



# MINUTES

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



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## 1. Opening Meeting

At the commencement of business (7:00pm) those present were: The Mayor, and Councillors Antonini, Beregi, Carr, Holding, Hoy, 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 Holding.

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

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

**1. THAT** Council grant permission for Councillor Keen, Councillor Santer, and Councillor Spenceley to attend remotely for the following reason: travel.

The Motion was put and **Carried**.

Voting was as follows:

For/Against 7 / 0

**For:** Councillor Antonini, Councillor Baker, Councillor Beregi, Councillor Carr,  
Councillor Holding, Councillor Hoy, and Councillor Welch

**Against:** Nil

**Absent:** Nil

### 32. RESOLVED:

**1. THAT** Council grant permission for Councillor Keen, Councillor Santer, and Councillor Spenceley to attend remotely for the following reason: travel.

## 4. Confirmation of Minutes

**THAT THE MINUTES** of the Council Meeting held on Monday 24 February 2025 be taken as read and confirmed.

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

**1. THAT** the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 24 February 2025 be taken as read and confirmed.

The Motion was put and **Carried**.

Voting was as follows:

For/Against 9 / 0

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

**Against:** Nil

**Absent:** Nil

### **33. RESOLVED:**

**1. THAT** the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 24 February 2025 be taken as read and confirmed.

## **5. Disclosures of Interest**

The following Disclosure of Interest was made:

Re: 8.1	MM01: Addressing the impacts of bus privatisation
Councillor Hoy	Was an Advisor to the Chair of the Inquiry mentioned in the Mayoral Minute (non-pecuniary, less than significant)

## **6. Public Forum**

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

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

8.1	MM01: Addressing the impacts of bus privatisation
10.6	Hume Street Park - Expansion Project
11.4	Notice of Motion 10/25: Review of Heritage Pubs - Cr Holding

The Motion was put and **Carried**.

Voting was as follows:

For/Against 9 / 0

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

**Against:** Nil

**Absent:** Nil

#### **34. RESOLVED:**

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

8.1	MM01: Addressing the impacts of bus privatisation
10.6	Hume Street Park - Expansion Project
11.4	Notice of Motion 10/25: Review of Heritage Pubs - Cr Holding

## **8. Mayoral Minutes**

Councillor Santer joined the meeting at 7.06pm.

### **8.1. MM01: Addressing the impacts of bus privatisation**

*This matter was considered as part of the Public Forum (see above).*

In 2021 the former Coalition State Government privatised bus services on the Lower North Shore and Northern Beaches when it awarded an eight-year contract to operate bus routes serving this locality to private contractor Keolis Downer. Since Keolis Downer commenced operating, local bus routes have been lost, reduced or become increasingly unreliable. Too many routes have been cancelled or scrapped altogether. Those routes that operate are full, late or, too often, cancelled, or buses just never turn up.

On 18 September 2022, the NSW Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Transport published a report on their Inquiry into the Privatisation of Bus Services. The Chair of the Committee wrote in the Introduction to the report:

*Public transport is a public good. Its value extends beyond its direct profitability, and goes to the heart of what we value in our society. The people of New South Wales deserve accessible, affordable and reliable public bus services. They have a right to expect that the NSW Government will deliver this public service not just to make a profit, but because it's the right thing for government to do – to empower community mobility and equity.*

*Private bus operators have a long history in New South Wales. In fact, bus services in some metropolitan and regional communities have only ever, or for many decades, been privately operated. Most companies are family owned and operated, are embedded in their community and responsive to its needs.*

*Those private bus services were not the focus of this inquiry. This inquiry has taken a critical lens to the transfer of bus services in metropolitan and outer-metropolitan Sydney from the State Transit Authority to private bus operators, most of which are large and multinational companies. The community anger and frustration at the degradation of services is palpable. It is clear to us that the NSW Government's decision to privatise these bus services has been nothing short of a disaster.(p.vii)*

The Inquiry found that the privatisation of bus services in Sydney and Newcastle resulted in more limited-service delivery, higher costs for passengers, worse pay and conditions for bus drivers, and that changes to bus services in Sydney and Newcastle - including the location of stops, frequency of services and changes to routes - have at times occurred without comprehensive community consultation.

More than two years after that Inquiry was held, our community remains, rightfully, angry and frustrated as commuters queue for hundreds of metres at Cammeray and Neutral Bay every day. Every day the queues continue, unabated, with children late to school, commuters late for work, and traffic congestion increasing as residents seek alternative travel arrangements.

Since I became Mayor, I have raised concerns with the Minister for Transport in relation to the unreliability of bus services on the Lower North Shore. More recently, I have been inundated by residents beyond angry and frustrated, not only with the buses but with the failure of local State MPs to address the problems their government created. The impact of the privatised bus services is at crisis point. In a vacuum of any practical action from State Members, Council remains a staunch advocate to the State Government on this important issue for residents, students, and workers.

**I therefore recommend:**

- 1. THAT** Council notes that the impacts of the privatisation of bus services is an inherited problem for the current State Government that demands urgent action to fix.
- 2. THAT** Council seek an urgent meeting with the Minister for Transport seeking immediate action to:
  - i. implement the recommendations of the Inquiry into the Privatisation of Bus Services
  - ii. increase services on the Lower North Shore network to meet commuter demand and address delays and queues; and
  - iii. review the number of services and routes in the context of increasing demand for public transport from localities such as Cremorne, Neutral Bay, and Cammeray that are solely served by buses and slated for significant density increases under the low and mid-rise housing reforms.

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

- Leo Nelson (local resident)

The Motion was moved by The Mayor.

The Motion 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

**35. RESOLVED:**

**1. THAT** Council notes that the impacts of the privatisation of bus services is an inherited problem for the current State Government that demands urgent action to fix.

**2. THAT** Council seek an urgent meeting with the Minister for Transport seeking immediate action to:

- i. implement the recommendations of the Inquiry into the Privatisation of Bus Services
- ii. increase services on the Lower North Shore network to meet commuter demand and address delays and queues; and
- iii. review the number of services and routes in the context of increasing demand for public transport from localities such as Cremorne, Neutral Bay, and Cammeray that are solely served by buses and slated for significant density increases under the low and mid-rise housing reforms.

## **8.2. MM02: Impacts of E-Bike Share on local streets**

The growing popularity of e-bikes presents unique challenges in regulation and safety for the State Government, NSW Police, and Local Governments. Council is actively advocating for improved management of these challenges.

Over recent months, electric bike share bikes (mostly Lime Bikes) have significantly multiplied across the streets of the North Sydney Local Government Area (LGA). Whilst many residents appreciate the utility and need for electric bike share, particularly with the challenging topography of North Sydney, there is increasing frustration with the way that share bikes are left, too often carelessly, to obstruct pedestrian and, at times, vehicular access. The responsiveness of bike-share operators does not appear to be fast enough nor consistent.

Unfortunately, bike share operations are not managed by North Sydney Council, nor any Council for that matter. They are regulated by NSW State Government legislation. Councils are unable to prevent bike share operators from expanding into any LGA.

The management and regulation of bike share systems fall under the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021 and the accompanying Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Regulation 2022. This legislation prevents NSW Local Governments, including North Sydney Council, from restricting bike-share operators from legally operating within an LGA. Instead, the Act and Regulation outline the requirements operators must follow, including the timeframes for relocating improperly parked bikes. If these requirements are not met, Councils are permitted to impound the bikes.

The process is time-consuming and relies on individuals making complaints in the first instance to the bike-share operator before alerting Council to exercise compliance action.

It is vital that bike-share operators effectively manage their operations and, wherever possible, provide dedicated parking areas.

Council is, therefore, working on multiple fronts to improve the regulation and operation of bike-share operators. Council is exploring the potential for regulation under the Local Government Act - although this approach has not yet been implemented by any other Council. Indeed, Council made a submission to the NSW Upper House Inquiry into the use of e-scooters, e-bikes, and related mobility options advocating for:

1. increased funding for active transport to enable local governments to deliver separated cycling facilities and road safety initiatives;
2. implementation of a docked bike-share system; and
3. additional resources for the Police to regulate the use of e-bikes and e-scooters, particularly on footpaths.

In addition, Council is currently investigating a trial to participate in a project with Transport for NSW to install dedicated parking bays within the North Sydney CBD and Crows Nest, close to the metro stations. The purpose of the trial is to reduce clutter caused by poorly parked shared e-bikes, and to prohibit parking outside of these designated parking bays. I'm advised that a report will shortly be coming to Council, which will provide further details on the proposed trial. It is hoped that the trial will result in better regulation of bike share across the whole of NSW.

In the last term of Council, Council negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Lime Bikes with the purpose of managing the location and parking of share bikes and the responsiveness of Lime Bikes to ensure that local footpaths and roads are not obstructed with bikes. Unfortunately, the final MoU did not proceed – no doubt, in part, due to there being no requirement for collaboration between bike-share operators and Councils prior to expansion into a LGA. However, Lime Bikes recently approached Council seeking to revive the MoU to address operational issues and bike clutter on local streets.

**I therefore recommend:**

1. **THAT** Council continue to lobby the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Roads to address regulation of bike and scooter share schemes to prioritise pedestrian safety and access and bike/scooter clutter.
2. **THAT** Council seek to revive the Memorandum of Understanding with Lime Bikes to improve e-bike clutter on local streets.

The Motion was moved by The Mayor.

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

**36. RESOLVED:**

**1. THAT** Council continue to lobby the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Roads to address regulation of bike and scooter share schemes to prioritise pedestrian safety and access and bike/scooter clutter.

**2. THAT** Council seek to revive the Memorandum of Understanding with Lime Bikes to improve e-bike clutter on local streets.

## **Public Forum**

### **10.6. Hume Street Park - Expansion Project**

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

**AUTHOR:** Marcelo Occhiuzzi, Director Planning and Environment

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's direction in relation to the expansion of the Hume Street Park project to ensure timely progression in the context of expected accelerated growth following changes introduced by the NSW Government in Crows Nest.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- With the impending density increases resulting from the Crows Nest Transport Oriented Development (TOD) initiative of the NSW Government, it is important that supporting infrastructure is able to be delivered responsibly without delay.
- The NSW Government has announced \$520M funding to be shared amongst eight TOD precincts for upgrades to roads, active transport, and open space. It is important that Council ensure it is in the best possible position to attract such funding.
- Council developed a series of growth and placemaking plans for the St Leonards/Crows Nest precinct (St Leonards/Crows Nest Planning Studies Precincts 1-3), between 2011 and 2015. The first of these was adopted by Council in October 2012. The Studies identified opportunities for improved urban design outcomes in this precinct whilst accommodating managed increases in height and density.
- One key component of the Precinct 1 Study was the identification of a new area of open space to be delivered as an expanded Hume Street Park, to provide for the open space requirements of a growing population.

- As part of that process, three Hume Street Park expansion options were developed for consultation and after that engagement process, “Option 3” was selected as the preferred option by Council in September 2015. This option was an aspirational design which included the relocation of the existing indoor sports centre and parking in an underground format.
- In 2015, the project was to be broken into three stages. Stage 1 is now complete. Stage 2 was amended in 2021 to include additional open space; however, design and delivery has been delayed due to competing demands.
- To ensure maximum open space delivery in a timely manner, it is recommended Stage 2 of the project be further amended and declared the priority project for TOD related State Government Funding.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**1.THAT** Council commence immediate detailed planning and consultation for the expansion of the Hume Street Park that retains the existing indoor sports centre and public parking in their current location as an expanded stage 2 of the previously endorsed concept plan for the park.

**2.THAT** Council allocate a budget of \$1 million within the 2025/26 budget from the development contributions reserves towards the project, to advance to approval stage.

**3. THAT** Council make representations to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to prioritise the necessary funding from the available \$520M Transport Oriented Development fund to deliver the Hume Street Park expansion project.

**4.THAT,** despite pursuing a shorter-term open space project as per 1 above, Council continue to work towards the long-term and aspirational vision for the expansion of the Hume Street Park consistent with its 2015 preferred option which includes the undergrounding of the indoor sports centre and public parking and in doing so, consider design modifications that account for changing strategic directions.

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

- Anna Field (local resident and parent of children who attend Kelly’s Place Childcare)

A Motion was moved by Councillor Beregi and seconded by the Mayor:

**1.THAT** Council commence immediate detailed planning and consultation for the expansion of the Hume Street Park that retains the existing indoor sports centre and public parking in their current location as an expanded stage 2 of the previously endorsed concept plan for the park.

**2.THAT** Council allocate a budget of \$1 million within the 2025/26 budget from the development contributions reserves towards the project, to advance to approval stage.

**3. THAT** Council make representations to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to prioritise the necessary funding from the available \$520M Transport Oriented Development fund to deliver the Hume Street Park expansion project.

**4.THAT,** despite pursuing a shorter-term open space project as per 1 above, Council continue to work towards the long-term and aspirational vision for the expansion of the Hume Street Park consistent with its 2015 preferred option which includes the undergrounding of the

indoor sports centre and public parking and in doing so, consider design modifications that account for changing strategic directions.

**5. THAT** Council continue to work with Kelly's Place to facilitate relocation to an alternative location.

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

**37. RESOLVED:**

**1.THAT** Council commence immediate detailed planning and consultation for the expansion of the Hume Street Park that retains the existing indoor sports centre and public parking in their current location as an expanded stage 2 of the previously endorsed concept plan for the park.

**2.THAT** Council allocate a budget of \$1 million within the 2025/26 budget from the development contributions reserves towards the project, to advance to approval stage.

**3. THAT** Council make representations to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to prioritise the necessary funding from the available \$520M Transport Oriented Development fund to deliver the Hume Street Park expansion project.

**4.THAT,** despite pursuing a shorter-term open space project as per 1 above, Council continue to work towards the long-term and aspirational vision for the expansion of the Hume Street Park consistent with its 2015 preferred option which includes the undergrounding of the indoor sports centre and public parking and in doing so, consider design modifications that account for changing strategic directions.

**5. THAT** Council continue to work with Kelly's Place to facilitate relocation to an alternative location.

#### **11.4. Notice of Motion 10/25: Review of Heritage Pubs - Cr Holding**

*This matter was moved forward as part of the Public Forum (see page 5).*

**1. THAT** Council undertake a review of heritage pubs across the North Sydney Local Government Area in order to enhance recognition of the role, history, and contribution of pubs, and with the intention to protect the enduring viability of venues.

**2. THAT** as part of the review, Council officers set up a round table meeting with interested pub proprietors to review the heritage inventories for the pubs, to ensure they are an appropriate representation of each premises.

**3. THAT** following the review, a report be provided to Council, with recommendations on the potential for listing as heritage items, including as a group of items.

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

- 1. THAT** Council undertake a review of heritage pubs across the North Sydney Local Government Area in order to enhance recognition of the role, history and contribution of pubs and with the intention to protect the enduring viability of venues.
- 2. THAT** as part of the review Council officers set up a round table to meet with interested pub proprietors and stakeholders to review the heritage inventories for the pubs to ensure they are an appropriate representation of each premises.
- 3. THAT** following the review, a report be provided to Council with recommendations on the potential for listing as heritage items including as a group of items.

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

**38. RESOLVED:**

- 1. THAT** Council undertake a review of heritage pubs across the North Sydney Local Government Area in order to enhance recognition of the role, history and contribution of pubs and with the intention to protect the enduring viability of venues.
- 2. THAT** as part of the review Council officers set up a round table to meet with interested pub proprietors and stakeholders to review the heritage inventories for the pubs to ensure they are an appropriate representation of each premises.
- 3. THAT** following the review, a report be provided to Council with recommendations on the potential for listing as heritage items including as a group of items.

## **7. Items Considered by Exception**

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

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

9.1	Traffic Committee Minutes - 7 February 2025
10.7	Loan funding for the North Sydney Olympic Pool project

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

**39. RESOLVED:**

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

9.1	Traffic Committee Minutes - 7 February 2025
10.7	Loan funding for the North Sydney Olympic Pool project

## **9. Reports of Committees**

### **9.1. Traffic Committee Minutes - 7 February 2025**

**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 7 February 2025 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 7 February 2025 be received.

*This matter was considered by exception (see page 9).*

**40. RESOLVED:**

**1. THAT** the Minutes of the Traffic Committee meeting dated 7 February 2025 be received.

## **10. Reports to Council**

### **10.1. Draft 2025-35 Community Strategic Plan**

**AUTHOR:** Emma Fitzroy, Executive Manager Organisational Performance

## PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Council to exhibit the draft 2025-35 Community Strategic Plan.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Over the past year, Council has conducted extensive research and broad community consultation to identify the key priorities and aspirations of the people who live and work in North Sydney.
- This research informed the development of eight key strategies—Culture and Creativity, Economic Development, Integrated Transport, Open Space and Recreation, Social Inclusion, Environment, Housing, and Governance. These strategies articulate the community's aspirations and provide a roadmap for achieving them.
- The informing strategies were publicly exhibited from 27 November 2024 to 10 January 2025, updated to reflect community feedback, and formally adopted by Council on 10 February 2025.
- These eight strategies have now been combined to create North Sydney's draft 2025–35 Community Strategic Plan (CSP). While the CSP was assembled by Council, it belongs to the community, with its content directly reflecting what the community have told us over the past year.
- Although the CSP is the community's plan, it also sets the direction for how Council allocates its resources. Council's 2025–29 Delivery Program and 2025/26 Operational Plan (scheduled for presentation to Council in late April 2025) will align with the strategic directions outlined in the CSP, detailing the specific actions Council will take over the next four years to support delivery of the community's desired outcomes.
- Approval is now sought to publicly exhibit the draft CSP and invite community feedback from 12 March to 9 April 2025. Following this consultation, the CSP will be presented to Council for adoption.

## RECOMMENDATION:

**1. THAT** Council undertake community consultation on the draft 2025-35 Community Strategic Plan attached to this report from 12 March to 9 April 2025.

**2. THAT** Council receive a report, on the outcomes and feedback from the community engagement on the draft 2025-35 Community Strategic Plan, at the Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for 28 April 2025.

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

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

**41. RESOLVED:**

- 1. THAT** Council undertake community consultation on the draft 2025-35 Community Strategic Plan attached to this report from 12 March to 9 April 2025.
- 2. THAT** Council receive a report, on the outcomes and feedback from the community engagement on the draft 2025-35 Community Strategic Plan, at the Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for 28 April 2025.

## **10.2. Revised Draft Social Media Policy**

**AUTHOR:** Ian Robertson, Service Unit Manager, Corporate Governance

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider feedback from the consultation of a proposed social media policy, and to consider its adoption.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- Council does not currently have a social media policy applicable to staff and Councillors.
- Council is committed to engaging with the community on social media in a way that optimises engagement whilst managing risk.
- Council's proposed social media policy outlines the framework under which Council engages on social media and has been developed to address the challenges and risks associated with its use.
- The proposed policy is based upon the Model Social Media Policy from the Office of Local Government (OLG).
- The draft policy was placed on public exhibition from 25 July 2024 to 8 September 2024 and received 12 responses, which are outlined in this report.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1. THAT** Council note the results of the consultation and adopt the proposed *Social Media Policy*.

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

The Motion 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

**42. RESOLVED:**

**1. THAT** Council note the results of the consultation and adopt the proposed *Social Media Policy*.

### **10.3. Compliance and Enforcement Policy**

**AUTHOR:** Jad Davis, Executive Compliance Officer

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the draft Compliance and Enforcement Policy for public exhibition and comment.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The North Sydney *Compliance and Enforcement Policy* has been in place since 2004. The last review and amendment occurred in 2022. The Policy has now been reviewed and revised.
- The structure and layout of the draft *Compliance and Enforcement Policy* has been updated to align with the NSW Ombudsman's *Compliance and Enforcement Guidelines*.
- The content of the draft Policy has been subject to minor housekeeping amendments to reference and reflect current legislation. The draft Policy is consistent with the current Policy.
- The draft Policy does not include modifications to the way that the Council officers investigate or act on compliance matters.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**1. THAT** Council endorse the draft *Compliance and Enforcement Policy* and place it on public exhibition for 28 days for public comment.

**2. THAT** Council adopt the draft *Compliance and Enforcement Policy* at the end of the submission period if no submissions are received during that period.

**3. THAT** should submissions be received during the exhibition period, a further report on the draft *Compliance and Enforcement Policy*, that includes consideration of submissions, will be provided to Council.

The Motion was moved by Councillor Beregi 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

**43. RESOLVED:**

- 1. THAT** Council endorse the draft *Compliance and Enforcement Policy* and place it on public exhibition for 28 days for public comment.
- 2. THAT** Council adopt the draft *Compliance and Enforcement Policy* at the end of the submission period if no submissions are received during that period.
- 3. THAT** should submissions be received during the exhibition period, a further report on the draft *Compliance and Enforcement Policy*, that includes consideration of submissions, will be provided to Council.

## **10.4. North Sydney Local Planning Panel Report FY2023/24**

**AUTHOR:** Stephen Beattie, Manager Development Services

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to detail the activities of the North Sydney Local Planning Panel for the 2023/24 financial year.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- This report is provided in response to the provision contained within Section 2.20 (5) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 which requires that “council is to monitor the performance of local planning panels constituted by the council.”
- Reports are to be provided to the Planning Secretary annually based on any given financial year.
- This report outlines the role of the North Sydney Planning Panel and its activities and performance during the 2023/24 financial year.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1. THAT** the North Sydney Local Planning Panel Report 2023/24 report be received.

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

**1. THAT** the North Sydney Planning Panel Report 2023-2024 be received.

**2. THAT** the Council write to the Premier, the Minister for Planning, and the Minister for Local Government, once again, urging the State Government to mandate that, in the interests of transparency and accountability, the entirety of Planning Panel meetings be open and live-streamed in full - not just oral submissions as is currently the case but also the Panel's discussions, debates, deliberations, and voting, and that the resolutions, along with a recording of the full Panel meeting, be made available on the Council's website without delay.

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

#### **44. RESOLVED:**

**1. THAT** the North Sydney Planning Panel Report 2023-2024 be received.

**2. THAT** the Council write to the Premier, the Minister for Planning, and the Minister for Local Government, once again, urging the State Government to mandate that, in the interests of transparency and accountability, the entirety of Planning Panel meetings be open and live-streamed in full - not just oral submissions as is currently the case but also the Panel's discussions, debates, deliberations, and voting, and that the resolutions, along with a recording of the full Panel meeting, be made available on the Council's website without delay.

### **10.5. Development Applications Approved - Quarterly Report Q1 & Q2 FY2024/25**

**AUTHORS:** Greg Samardzic, Team Leader Planning and Customer Interface, and Greg Sherlock, Planning & Development Advisor

#### **PURPOSE:**

This report provides an overview of Development Applications approved by Council in the first two quarters (1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024) of the current financial year, and Council's performance against the NSW Government's League Table.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The Planning Minister's July 2024 Direction, issued to all Councils in NSW, requires that North Sydney Council determine development applications (DAs) within an average of 115 days after lodgement.

- The number of DAs determined within quarters 1 and 2 of 2024/25 was 112, with a development value of \$620,653,233.
- The average determination times derived from the NSW League Table was 147 days at the end of Quarter 2, a significant improvement on the two previous years, (207 and 196 days respectively), but remains above the Ministerial Direction of 115 days.
- The extent and quality of scrutiny in relation to Council's "clearing house" and Development Review Panel (DRP) process is assisting in reducing assessment times.
- It is anticipated that further reductions in determination times will occur in the future, with the continued implementation of refined and improved assessment processes.
- A process-mapping and improvement review (with an anticipated completion date of April 2025) is underway to identify process improvements to further reduce assessment times whilst ensuring a robust application process. The results and recommendations of this review will be developed into tangible actions to improve determination times.
- Council's Development Control Plan is also being streamlined to reduce assessment complexity.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**1. THAT** the report be received by Council.

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

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

#### **45. RESOLVED:**

**1. THAT** the report be received by Council.

### **10.6. Hume Street Park - Expansion Project**

*This matter was brought forward as part of the Public Forum (see pages 10-12).*

### **10.7. Loan funding for the North Sydney Olympic Pool project**

**AUTHOR:** Aigul Utegenova, Chief Financial Officer

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to obtain a \$10 million loan required for the completion of the North Sydney Olympic Pool project.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- At its meeting of 10 February 2025, Council approved a \$10 million loan for the completion of the North Sydney Olympic Pool project.
- This will bring external loan borrowing on the project to a total of \$61 million.
- The confidential attachment to this report contains details of the available loan options and a recommended option.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**1. THAT** Council resolves that the identified attachment to this report is to be treated as confidential in accordance with section 11(3) of the Local Government Act for the following reason under section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act:

- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed*
- (iii) reveal a trade secret.*

**2. THAT** the recommendations of the confidential report be adopted.

*This matter was considered by exception (see page 9).*

**46. RESOLVED:**

**1. THAT** Council resolves that the identified attachment to this report is to be treated as confidential in accordance with section 11(3) of the Local Government Act for the following reason under section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act:

- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed*
- (iii) reveal a trade secret.*

**2. THAT** the recommendations of the confidential report be adopted.

**11. Notices of Motion**

**11.1. Notice of Motion 7/25: Dogs in Pubs - Crs Carr & Keen**

**1. THAT** Council request a report from the Chief Executive Officer on the issue of the permissibility of pet dogs in licenced premises in the Council area including:

1. Current legal requirements;  
The number of complaints received in relation to dogs in licensed premises for each of the last three calendar years; and
2. Enforcement action taken by Council and details of any flexibility Council has in relation to enforcement.

3. Write to the relevant Minister requesting that any laws or regulations that prohibit dogs in licensed premises be reviewed with a view to permitting pet dogs in licensed premises, such as pubs and bars, but at the absolute discretion of a premises' owners or licensees and subject to any conditions they choose to put in place.

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

An Amendment was moved by Councillor Hoy and seconded by Councillor Keen:

**1. THAT** Council note that the Companion Animals Act is currently under review and defer any consideration until the review is complete.

The Amendment 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

The Amendment became the Motion.

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

#### **47. RESOLVED:**

**1. THAT** Council note that the Companion Animals Act is currently under review and defer any consideration until the review is complete.

### **11.2. Notice of Motion 8/25: Proposal to change the mode of Mayor selection to a popularly elected system - Crs Carr & Keen**

**1. THAT**, in response to the concerns of residents and to ensure a more democratic and accountable local government, Council adopt the following recommendations:

- i. the method of selecting the Mayor be amended to a popularly-elected system, allowing residents to vote directly for their Mayor during regular elections. The Mayor will serve a fixed

term as prescribed by the Local Government Act, and the election process will follow the procedures outlined by the NSW Electoral Commission.

ii. maintain the current two ward system, thus increasing the number of individuals on Council from 10 to 11.

iii. all relevant legal documents and procedures be updated to reflect this change and ensure that the election process remains fair, transparent, and democratic.

iv. this proposed change be put forward to the public in a referendum at the next Council election following extensive public promotion and education, where voters will have the opportunity to approve or reject the proposal.

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

The Motion was put and **Lost**.

Voting was as follows:

For/Against 3 / 7

**For:** Councillor Carr, Councillor Keen, and Councillor Spenceley

**Against:** Councillor Antonini, Councillor Baker, Councillor Beregi, Councillor Holding, Councillor Hoy, Councillor Santer, and Councillor Welch

**Absent:** Nil

### **11.3 Notice of Motion 9/25: Lime and other share-ride bicycles - Crs Carr and Keen**

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

1. immediately engage with Share Bike Operators to:
  - a) request geofencing of major intersections across the Local Government Area (LGA);
  - b) request bike share operators to share their existing policies regarding the return/recovery of abandoned bikes and share any data about the level of this activity;
  - c) update terms and conditions to include:
    - i. riders respecting pedestrian safety and refraining from riding on footpaths.
    - ii. proper parking practices to avoid obstructing garden beds, entrances, and pedestrian access.
    - iii. use of appropriate infrastructure for safe riding.
    - iv. require riders to wear a helmet.
  - d) address the issue of missing helmets by finding a permanent solution.
  - e) request regular patrols (every 48 hours) by company rangers to move bikes to designated safe areas and enhance pedestrian safety; and
  - f) request Lime bikes to consistently Monitor No Parking Zones (which can be done by simply looking at the app, and remove within 24 hours).
2. negotiate the installation of docking stations paid for by share bike companies, to ensure bikes are picked up and returned to specific locations.
3. write to Minister of Local Government and to the Minister for Roads and infrastructure to introduce legislation to effectively manage share bike use

The Mayor ruled the Notice of Motion as out of order as it is contrary to the Resolution of Council for item 8.2.

#### **11.4. Notice of Motion 10/25: Review of Heritage Pubs - Cr Holding**

*This matter was moved forward as part of the Public Forum (see page 12-13).*

### **12. Matters of Urgency**

Nil

### **13. Closure**

The Meeting concluded at 8.32pm.