.
- The outcome of the special rate variation will strengthen Council's financial position, provide funding for infrastructure renewal and reduce infrastructure backlogs. In addition, the plan will allow responsiveness to the challenges and opportunities outlined in Council's informing strategies through a series of strategic actions including new and upgraded infrastructure for the growing population.
- Based on feedback, to reduce the volume of the rates increase in year 1, spending on strategic priorities has been reduced in the short-term and to seek an additional \$10 million loan to fund the North Sydney Olympic Pool. It should be noted that like the original options presented, infrastructure renewal funding has been limited to 80% in Years 1 and 2 excluding critical backlog in a bid to also reduce the initial rate increase.
- Should Council endorse an application for a special rate variation and an increase to minimum rates, an application including IPART's Special Variation Application Part A and Part B, Minimum Rates Application Part A and Part B, and all necessary documentation including revised Long Term Financial Plan, Addendum to the Delivery Program, and Asset Management Strategy will be required to be lodged with IPART for their consideration and independent assessment.

**Recommending:**

**1. THAT Council:**

1. receive and note the contents of the Special Rate Variation Community Feedback Report, which outlines the feedback received from the community consultation on the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV), increase of minimum rates and changes to special levies.
  2. note the NSW Parliament's Standing Committee on State Development 'Inquiry into the ability of local government to fund infrastructure and services 2024' recommended changes to the local government rating system which would assist councils in addressing some of the cost pressures faced in delivering community services and infrastructure.
  3. adopt a new rating structure to commence from 1 July 2025, which incorporates the current Infrastructure Levy, Environmental Levy, Crows Nest Mainstreet Levy, and Neutral Bay Mainstreet Levy into the ordinary rates.
  4. note that the special variation to rates to IPART is consistent with Council's responsibilities under the Local Government Act 1993.
  5. adopt Revised Option 2A of the Addendum to the 2022-2026 Delivery Program included within Attachment 6.
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6. adopt the revised 2025-35 Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and proceed with Revised Option 2A as a strategy to improve Council's financial strength and sustainability.

7. make an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a permanent Special Rate Variation (SRV), under Section 508A of the Local Government Act 1993 commencing on 1 July 2025. The SRV would permanently increase total ordinary rates over 2 years and remain in perpetuity, as follows:

a) a 45% increase for the 2025-26 financial year (inclusive of the 4% rate peg determined by IPART for the year).

b) a 29% increase for the 2026-27 financial year (inclusive of the forecast rate peg of 3.0% for that year)

c) the removal of the current Infrastructure, Environmental and Main Street levies, and the income incorporated into the ordinary rate.

8. make an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal to set its minimum rates in accordance with Section 548(3) of the Local Government Act 1993, for residential rates, as follows:

a) \$1,200 for the 2025-26 financial year, and

b) \$1,548 for the 2026-27 financial year. The minimum rate will change by the rate peg from 2027/28.

9. make an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal to set its minimum rates in accordance with Section 548(3) of the Local Government Act 1993, for business rates, as follows:

a) \$1,400 for the 2025-26 financial year, and

b) \$1,806 for the 2026-27 financial year. The minimum rate will change by the rate peg from 2027/28.

10. approve the pursuit of opportunities to generate revenue through advertising as appropriate.

11. approve a loan of \$10 million for a term of 10 years to fund the North Sydney Olympic Pool project.

## 11. NOTICES OF MOTION

### 11.1 Notice of Motion 1/25: Contamination of Long Bay, Cammeray - Crs Carr & Keen

1. **THAT** North Sydney Council conduct a comprehensive review of the source of contamination in Long Bay Cammeray focusing on:

a. the discharge of milky slurry sediment from a 200mm polyethylene pipe located at the head of Long Bay Cammeray;

b. the identification of the asset owner and the discharge material; and

c. the identification of the licensing agreement (if any) under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.

2. **THAT** Council defer any investigation into "Acid Sulphate Soil" as the cause of the issue until item 1 above has been investigated by Council as follows:

a. the collation of information about the discharge from:

i. Sydney Water Corporation, regarding pumped outflows from the Northside Storage Tunnel – particularly the "Decline Tunnel" from the Tunks Park access portal;

- ii. Sydney Water, regarding works at the western end of Tunks park during 2024; and
- iii. the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), regarding water quality testing in the bay.

**3. THAT** Council assess the impact of the contamination.

**4. THAT** Council consider repairing or removing the 200mm polyethylene pipe and terminating its discharge.

**5. THAT** a report be presented to Council within three months of this Notice of Motion, detailing findings and recommendations to improve the water quality in Long Bay Cammeray.

**6. THAT** Council ensure compliance with State Government legislation to ensure all waste is disposed of in accordance with the relevant state laws.

#### **Background**

The discharge location of the pipeline is located within North Sydney Council local government area. It is the responsibility of Council to monitor this contamination and ensure compliance with the NSW Government's Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.

North Sydney Council has engaged environmental and geotechnical contractors to carry out testing for acid sulphate soils within the vicinity of Tunks Park. Before undertaking testing for acid sulphate soils in Tunks Park that may cause unnecessary costs to residents, the obvious question is what the origin of this pipe is and what is the discharge.

#### **Events leading up to a noticeable milky discharge in Long Bay**

In 2020 a black polyethylene pipeline approximately 200mm in diameter was found to be floating on the surface of the water in Long Bay, Cammeray. The pipeline floated on the surface of the bay for several months. Following complaints by vessels, the pipeline was then fitted with a floating marker by NSW Maritime, due to the navigational impacts to vessels using the boat ramp in the Bay. Strong weather events over time caused the pipe to be washed ashore. By this point, the pipe was damaged, and part of the pipe was disconnected/cut. It is unclear which organisation or individual disconnected/cut the pipe. Since the time of the disconnection of the pipeline, a milky slurry discharge has been regularly visible in the waters of Long Bay. It is possible that the discharge is caused by a high-volume pump, such as a slurry pump that may be used in tunnel operations.

It is possible that the original discharge outlet may have been in deep water to the east, within Long Bay. Irrespective, of its previous location, it is now highly visible and causing discolouration of the waters and possible contamination in the vicinity of swimmers, recreational fishing, boat operators, the commercial operations of Cammeray Marina, various residents, and other water users.

This matter has been reported many times to the EPA, North Sydney Council, and the Sydney Water Corporation and Fisheries, without a satisfactory response or resolution.

Sydney Water Corporation commenced an operation at the western end of Tunks Park during the winter of 2024. Discharges into Long Bay ceased until December 2024. The milky discharge from this pipe has now returned to the waters of Long Bay.

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**11.2 Notice of Motion 2/25: North Sydney Parkrun - Crs Carr & Keen****1. THAT** North Sydney Council:

- i recognises the success of North Sydney Parkrun since its inception in 2018, supporting fitness, and fostering community involvement through volunteering.
- ii acknowledges the ongoing contribution of North Sydney Council to the success of the Parkrun.
- iii install simple directional signage in and around St Leonard's Park to further promote it to the community as a free, inclusive, and regular five-kilometre run/walk which provides opportunities for fitness, social interaction, and participation in volunteering, thereby enhancing the parkrun experience and further supporting community engagement and navigation of the parkrun course.
- iv note, that in addition to local resident participation, the North Sydney Parkrun attracts many intrastate, interstate, and overseas participants each weekend
- v note that a few local Councils both in Sydney and across Australia have installed parkrun signage to promote the partnership with Council, and to raise awareness about the benefits of participation.

**Background**

Parkrun is a free community event in which you can walk, jog, run, volunteer, or spectate. Participants register just once and then scan their barcode every time they participate in any capacity i.e. walking, running, or volunteering.

In North Sydney, the parkrun is a five-kilometre course around St Leonard's Park and takes place every Saturday morning at 8.00am. It is positive, welcoming, and inclusive, there is no time limit in which you finish the activity, and there is no such thing as finishing last. Everyone is welcome. Participants can socialise and make new connections with a get-together coffee starting at 9.15 am at a local coffee shop.

There are various Parkrun courses around Sydney. Neighbouring Councils including Mosman and Willoughby, among others, also participate.

Below are the latest parkrun statistics for North Sydney:

Events: 285

Finishers: 14,429

Volunteers: 785

Groups: 898

Average finishing time: 30 min 36 sec

**11.3 Notice of Motion 3/25: Preventing net loss of housing units in development projects - Cr Welch****1. THAT** North Sydney Council resolves to:

- i. investigate the introduction of a policy or planning control to ensure that developers cannot redevelop properties with fewer residential units than were originally demolished.
  - ii. request Council staff to prepare a report outlining the legal and procedural steps required to implement this policy, including necessary amendments to planning controls, consultation requirements, and alignment with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW).
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- iii. advocate to the State Government for legislative support to ensure consistency in such policies across local government areas, preventing a net loss of housing stock in redevelopment projects.

#### **Background**

The North Sydney Local Government Area is experiencing significant population growth and increasing demand for housing. As Council strives to meet housing targets and ensure sustainable development, it is essential to protect the existing housing stock.

In recent years, there have been instances where older multi-unit residential buildings have been demolished and replaced with developments that provide fewer units, often prioritising larger, high-end apartments over affordable and diverse housing options. This trend contributes to a reduction in housing supply, exacerbates housing affordability challenges, and undermines efforts to accommodate a growing and diverse population.

The proposed policy aims to address these issues by mandating that any redevelopment project maintain or increase the number of residential units on a given site. This approach will:

- support Council's commitment to affordable and diverse housing;
- preserve housing opportunities for a broad demographic, including key workers, families, and individuals with limited financial means; and
- align with broader State and Federal Government objectives to increase housing supply and combat housing stress.

By implementing such a policy, North Sydney Council will demonstrate leadership in promoting responsible urban development that balances growth with community needs. It will also contribute to preserving the character and vibrancy of local neighbourhoods, ensuring they remain inclusive and accessible to residents from all walks of life.

### **11.4 Notice of Motion 4/25: Proposed night works for the construction of Sydney Harbour Bridge bike ramp by Transport for NSW - Crs Carr & Keen**

#### **1. THAT Council:**

- i. recognises that the proposed night works for the construction of the bike ramp, combined with ongoing noise from the Warringah Freeway construction, places an unreasonable burden on the well-being and quality of life of residents in Milsons Point and neighbouring suburbs.
  - ii. writes to Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to oppose the proposed extended hours of night work and requests TfNSW to clearly demonstrate that the proposed benefits to the community are tangible and agreed upon by the affected residents.
  - iii. sends letters of complaint to the following individuals and offices, objecting to the proposed extended hours of work and highlighting the inadequate and flawed community consultation process undertaken by TfNSW:
    - a. Minister for Transport, the Honourable Jo Haylen
    - b. Premier of NSW, the Honourable Chris Minns
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- c. Minister for Roads, the Honourable John Graham
  - d. NSW Member for North Sydney, the Honourable Felicity Wilson
- iv. requests that the relevant Ministers require TfNSW to engage transparently and meaningfully with the community, ensuring all voices are heard and accurately represented.

### **Background**

TfNSW is delivering a new bike ramp, with construction taking place at Bradfield Park. Current approval permits construction works two nights per week, with a maximum of six nights per month. This schedule means night work will span approximately nine months, from February to October 2025.

TfNSW is proposing to increase the frequency of night work to up to four nights per week, from 6pm to 7am (Monday to Thursday), for two consecutive weeks, followed by one week off. This adjusted schedule would reduce the construction period by three months, concluding by July 2025, weather permitting.

### **Proposed Benefits cited by TfNSW**

TfNSW claims the adjusted schedule would:

- reduce the overall duration of night work by three months;
- return temporarily removed parking spaces to the community sooner;
- minimise disruption for the remainder of 2025;
- decrease the total number of noisy night shifts;
- lessen impacts on motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists;
- mitigate long-term impacts on businesses along Alfred Street South and Lavender Streets.

### **Community Concerns**

1. **Impact on Residents:** The proposed increase in night work imposes an unreasonable burden on local residents, disrupting sleep and diminishing quality of life. Residents are already enduring significant noise pollution from the Warringah Freeway construction.
2. **Sustained Opposition:** The bike ramp project has faced sustained community opposition due to concerns over environmental degradation, reduced parkland, and increased traffic congestion.
3. **Flawed Consultation Process:** Of particular concern is TfNSW's approach to community consultation. Their flyer states that a non-response will be treated as a "No Objection," a fundamentally flawed and manipulative tactic designed to elicit apparent agreement with the proposed works.

This motion seeks to ensure that the community's voice is respected, and their quality of life safeguarded during the construction process and urges Council to oppose the proposed increase in night work hours and urges TfNSW to:

- prioritise the well-being of affected residents;
  - conduct genuine and inclusive community consultations; and
  - explore alternative approaches to mitigate disruption and noise impacts.
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## 11.5 Notice of Motion 5/25: Special Rate Variation – request for transparency, analysis, and immediate financial reforms - Crs Carr & Keen

### 1. THAT Council:

- i. withdraw the current Special Rate Variation (SRV) proposal and redirect efforts toward immediate expense reduction and financial reform strategies.
- ii. acknowledge the need for transparency regarding the financial implications of the SRV and the timeline of its development, particularly in light of the April 2023 baseline report and the subsequent budget discrepancies revealed in the 2024/25 financial year.
- iii. direct an immediate review of financial policies and initiatives, halting non-essential expenditures for the second half of the financial year (January–June 2025), to address the financial challenges outlined without waiting for the SRV implementation.
- iv. undertake a comprehensive review of the SRV justification, with a focus on the following:
  - inclusion of omitted critical comparisons (e.g., City of Sydney and Parramatta rates);
  - clarification of discrepancies between forecast deficits and actual cash surpluses over the next 10 years, as outlined in the SRV document; and
  - evaluation of alternative revenue sources, such as potential asset sales, government grants, and efficiency programs.
- v. commit to structural reforms and efficiency programs that address escalating operational and wage costs without placing an undue financial burden on the community.

### Background

- **Transparency:** Significant delays and inconsistent financial reporting undermine community trust and the justification for the SRV.
- **Inconsistencies in SRV Data:** The exclusion of comparable councils and the misalignment between financial forecasts and cash positions must be addressed.
- **Immediate Action Required:** Structural reform cannot wait for the SRV implementation in July 2025; urgent expense management is required to maintain financial sustainability.

## 12. Matters of Urgency

Nil

## 13. CLOSURE

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