



MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council held at the
Council Chambers, North Sydney
at 7:00 PM on Monday 10 February 2025.



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1. Opening Meeting

At the commencement of business (7.01pm) those present were: The Mayor, and Councillors Antonini, Beregi, Carr, Keen, Hoy, Santer, and Welch.

The meeting was opened by the Mayor.

2. Acknowledgement of Country RECOGNITION OF THE CAMMERAYGAL PEOPLE

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters of North Sydney local government area, the Cammeraygal people.

The Acknowledgement of Country was read by Councillor Welch.

3. Apologies and applications for leaves of absence or attendance by audio-visual link by councillors

Nil

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The Motion was moved by Councillor Santer and seconded by Councillor Welch.

The Motion was put and **Carried**.

Voting was as follows:

For/Against 10 / 0

For: Councillor Antonini, Councillor Baker, Councillor Beregi, Councillor Carr, Councillor Holding, Councillor Hoy, Councillor Keen, Councillor Santer, Councillor Spenceley, and Councillor Welch

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

1. RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 9 December 2024 be taken as read and confirmed.

5. Disclosures of Interest

The following Disclosure of Interest was made:

Re: 11.2	Notice of Motion 2/25: North Sydney Parkrun - Crs Carr & Keen
Councillor Beregi	Has participated in and volunteered at a few ParkRuns. (Non-pecuniary, less than significant)

6. Public Forum

A Motion was moved by Councillor Beregi and seconded by Councillor Welch:

1.THAT the Public Forum be opened, and that the following items be considered as part of the Public Forum:

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
11.1	Notice of Motion 1/25: Contamination of Long Bay, Cammeray - Crs Carr & Keen
11.3	Notice of Motion 3/25: Preventing net loss of housing units in development projects - Cr Welch
11.5	Notice of Motion 5/25: Special Rate Variation – request for transparency, analysis, and immediate financial reforms - Crs Carr & Keen

The Motion was put and **Carried**.

Voting was as follows:

For/Against 10 / 0

For: Councillor Antonini, Councillor Baker, Councillor Beregi, Councillor Carr, Councillor Holding, Councillor Hoy, Councillor Keen, Councillor Santer, Councillor Spenceley and Councillor Welch

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

2. RESOLVED:

1.THAT the Public Forum be opened, and that the following items be considered as part of the Public Forum:

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
11.1	Notice of Motion 1/25: Contamination of Long Bay, Cammeray - Crs Carr & Keen
11.3	Notice of Motion 3/25: Preventing net loss of housing units in development projects - Cr Welch
11.5	Notice of Motion 5/25: Special Rate Variation – request for transparency, analysis, and immediate financial reforms - Crs Carr & Keen

Public Forum

10.1. Informing Strategies - planning for our next 10 years

This matter was moved forward as part of the Public Forum (see page 4).

AUTHOR: Emma FitzRoy, Executive Manager Organisational Improvement

PURPOSE

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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 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:
 - o Economic Development Strategy 2016;
 - o Transport Strategy 2017;
 - o Open Space Provision Strategy 2009; and
 - o 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.

RECOMMENDATION:

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.

The following people spoke to this item as part of the Public Forum:

- Michael Bracka (local resident)
- Michael Parker (local resident)
- Peter Noble (local resident)

The Motion was moved by Councillor Welch and seconded by Councillor Santer.

The Motion was put and **Carried**.

Voting was as follows:

For/Against 7 / 3

For: Councillor Antonini, Councillor Baker, Councillor Beregi, Councillor Holding, Councillor Hoy, Councillor Santer and Councillor Welch

Against: Councillor Carr, Councillor Keen and Councillor Spenceley

Absent: Nil

3. RESOLVED:

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

This matter was moved forward as part of the Public Forum (see page 4).

AUTHOR: Ibrahim Malla, Asset Management Coordinator

PURPOSE

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 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.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 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.
- 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.

The following person spoke to this item as part of the Public Forum:

- Davie Macdonald (local resident)

The Motion was moved by Councillor Holding and seconded by Councillor Antonini.

The Motion was put and **Carried**.

Voting was as follows:

For/Against 7 / 3

- For:** Councillor Antonini, Councillor Baker, Councillor Beregi, Councillor Holding, Councillor Hoy, Councillor Santer and Councillor Welch
- Against:** Councillor Carr, Councillor Keen and Councillor Spenceley
- Absent:** Nil

4. RESOLVED:

- 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.
- 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

This matter was brought forward as part of the Public Forum (see page 4).

AUTHOR: Luke Harvey, Director Corporate Services

PURPOSE

For Council to:

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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 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.
- 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.

RECOMMENDATION:

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.
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.

The following people spoke to this item as part of the Public Forum:

- Justin Currie (local resident)
- Meredith Trevallyn-Jones (local resident)
- Judith White (local resident)
- Felicity Wilson MP (elected representative & local resident)
- John Hancox (local resident)
- Jennifer Sumsion (local resident)
- Robert Stitt (Chair Lavender Bay Precinct)
- Jaimee Rogers (Liberal candidate for Warringah and local resident)
- George Loiterton (local resident)
- Andrew Antonas (local resident and retail business owner)
- Shane Feeney (local resident)
- Michael Parker (local resident)
- Catherine Wilson (local resident)
- Gary Molloy (local resident)
- Randon Ilic (local resident)
- Julie Townsend-Medlock (local resident)
- Chris Boseley (local resident)
- Michael Want (local resident)
- John Cook (local resident)
- Martin Dudley (local resident)
- Lisa Middlebrook (local resident)
- Gary Power (local resident)
- Jennifer Cooper (local resident)
- Ravindra Marwaha (local resident)
- David Watkins (Co-CEO JCDecaux Australia)
- Grahame Yard (local resident)
- Davie Macdonald (local resident)
- Avril Lim (remotely) (local resident)

The Motion was moved by Councillor Beregi and seconded by Councillor Santer.

The Motion was put and **Carried**.

Voting was as follows:

For/Against 7 / 3

For: Councillor Antonini, Councillor Baker, Councillor Beregi, Councillor Holding, Councillor Hoy, Councillor Santer and Councillor Welch

Against: Councillor Carr, Councillor Keen and Councillor Spenceley

Absent: Nil

5. RESOLVED:

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.
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.

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

This matter was brought forward as part of the Public Forum (see page 4).

- 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.

The following person spoke to this item as part of the Public Forum:

- Adam Fitzhenry (local resident)

A Motion was moved by Councillor Keen and seconded by Councillor Carr:

- 1. THAT** a report be submitted to Council regarding 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.

The Motion was put and **Carried**.

Voting was as follows:

For/Against 10 / 0

For: Councillor Antonini, Councillor Baker, Councillor Beregi, Councillor Carr, Councillor Holding, Councillor Hoy, Councillor Keen, Councillor Santer, Councillor Spenceley and Councillor Welch

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

6. RESOLVED:

1. THAT a report be submitted to Council regarding 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:

- b. 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.

11.3. Notice of Motion 3/25: Preventing net loss of housing units in development projects - Cr Welch

This matter was brought forward as part of the Public Forum (see page 4).

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).
- 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.

The following person spoke to this item as part of the Public Forum:

- Davie Macdonald (local resident)

Registered speaker Davie Macdonald was expelled from the meeting for disorder in accordance with section 15.17 of the Code of Meeting Practice.

The Motion was moved by Councillor Welch and seconded by Councillor Santer.

The Motion was put and **Carried**.

Voting was as follows:

For/Against 10 / 0

For: Councillor Antonini, Councillor Baker, Councillor Beregi, Councillor Carr, Councillor Holding, Councillor Hoy, Councillor Keen, Councillor Santer, Councillor Spenceley and Councillor Welch

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

7. RESOLVED:

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).
- 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.

11.5. Notice of Motion 5/25: Special Rate Variation – request for transparency, analysis, and immediate financial reforms - Crs Carr & Keen

This matter was brought forward as part of the Public Forum (see page 4).

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.

The Mayor ruled the Notice of Motion as out of order as it is contrary to the Resolution of Council for item 10.3.

7. Items Considered by Exception

It was moved by Councillor Beregi and seconded by Councillor Welch:

1. THAT the Recommendations for the following Items be considered by exception:

9.1	Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Minutes - 22 November 2024
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The Motion was put and **Carried**.

Voting was as follows:

For/Against 10 / 0

For: Councillor Antonini, Councillor Baker, Councillor Beregi, Councillor Carr, Councillor Holding, Councillor Hoy, Councillor Keen, Councillor Santer, Councillor Spenceley and Councillor Welch

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

9. RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Recommendations for the following Items be considered by exception:

9.1	Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Minutes - 22 November 2024
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8. Mayoral Minutes

Nil

9. Reports of Committees

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

AUTHOR: Ian Curry, Manager Governance

PURPOSE

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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 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:

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

This matter was considered by exception (see page 5).

10. RESOLVED:

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

AUTHOR: Peita Rose, Governance Officer

PURPOSE

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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 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.

The Motion was moved by Councillor Beregi and seconded by Councillor Santer.

The Motion was put and **Carried**.

Voting was as follows:

For/Against 10 / 0

For: Councillor Antonini, Councillor Baker, Councillor Beregi, Councillor Carr, Councillor Holding, Councillor Hoy, Councillor Keen, Councillor Santer, Councillor Spenceley and Councillor Welch

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

11. RESOLVED:

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

Extension of Meeting Time

The Code of Meeting Practice states:

18.1 Meetings of the Council and Committees of the Council are to conclude no later than 11pm.

18.2 If the business of the meeting is unfinished at 11pm, the Council or the Committee may, by resolution, extend the time of the meeting.

At 11.00pm, a Motion was moved by Councillor Spenceley and seconded by Councillor Antonini:

1. THAT a short time extension be granted as per the Meeting Code of Conduct, to attend to the remaining items on the agenda.

The Motion was put and **Carried**.

Voting was as follows:

For/Against 10 / 0

For: Councillor Antonini, Councillor Baker, Councillor Beregi, Councillor Carr, Councillor Holding, Councillor Hoy, Councillor Keen, Councillor Santer, Councillor Spenceley and Councillor Welch

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

12. RESOLVED:

1. THAT a short time extension be granted as per the Meeting Code of Conduct, to attend to the remaining items on the agenda.

10. Reports to Council

10.1. Informing Strategies - planning for our next 10 years

This matter was brought forward as part of the Public Forum (see page 5-8).

10.2. Asset Management Strategy and Asset Management Plans

This matter was brought forward as part of the Public Forum (see page 8-9).

10.3. Proposed special rate variation for long term financial sustainability

This matter was brought forward as part of the Public Forum (see page 10-14).

11. Notices of Motion

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

This matter was brought forward as part of the Public Forum (see page 15-16).

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.

The Motion was moved by Councillor Keen and seconded by Councillor Carr.

An Amendment was moved by Councillor Holding and seconded by Councillor Beregi:

- 1. THAT** Council prepare a report analysing the extent of usage of St Leonards Park by community groups, fitness groups and other users, including but not limited to ParkRun.
- 2. THAT** the report include the impacts on the park through the increasing usage, park maintenance, other users and surrounding residents.
- 3. THAT** the report include the cost of the signage and other support proposed by the original notice of motion.

The Amendment was put and **Carried**.

Voting was as follows:

For/Against 8/2

For: Councillor Antonini, Councillor Baker, Councillor Beregi, Councillor Holding, Councillor Hoy, Councillor Santer, Councillor Spenceley and Councillor Welch

Against: Councillor Carr and Councillor Keen

Absent: Nil

The Amendment became the Motion and was put and Carried.

Voting was as follows:

For/Against 8/2

For: Councillor Antonini, Councillor Baker, Councillor Beregi, Councillor Holding, Councillor Hoy, Councillor Santer, Councillor Spenceley and Councillor Welch

Against: Councillor Carr and Councillor Keen

Absent: Nil

13. RESOLVED:

- 1. THAT** Council prepare a report analysing the extent of usage of St Leonards Park by community groups, fitness groups and other users, including but not limited to ParkRun.
- 2. THAT** the report include the impacts on the park through the increasing usage, park maintenance, other users and surrounding residents.
- 3. THAT** the report include the cost of the signage and other support proposed by the original notice of motion.

11.3. Notice of Motion 3/25: Preventing net loss of housing units in development projects - Cr Welch

This matter was brought forward as part of the Public Forum (see page 17).

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
 - 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.

A Motion was moved by Councillor Keen and seconded by Councillor Carr:

1. THAT Council acknowledges that Transport for NSW has advised that the proposed night works for the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge bike ramp will not proceed, however:

- 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
 - 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.

The Motion was put and **Carried**.

Voting was as follows:

For/Against 10 / 0

For: Councillor Antonini, Councillor Baker, Councillor Beregi, Councillor Carr, Councillor Holding, Councillor Hoy, Councillor Keen, Councillor Santer, Councillor Spenceley and Councillor Welch

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

14. RESOLVED:

1. THAT Council acknowledges that Transport for NSW has advised that the proposed night works for the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge bike ramp will not proceed, however:

- 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:
 - e. Minister for Transport, the Honourable Jo Haylen
 - f. Premier of NSW, the Honourable Chris Minns
 - g. Minister for Roads, the Honourable John Graham
 - h. 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.

11.5. Notice of Motion 5/25: Special Rate Variation – request for transparency, analysis, and immediate financial reforms - Crs Carr & Keen

This matter was brought forward as part of the Public Forum (see page 18).

12. Matters of Urgency

Nil

13. Closure

The meeting closed at 11.06pm.