



Council Chambers
4 April 2025

An Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Cammeraygal lands at the Council Chambers, North Sydney at 7.00pm on Monday 14 April 2025. The agenda is as follows.

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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**
Nil
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10. Reports to Council

- 10.1 North Sydney DCP Streamlining Project
- 10.2 Review of Council policies
- 10.3 Gender Equity and Accessibility Audit of Council Sporting Facilities - response to Council resolution
- 10.4 Draft North Sydney Bike Action Plan - Public Exhibition
- 10.5 North Sydney Oval - Rugby Festival
- 10.6 North Sydney Oval - North Sydney Bears and Northern Suburbs Rugby VHAs

11. Notices of Motion/Questions with Notice

Nil

12. Matters of Urgency

Raised by Councillors

13 Closure of Meeting

In the spirit of open, accessible, and transparent government, the Council meetings of North Sydney Council will be streamed live via Council's website. By speaking at a Council meeting, members of the public agree to being recorded and must ensure their speech to the Council is respectful and use appropriate language. A person who uses defamatory, discriminatory, or offensive language may be exposed to liability for which Council takes no responsibility. Any part of the meeting that is held in Closed Session will not be recorded.

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 14 APRIL 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 24 March 2025 be taken as read and confirmed.

5. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

6. PUBLIC FORUM

7. ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

8. MINUTES OF THE MAYOR

Nil

9. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

10. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

10.1 North Sydney DCP Streamlining Project

Report of Ben Boyd, Executive Strategic Planner

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of a comprehensive draft Development Control Plan (DCP) which is proposed to replace North Sydney Development Control Plan 2013 (NSDCP 2013) for the purpose of public exhibition.

Council considered a report at its meeting of 22 April 2024 (in response to a request from the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Space) which identified potential opportunities for Council to improve its development assessment timeframes and assist in positively addressing concerns on housing supply across Sydney.

The report, in part, identified an opportunity to simplify and streamline Council's DCP through the removal of redundant and duplicate controls. The report also identified that Council staff had commenced an application for Commonwealth grant funding to undertake this project.

Having successfully acquired Commonwealth funding, Council engaged APP Group to prepare a new comprehensive draft DCP, in a format that can be more readily implemented into a future artificial intelligence (AI) platform for development assessment purposes. The project should be considered as stage 1 of a more comprehensive review given its complexity and the time constraints posed by the grant-funding authority. This initial stage does not seek to make any significant policy changes to the DCP.

The first stage of the simplification and streamlining of the DCP is now complete and endorsement is sought to progress the draft DCP to the public exhibition stage.

Recommending:

- 1. THAT** Council endorse the draft North Sydney Development Control Plan 2025, forming Attachment 1 to this report, for the purposes of public exhibition.
- 2. THAT** the draft North Sydney Development Control Plan be placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.
- 3. THAT** the outcomes of the public exhibition be reported to Council.

10.2 Review of Council policies

Report of Ian Robertson, Service Unit Manager Corporate Governance

The purpose of this report is for Council to commence a review of Council policies, beginning with Access to Information Policy and Asset Management Policy.

Over the coming year, Council will undertake a review of all policies.

Council Policies on the policy register that are due for review will be reviewed and presented to Council for readoption.

The review will aim to improve the consistency, focus and ease of use of Council's policy framework, including the use of a new Council Policy template.

To commence the review process, this report presents the reviewed versions of the Council policies below:

- Access to Information Policy
 - Asset Management Policy
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Recommending:

1. THAT Council readopt the revised versions of the *Access to Information Policy* and the *Asset Management Policy* as attached to this report.

10.3 Gender Equity and Accessibility Audit of Council Sporting Facilities - response to Council resolution

Report of David Manson, Manager Parks & Reserves, and George Carrick, Access and Inclusions Coordinator

This report responds to a Council resolution of 11 November 2024 in relation to a review of sporting facilities, field allocation and hiring Policies and Conditions of Use to facilitate and promote gender equity, access, and inclusion.

There has been an exponential increase in the participation rates of women and girls in sport and active recreation over recent years. Equity of access to sporting facilities is a key component to ensure that this trend continues across all age groups and abilities.

Council staff conducted an audit of the change room facilities at its sporting fields using the Sport Victoria and Sport Act guidelines for female friendly change facilities.

The review found that some sporting facilities do have some features and amenities that promote gender equity and access and inclusion, improvements can be made.

Field allocation for male and female participants is allocated by clubs and associations who book Council's facilities and whilst some anecdotal information was gained from the clubs further work needs to be undertaken to understand if field allocation is a barrier to equity of involvement in sport.

Recommending:

1. THAT Council note the contents of this report.

2. THAT a further review of the sporting field allocation focusing on improving opportunities for women, girls and accessibility be undertaken.

3. THAT a further report be brought back to Council following the review of the sporting field allocation, including recommended changes to Council's sports fields booking policy to improve opportunities for women, girls and accessibility.

4. THAT subject to available funding, Council engage an Access and Inclusion consultant as part of the review of sporting facilities, policies, and bookings processes.

10.4 Draft North Sydney Bike Action Plan - Public Exhibition

Report of Max White, Sustainable Transport Project Coordinator

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to proceed to exhibition of the draft North Sydney Bike Action Plan.

The development of the Bike Action Plan responds directly to Council's Strategic Direction 1: "Deliver infrastructure and programs that support healthy and active travel".

The draft Plan identifies the proposed networks and actions to assist in the delivery of safe active transport options for the community of North Sydney, in alignment with Council's Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS).

The draft Plan has been prepared with input from background research, and community and stakeholder engagement.

The draft Bike Action Plan is ready for public exhibition and consultation. Public exhibition of the draft Bike Action Plan requires endorsement of the Council.

Recommending:

- 1. THAT** Council notes that the development of the draft North Sydney Bike Action Plan aligns with the Integrated Transport Strategy adopted by Council on 10 February 2025.
- 2. THAT** Council notes the strategy and activities that have been developed for the public exhibition and community engagement of the draft North Sydney Bike Action Plan
- 3. THAT** Council endorse the public exhibition of the draft North Sydney Bike Action Plan.
- 4. THAT** Council notes that a further report will be brought back to Council following the public exhibition of the draft North Sydney Bike Action Plan.

10.5 North Sydney Oval - Rugby Festival

Report of Duncan Rennie, Manager Leisure and Aquatics

The purpose of this report is to seek Councils endorsement of a proposal to hold a rugby festival at North Sydney Oval (NSO), Bon Andrews Oval (BAO), and adjacent areas of St. Leonard's Park, from Wednesday 30 July to Saturday 2 August 2025.

Four days of events involving the Classic Wallabies and Rugby Australia have been proposed for 2025, from 30 July to 2 August, including an open Classic Wallabies Captains' training run on Wednesday 30 July, Classic Wallabies vs Classic Lions match on Thursday 31 July, Wallaroos vs Wales match on Friday 1 August, and a 'Live Site' broadcasting the Wallabies vs Lions third test on Saturday 2 August.

The Classic Wallabies have proposed hosting rugby clinics on Bon Andrews Oval (BAO) on Wednesday 30 July 2025, open to children and schools within the local community. Rugby Australia has subsequently endorsed North Sydney Oval (NSO) as a recognised 'Live Site' for the third Wallabies vs Lions test match, scheduled for Saturday 2 August 2025.

To maximise the impact of these events, it is proposed that NSO hosts a four-day Rugby Festival from 30 July to 2 August 2025. To successfully accommodate the anticipated 12,000 patrons per night, it is recommended to extend the NSO boundaries on game nights and establish a secure 'Fan Zone' within St Leonards Park. This area would also be open to the public on non-game nights, with NSO remaining closed.

Recommending:

- 1. THAT** Council endorse the proposal for a Rugby Festival to be held at North Sydney Oval, Bon Andrews and St Leonards Park, from 30 July to 2 August 2025.
 - 2. THAT** Council endorse the operation of a 'Fan Zone' to be operated in partnership with the Classic Wallabies within St Leonards Park.
 - 3. THAT** Council authorise Council's Chief Executive Officer to finalise negotiations and enter into agreements with the Classic Wallabies, Rugby Australia, and food & beverage stakeholders for the Rugby Festival to be held at North Sydney Oval, Bon Andrews Oval, and the adjacent areas of St Leonards Park, from 30 July to 2 August 2025.
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10.6 North Sydney Oval - North Sydney Bears and Northern Suburbs Rugby VHAs

Report of Duncan Rennie, Manager Leisure and Aquatics

This report seeks Council's endorsement of two Heads of Agreement between Council and North Sydney Rugby League (Bears) and Northern Suburbs Rugby Union (Norths), to form the basis of two five-year Venue Hire Agreements (VHAs) for the use of North Sydney Oval (NSO) and Bon Andrews Oval (BAO).

The Bears and Norths have both been utilising NSO for more than 100-years, with historical agreements directing the nature of their engagement and utilisation of the venue.

Council met with the Bears and Norths separately on numerous occasions throughout 2024 and 2025, to address necessary changes to their VHAs. This was required to ensure both clubs were paying the appropriate fees and charges, and to secure their tenure of NSO.

Council sought to update these agreements to support the long-term sustainability of the Oval and to enable the clubs to customise VHA's specific to their unique requirements.

The Heads of Agreement for the Bears and Norths clarifies certain parameters by which the clubs can utilise NSO and BAO, while permitting Council to better manage its assets in the best interests of the community.

It is noted that the financial terms of the agreements between Council and the clubs are largely in alignment with Council's adopted fees and charges, however a five-year term requires the consent of the Council.

Recommending:

1. THAT Council notes the contents of this report in relation to the development of Venue Hire Agreements with the Bears and Norths for the use of North Sydney and Bon Andrews Ovals for the period 15 April 2025 to 31 August 2029.

2. THAT Council notes the Heads of Agreement summaries proposed between Council and the Bears and Norths noted within this report, which will be used to inform two five-year Venue Hire Agreements for the use of North Sydney and Bon Andrews Ovals for the period 15 April 2025 to 31 August 2029.

3. THAT Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to finalise negotiations with the Bears and Norths and enter into five-year Venue Hire Agreements with the Bears and Norths for the use of North Sydney Oval and Bon Andrews Oval, based on the proposed Heads of Agreement summaries included within this report.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

12. Matters of Urgency

Nil

13. CLOSURE
