



Council Chambers
2 May 2025

An Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Cammeraygal lands at the Council Chambers, North Sydney at 7.00pm on Monday 12 May 2025. The agenda is as follows.

THERESE COLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

-
- 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
-

10. Reports to Council

- 10.1 Bike-Share Operations in the North Sydney Local Government Area - response to Council resolution
- 10.2 Internal Audit Function - Shared Service Agreement
- 10.3 Parking Meter Fees and Service Fee Clarification
- 10.4 Draft Community Engagement Strategy
- 10.5 The Coal Loader - budget redirection

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 12 MAY 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 28 April 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 Bike-Share Operations in the North Sydney Local Government Area - response to Council resolution

Report of Eoin Cunningham, Service Unit Manager Traffic and Transport Operations

The purpose of this report responds to a resolution of Council of 10 March 2025 regarding bike-share services operating in the North Sydney Local Government Area. In August 2024, Council made a submission to the NSW Upper House Inquiry into the use of e-scooters, e-bikes, and related mobility options. Amongst other things, the submission called for actions to address safety issues and greater regulation on the use of e-bikes and e-scooters.

The findings of the Inquiry were tabled in the NSW Upper House in February 2025, and a response is anticipated from the NSW Government in May 2025.

On 11 September 2023, Council resolved to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise negotiations and enter an MoU with Lime Bikes for a 12-month share e-bike trial to operate in the North Sydney LGA. However, no agreement was reached between the Operator and Council at the time.

In late February 2025, Council staff met with representatives of Lime Bikes to discuss improving the operation within North Sydney. Lime Bikes indicated an interest to revisit the MoU with an aim to address the issues raised by the community and establishing a base level of operation for bike-share operators.

The MoU is currently with the parties' respective legal representatives. It is anticipated that the MoU will be finalised within six months. Councillors will then be briefed on the draft memorandum.

Recommending:

1. THAT the report responding to the Council resolution of 10 March 2025 in relation to bike-share operations in the North Sydney Local Government Area be received.

10.2 Internal Audit Function - Shared Service Agreement

Report of Luke Harvey, Director Corporate Services

The purpose of this report is present information on Council's shared Internal Audit Function and to seek approval for a new shared service agreement.

North Sydney Council has utilised a shared internal audit function since 2009.

Under this agreement Council receives a set number of independent audits each year from its audit plan, which are managed through the shared Head of Internal Audit.

The shared agreement enables Councils to leverage their combined purchasing power to gain efficiency and obtain shared learnings that contribute to improvements at each member Council.

An updated draft agreement was reviewed and endorsed by General Managers/Chief Executive Officers at a meeting of shared service member Councils on 2 April 2025.

Recommending:

1. THAT Council approves the updated Internal Audit Function shared service agreement for signing by the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of Council.

10.3 Parking Meter Fees and Service Fee Clarification

Report of Mia Stubis, Coordinator Parking Meters, and Eoin Cunningham, Service Unit Manager Traffic and Transport Operations

This report provides the Council with advice in relation to the NSW Government's revised Pay Parking and Controlled Loading Zone Guidelines and the application of service fees associated with parking software or payment apps.

In response to the 3G network shutdown, and consequential redundancy of council's car parking meter technology, a new pay parking meter system was implemented in July 2024.

Section 96 of the Road Transport (General) Regulation (The Regulation) requires that the cost of administering the parking scheme must be borne by the parking authority. The new system chosen by Council, provided increased functionality including additional payment options of a QR code payment and an online app to allow customisation of parking needs by users. The cost of this parking app was to be borne by the user on a 'user pays' principle through an 8.25% service fee.

As the supplemental payment options are an added function designed to support the user with their parking and not required for the administration of the parking scheme, this function was not considered to fall within Section 96.

The introduction of this service fee which aligns with 'user pays principles' has become common amongst Councils who have updated user pays parking systems as technology has evolved.

Any transfer of cost to Council becomes a cost absorbed by ratepayers rather than the individual user.

In March 2025, the NSW Government announced a review of The Permit Parking Guidelines (PPG) and Pay Parking and Controlled Loading Zone Guidelines (PPCLZG) with submission open to 2 May 2025.

The draft PPCLZG aims to clarify the requirements and implications of section 96 of the Regulation to ensure that surcharges, fees and costs are no longer applied separately to users. The updated guidelines are proposed to be released mid-year 2025.

Compliance with the Revised PPCLZG and removal of the service fees will result in costs of approximately \$334,000 per year.

Pricing for car parking is based upon 'market competitiveness' within Councils Revenue Policy. Having considered the impact of the additional cost in developing car parking fees for 2025/26, we have determined that increasing these fees to absorb the cost of the parking app is not supported by this principle.

The financial forecast for Council will have to be adjusted to incorporate the additional cost associated with removing the service fee of 8.25%. While this does impact the budget, overall, the new car parking system has generated savings for Council.

Recommending:

- 1. THAT** Council notes the proposed changes to the Pay Parking and Controlled Loading Zone Guidelines (PPCLZG), expected to be released mid-2025, which will require Council to absorb the service fee of 8.25% currently charged directly to users.
 - 2. THAT** Council incorporates the additional cost into the 2025/26 budget through the September 2025 Quarterly budget review process.
 - 3. THAT** the Draft Fees and Charges for 2025/26 as outlined in this report be endorsed and placed on public exhibition for 28 days.
-

4. THAT a further report be prepared for Council's consideration after the submissions period to facilitate adoption of the Fees and Charges Schedule 2025/26.

10.4 Draft Community Engagement Strategy

Report of Catrin Hobart, Executive Manager Corporate Affairs

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Council to exhibit the draft 2025-2029 Community Engagement Strategy including the Community Participation Plan.

The new 2025-2029 Community Engagement Strategy (CES) replaces the previous North Sydney Community Engagement Protocol (adopted in November 2019), in line with the Office of Local Government guideline to review the CES every four years.

The new CES follows best practice recommendations from the Integrated Planning and Reporting Handbook for Local Councils in NSW (2021) and aligns with the community engagement principles in the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

The Community Engagement Strategy (CES) provides a framework for how North Sydney Council will engage with the community to support the development of its plans, policies, programs, and key activities. It provides clear guidelines detailing how, when, and with whom Council will engage, ensuring that every step of the process is transparent and accountable.

The CES also includes the Community Participation Plan (CPP) that sets out when and how Council will undertake community engagement across its specific planning functions. This is required under the Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act).

As part of the new CES, eight new Strategic Advisory Reference (STAR) committees will be established to provide strategic advice and expert input towards the implementation of the Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program. These Committees will assist the Council to leverage the social capital within North Sydney to enhance strategic outcomes.

Approval is now sought to publicly exhibit the draft CES and invite community feedback from 14 May to 11 June 2025. Following this consultation, the CES will be presented to Council for adoption.

Recommending:

1. THAT Council undertake community consultation on the draft 2025-2029 Community Engagement Strategy (including the Community Participation Plan) attached to this report from 14 May to 11 June 2025.

2. THAT Council receive a report on the outcomes and feedback from the community engagement on the draft 2025-2029 Community Engagement Strategy, at the meeting of Council scheduled for 23 June 2025.

10.6 The Coal Loader - budget redirection

Report of Danielle Birbeck, Team Leader Sustainability

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the redirection of The Coal Loader education project funds to priority asset maintenance and repair works.

In September 2024, funds were allocated to The Coal Loader digital wall project, forming part of the Genia McCaffery Display Room upgrade.

Anticipated costs of the project totalled \$150,000.

The digital wall was planned to be in the Genia McCaffery Building, however, this building is experiencing significant deterioration, needing urgent asset maintenance to address priority issues.

It is proposed that funds be redirected from the digital wall project to priority asset maintenance.

Recommending:

1. THAT Council approve the redirection of The Coal Loader education project funds to priority asset maintenance and repair works.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

12. Matters of Urgency

Nil

13. CLOSURE