



Council Chambers
16 May 2025

An Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Cammeraygal lands at the Council Chambers, North Sydney at 7.00pm on Monday 26 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.

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- 1. Opening of Meeting**
 - 2. Acknowledgement of Country**
 - 3. Apologies and applications for leaves of absence or attendance by audio-visual link by councillors**
 - 4. Confirmation of Minutes**
 - 5. Disclosures of Interests**
 - 6. Public Forum**
 - 7. Items by Exception**
 - 8. Mayoral Minutes**

Nil
 - 9. Reports of Committees**
 - 9.1 Traffic Committee Minutes - 9 May 2025
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10. Reports to Council

- 10.1 Matters Outstanding to 28 April 2025
- 10.2 Quarterly Budget Review - March 2025
- 10.3 Q3 Review of the Delivery Program/Operational Plan 2024/25
- 10.4 Investment and Loan Borrowings Report as at 30 April 2025
- 10.5 PP6/21: 52 McLaren Street North Sydney - Post Exhibition Report
- 10.6 State-Significant Development Applications
- 10.7 Contamination of Long Bay, Cammeray - response to Council resolution
- 10.8 Don Bank Writer in Residence 2025
- 10.9 Tender 7/25 - Bushland Rehabilitation and Infrastructure Services
- 10.10 Tender 10/2025 - GPT Cleaning, and CCTV Inspections & Pipe Cleaning
- 10.11 North Sydney Olympic Pool Redevelopment Project Update
- 10.12 Draft 2025-29 Delivery Program and 2025-26 Operational Plan

11. Notices of Motion/Questions with Notice

- 11.1 Notice of Motion 12/25: Commemorating the 125th Anniversary of Northern Suburbs Rugby Football Club - Crs Carr & Keen
- 11.2 Notice of Motion 13/25: Support and Acknowledgement of the North Sydney Bears' return to the NRL - Crs Carr & Keen

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 26 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 12 May 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

9.1 Traffic Committee Minutes - 9 May 2025

Report of Peita Rose, Governance Officer

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

This report presents the Minutes of the last meeting of the Traffic Committee held 9 May 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>.

Recommending:

1. THAT the Minutes of the Traffic Committee meeting dated 9 May 2025 be received.

10. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

10.1 Matters Outstanding to 28 April 2025

Report of Ian Curry, Manager Council and Committee Services

The purpose of this report is to update Council regarding the status of resolutions arising from Mayoral Minutes, Notices of Motion, and Questions Without Notice. Each month, a report is presented to Council on the status of resolutions arising from Mayoral Minutes, Notices of Motion, and Questions Without Notice.

The attached table has been updated to include resolutions up to the 28 April 2025 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Recommending:

1. THAT the report be received.

10.2 Quarterly Budget Review - March 2025

Report of Daniel Peacock, Acting Financial Controller, and Aigul Utegenova, Chief Financial Officer

The purpose of this report is to:

- monitor budget progress for the third quarter of the 2024/25 financial year as of 31 March, highlighting income and expense changes and addressing any shortfalls or surpluses;
 - recommend adjustments and reallocations; and
 - ensure transparency and support decision-making.
 - **Decrease in Operating Deficit (before Capital Grants and Contributions):** The deficit decreased by \$3.467 million to \$2.005 million. This improvement is primarily due to one-off legal recoveries (\$1.135 million), \$1.435 million received from the NSW Government for compulsory acquisition of lease interest, a \$1.2 million increase in investment income, \$0.5 million in employee cost savings from holding vacant positions to improve Council's liquidity, \$0.4 million reduction in Salaries and Wages due to the delay of the North Sydney Olympic Pool project, \$0.872 million savings in employee costs due to leave management measures and \$0.4 million savings on worker's compensation fees. These gains were partially offset by a \$0.623 million decline in user charges and fees, a \$1 million impairment of work in progress balances and a \$0.773 million net loss from disposal of assets.
 - **Increase in Operating Surplus (including Capital Grants and Contributions):** The surplus increased by \$5.658 million, bringing the total to \$9.869 million.
 - **Decrease in Operating Grants:** Operating grants decreased by \$84,000 due to a budget correction following identification of an overstatement.
 - **Increase in Capital Grants and Developer Contributions:** Capital grants and contributions increased by \$2.191 million, driven by higher-than-expected developer contributions.
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- **Decrease in Capital Budget:** The capital budget decreased by \$37.170 million, largely due to delays in the North Sydney Olympic Pool project, Stage 2 of the Hume Street Park Expansion and Embellishment project, and the 287 Miller Street Affordable Housing project.
- **Borrowings:** In addition to the \$20 million loan received in July 2024, Council has applied for an additional \$10 million loan from TCorp. This is expected to be drawn down in the next financial year due to delays in the Olympic Pool project and adjusted cash flow requirements.
- **Unrestricted Current Ratio:** The unrestricted current ratio increased to 1.47 (from 1.22). This was mainly driven by one-off items such as legal recoveries, proceeds from lease acquisitions, and vacancy savings. These items are non-recurring, and the improvement should be seen as temporary. The funds received from lease interest sales are internally restricted and held in reserves.

Recommending:

1. **THAT** Council adopt the Quarterly Budget Review Statement – March 2025 report in accordance with clause 203 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.
2. **THAT** Council endorse the budget variations in this report.

10.3 Q3 Review of the Delivery Program/Operational Plan 2024/25

Report of Jenny Gracey, Corporate Planning Coordinator

This Quarterly Review presents a progress update against the Delivery Program/Operational Plan 2024/25 for the third quarter (Q3), 1 January to 31 March 2025, and includes project status (traffic lights) and the corporate scorecard.

The Operational Plan 2024/25 (Year 3 of the Delivery Program 2022-2026) was adopted by Council on 24 June 2024 and commenced on 1 July 2024.

In Q3 2024/25, 192 projects were scheduled to commence, or continue. Of these,

- 10 were completed (blue status)
- 147 were on track (green status)
- 31 were delayed (amber status)
- 3 were not progressing (red status)
- 1 was discontinued.

Recommending:

1. **THAT** the Quarterly Review (January – March 2025) of the Operational Plan be received.
2. **THAT** Council notes the remedial action for the projects that were not on track for the period ending 31 March.

10.4 Investment and Loan Borrowings Report as at 30 April 2025

Report of Daniel Peacock, Acting Financial Controller, and Aigul Utegenova, Chief Financial Officer

The purpose of this report is to provide details of the performance of Council's investments and loans for the month ending 30 April 2025.

All investments have been made in accordance with the Local Government Act and Regulations and Council's Financial Investments Policy.

For the month of April, the total investment portfolio (which includes Term Deposits, Floating Rate Notes and Bonds) provided a return of +0.33% (actual), or +4.11% p.a. (annualised), slightly under performing the benchmark AusBond Bank Bill Index return of +0.35% (actual), or +4.38% p.a. (annualised).

Returns on investments exceed the April YTD budget by \$1,131,843. This result includes fees paid to Council's investment adviser which total \$13,500 year to date. The annual fee is \$18,000.

An increase of \$1.2 million to investment income is proposed in the March quarter budget review.

Recommending:

1. THAT the report on Investments held at 30 April 2025, prepared in accordance with clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, and the information on Loan Borrowings be received.

10.5 PP6/21: 52 McLaren Street North Sydney - Post Exhibition Report

Report of Ben Boyd, Executive Strategic Planner

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement to progress Planning Proposal 6/21 which seeks to amend North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013 for 52 McLaren Street North Sydney, to adopt the associated amendment to the North Sydney Development Control Plan 2013 and proceed with the execution of the related Voluntary Planning Agreement following public exhibition.

At its meeting of 11 December 2023, Council resolved to support the progression of Planning Proposal 6/21 for the purposes of seeking a Gateway Determination. The Planning Proposal seeks to amend the planning controls under the North Sydney Local Environmental Plan (NSLEP) 2013 as they relate to 52 McLaren Street North Sydney. The proposed amendments include:

- amending the maximum building height from RL 110m to part RL 107m and RL 156m (8 and 24 storeys respectively);
- imposing a maximum overall floor space ratio of 5.3:1; and
- amending the minimum non-residential FSR from 0.5:1 to 1:1.

The Planning Proposal is accompanied by a draft Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) to deliver a number of public benefits to an estimated value of approximately \$12.5 million, including:

- the construction and dedication to Council of a ground level space to accommodate a future childcare centre;
- a publicly accessible pedestrian through-site-link between McLaren Street and Elliot Street; and
- provision of affordable housing, up to a maximum of 5% of the residential gross floor area, to be managed by a Community Housing Provider for a minimum of 10 years.

Council also resolved on 11 December 2023 that the proponent prepare a draft site-specific amendment to North Sydney Development Control Plan (NSDCP) 2013, to provide greater certainty as to the built form outcomes envisaged on the subject site and place that draft amendment on public exhibition concurrently with the Planning Proposal. Council subsequently endorsed a draft amendment to NSDCP 2013 for public exhibition purposes on 24 June 2024.

On 22 March 2024, the Minister for Planning issued a Gateway Determination, permitting the Planning Proposal to be placed on public exhibition. The Gateway Determination was altered on 14 October 2024 to revise the processing timeframes. In accordance with the Gateway Determination (as altered), the Planning Proposal, draft DCP amendment, and draft VPA were placed on public exhibition concurrently for a period of 54 calendar days (24 working days) from 2 December 2024 to 24 January 2025.

71 submissions were received during the exhibition period, of which one was in support of the intended outcomes of the Planning Proposal, one did not object to the proposal but had requested a change to the draft DCP amendment, and 69 opposed the whole, or aspects of, the Planning Proposal.

This report has considered all submissions made, and on balance of the assessment conducted in this report, and in the context of the planning process undertaken with the preparation of the Civic Precinct Planning Study in 2020 and the ongoing demands to accommodate a growing population, it is recommended:

- that the Planning Proposal proceed to the next stage of the plan-making process unamended;
- that the VPA be executed with no additional changes to the scope of the public benefit offer; and
- that the proposed amendment to NSDCP 2013 be adopted subject to the removal of requirement that the carparking provision be limited to a maximum of 80% of the general DCP requirement.

Recommending:

- 1. THAT** Council note the submissions made.
 - 2. THAT** having had regard to the submissions made, Council endorse the Planning Proposal, as exhibited, forming Attachment 3 to this report.
 - 3. THAT** having completed the community consultation requirements outlined in the Gateway Determination, Council proceed under delegation with the making of a Local Environmental Plan in accordance with section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, to give effect to the Planning Proposal (Attachment 3).
 - 4. THAT** Council grant delegation to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise the Voluntary Planning Agreement (Attachment 4), including any necessary minor administrative amendments, with the view to have it executed prior to the gazettal of the LEP amendment.
 - 5. THAT** in accordance with clause 14(1)(b) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation, 2021, Council adopt the amendment to North Sydney Development Control Plan 2013 as amended in response to submissions, forming Attachment 7 to this report.
 - 6. THAT** in accordance with clause 14(2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021, public notice be given of the adoption and publication of the amendment to North Sydney Development Control Plan 2013 on Council's website.
 - 7. THAT** in accordance with the clause 20(1) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021, a copy of the revised development control plan be provided to the NSW Planning Secretary.
 - 8. THAT** Council notify all submitters of Council's decision.
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10.6 State-Significant Development Applications

Report of Stephen Beattie, Service Unit Manager Development Services

The purpose of this report is to update Council on planning approval pathway changes introduced by the NSW Government and seek endorsement of a proposed approach to managing and responding to the resourcing and policy challenges these approval pathways present.

Over the past two years, the NSW Government has introduced a wide-ranging suite of planning and legislative reforms aimed at increasing residential housing supply and approval timeframes.

In addition to major policy changes introduced through the re-zoning of the St Leonards and Crows Nest precinct (November 2024) and finalisation of low - mid-rise housing reforms (February 2025), the previous and new approval pathways have led to 18 developments sites being, or soon to be, declared as State Significant Development (SSD) in the North Sydney Local Government Area.

This report outlines the various major development approval pathways and details the resourcing, process, and planning policy challenges that these present, and seeks endorsement of an approach that seeks to balance community expectations and Council's other statutory obligations.

Whilst the desire to accelerate housing approvals and supply is well understood, in the context of Council's own methodical DA determination improvement strategies, the additional demands placed on Council's resources to properly implement changes introduced by the NSW Government, are significant. This is a clear example of cost shifting to Local Government.

One of the significant impacts of recent approval pathway changes and amendments to State planning policies is the fundamental potential changes to established policy settings for employment centres. The resulting introduction of residential land uses into the commercial core of North Sydney and St Leonards significantly reduces potential future commercial floor space capacity by over 25,000 jobs, which will affect the long-term role of the North Sydney CBD and the St Leonards Strategic Centre. In the current planning pathways environment, this is likely to occur in an ad hoc, unplanned manner without a sound endorsed policy basis.

Recommending:

1.THAT Council note the status of current and anticipated State Significant Developments (SSD) and associated changes to approval pathways for large scale development proposals, key planning considerations and significant assessment issues associated with Council resourcing, community consultation and meaningful local input potentially being curtailed.

2. THAT Council note the minimal opportunity provide proper and considered Council feedback to SSD applications, particularly if the 14-day notification period is invoked.

3.THAT Council write to the Minister for Planning seeking a moratorium on proposals involving the conversion of commercially zoned land to residential uses until the State Government concludes its current update of the Greater Sydney Region Plan which clearly articulates its strategic direction for CBD environments like North Sydney and St Leonards.

4. THAT Council seek funding from the Department of Planning, Housing, and Infrastructure to adequately resource its capacity to respond to State Significant Developments (SSDs) in a timely, informed, and consultative manner, ensuring

proposals are well-founded and that local perspectives on planning, infrastructure, post-determination, and construction management issues are thoroughly considered.

10.7 Contamination of Long Bay, Cammeray - response to Council resolution

Report of Sergio Corona, Service Unit Manager Capital Projects and Asset Management

The purpose of this report is to respond to a resolution of Council at its meeting of 10 February 2025, regarding the source of contamination of Long Bay, Cammeray.

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), in conjunction with NSW Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH), have investigated the polyethylene pipe at the head of Long Bay, which was the subject of Council resolution of 10 February 2025. The results of these investigations identified that the pipe was not connected to anything that could be causing the discharge and discolouration of the Long Bay waters.

The remaining polyethylene pipe has now been removed from the Bay by the Land and Marine Group and disposed of by Council.

On 3 April 2025, Council resumed its Acid Sulphate Soil testing investigations. Soil sampling is now complete, and the findings of these investigations will be reported to Council once the samples have been analysed.

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, & Water (DCCEEW) has installed a number of ground water monitoring wells across Tunks Park, which will be monitored monthly to map the ground water and infiltration of seawater.

Sydney Water has confirmed they do not pump out of the North Side Storage Tunnel and has advised that the purpose of the tunnel is overflow storage.

There are no Environment Protection Licenses that would discharge into Flat Rock Creek/Long Bay.

Recommending:

- 1. THAT** Council notes the contents of this report in response to the Resolution of Council regarding water contamination issues raised in relation to Long Bay.
- 2. THAT Council** continues to work with the Environmental Protection Authority and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment & Water in relation to potential sources of pollution in Long Bay.
- 3. THAT Council** notes that a further report will be brought back to Council once the results of soil tests taken from Tunks Park have been analysed.

10.8 Don Bank Writer in Residence 2025

Report of Amanda Hudson, Community Development Librarian

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the outcome of the application process for the 2025 Don Bank Writer in Residence, and to seek Council approval in offering the 2025 residency to the recommended applicants.

Council offers a Writer exclusive use of the Don Bank Museum studio for a fixed term through the Writer in Residence program.

The successful writer contributes to Stanton Library's schedule of public programs as part of their residency, through the delivery of workshops and talks for the community.

This year sees the introduction of a one-hour consultation with a publisher from Penguin Random House, giving the successful applicant access to professional advice to help advance their career.

Expressions of Interest for the 2025 Writer in Residence at the Don Bank Museum Studio have been processed and reviewed by the selection panel. For the 2025 residency there were 18 applications received, five of which were short-listed. Due to the competitive nature of the applicants, the selection panel have decided to award the residency to two writers for six months each.

The selection panel seeks the support of Council in offering the 2025 residency to the recommended applicants, with details provided in the attached confidential report. Should Council wish to discuss this report it is noted that the attached confidential document includes personnel matters that relate to the employment conditions of specific individuals. It is noted that this item does not deal with personnel matters of a group but is specific to individuals and as such should be considered in a closed session.

Recommending:

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:

(a) personnel matters concerning a particular individual

2. THAT Council supports the selection of Applicants 2 and 4 for a six-month residency commencing 1 August 2025 and 1 March 2026 respectively.

10.9 Tender 7/25 - Bushland Rehabilitation and Infrastructure Services

Report of Gareth Debney, Bushland Management Coordinator

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an analysis and recommendations of the tender process for Tender 7/2025 Bushland Rehabilitation and Infrastructure Services.

Tenders were called and received until 3pm Tuesday 22 April 2025 for the provision of bushland rehabilitation services (Part A) and bushland infrastructure services (Part B) during the period 01/07/2025 to 30/06/2030.

The purpose of this tender is to establish a panel of suitably qualified, experienced, and accredited contractors to continue implementing Council's Bushland Rehabilitation Plans over the next five-year period, through the allocation of reserve-specific, 12-month-duration contracts (under Part A of the tender) and one-off project-specific contracts for bushland track construction/infrastructure upgrades (Part B) as allocated.

The Tender establishes a panel of up to eight suitably qualified, experienced, and accredited bushland rehabilitation contractors, and up to eight specialist bushland infrastructure service providers, to whom Council may, at its discretion, allocate works for the period specified above. There is no guarantee that empanelled contractors will be allocated work under this contract.

Should Council wish to discuss this report it is noted that the attached confidential document includes commercial information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it. Further, release of the information would, on balance be contrary to the public interest as publication of all tendered amounts would discourage potential tenderers from submitting commercial information in future and would affect Council's ability to obtain value for money services. As such should this matter be discussed, it should be considered in closed session.

Recommending:

1. THAT Council accept the tender panel appointments under Parts A and B of Tender 7/2025 for Bushland Rehabilitation and Infrastructure Services

2. THAT the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to take any necessary action to implement the decision including entering into associated contracts.

3. 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

(i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

It is further noted that the release of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as publication of all tendered documents would discourage potential tenderers from submitting commercial information in future and would affect Council's ability to obtain value for money services.

10.10 Tender 10/2025 - GPT Cleaning, and CCTV Inspections & Pipe Cleaning

Report of Jim Moore, Engineering Project Manager

This report provides Council with an analysis and recommendations in relation to Tender 10/2025 - GPT Cleaning, and CCTV Inspections and Pipe Cleaning.

Tenders were called GPT Cleaning and CCTV Inspections and Pipe Cleaning in February 2025.

The Tender (10/2025) consists of two parts: Part 1 – GPT cleaning and Part 2 - CCTV Inspections and Pipe Cleaning.

11 submissions were received when tenders closed on 13 March 2025; five tenders were received for Part 1 and six tenders were received for Part 2.

Tenders were assessed in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy and s55 of the NSW Local Government Act (1993).

Should Council wish to discuss this report it is noted that the attached confidential document includes information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council. Further, release of the information would on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it would affect Council's ability to obtain value for money services. As such should this matter be discussed it should be considered in closed session.

Recommending:

1. THAT Council accept the tender of the highest ranked renderer for Part 1 of Tender 10/2025 - GPT Cleaning.

2. THAT Council accept the tender of the highest ranked renderer for Part 2 of Tender 10/2025 - CCTV Inspections & Pipe Cleaning.

3. THAT the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to take any necessary action to implement the decision including entering into associated contracts.

4. THAT the Chief Executive Officer is the delegated Authority to negotiate a variance in the annual adjustment of the rates due to unforeseen circumstances that may arise.

5. THAT the Director of Open space and Infrastructure is the delegated Authority to extend the contract options as per clauses in the tender documents.

6. 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*

(ii) *confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council*

It is further noted that the release of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as publication of all tendered documents would discourage potential tenderers from submitting commercial information in future and would affect Council's ability to obtain value for money services.

10.11 North Sydney Olympic Pool Redevelopment Project Update

Report of Gary Parsons, Director Open Space and Infrastructure

This report provides Council with an update on the North Sydney Olympic Pool Redevelopment Project.

The revised contractual date for Practical Completion of the project remains 11 July 2024. Council's contractor (Icon) has recently provided an updated program indicating a Practical completion date of 30 October 2025, which reflects a further two months of program slippage since the last report.

The revised construction contract sum is currently \$92.16m. The total project costs remain within the forecast costs to completion of \$122m, however Council is aware of further variations that have not been submitted and increased consultants' costs due to delay.

Icon has commenced legal proceedings against Council; Council's legal representatives will take carriage of the matter under instruction from Council. Council is continuing with separate legal action against Brewster Hjorth Architects.

Recommending:

1. THAT the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A (2):

(c) *information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business and because consideration of the matter in open Council would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest as it would affect Council's ability to obtain value for money services.*

2. THAT the confidential report and related attachments be treated as confidential and remain confidential unless Council determines otherwise.

3. THAT Council note the contents of this report in relation to the redevelopment of the North Sydney Olympic Pool.

10.12 Draft 2025-29 Delivery Program and 2025-26 Operational Plan

Report of Therese Cole, Chief Executive Officer

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Council to exhibit the revised draft Delivery Program 2025-2029 and the Operational Plan and Budget 2025-2026 following the IPART determination.

Council's commitment to supporting delivery of the Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 is articulated through the Delivery Program (DP), a four-year plan that outlines the strategic initiatives Council will undertake during its term.

The Operational Plan (OP) provides a detailed one-year schedule of activities, services, projects, and budgets, to implement the DP.

To reduce duplication, the draft Delivery program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan and Budget 2025-2026 are presented in one integrated document.

At its Ordinary meeting held 28 April 2025, Council considered the draft Delivery program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan and Budget 2025-2026. These draft documents relied on additional rating revenue as outlined in the application for special rate variation lodged with the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) in February 2025.

On 16 May 2025, IPART advised that Council's application has been refused in full. Ordinary rates will therefore increase by rate-peg which is 4% for the 2025-2026 financial year.

The IPART decision requires Council to address its liquidity through alternate measures, which will include reduction in strategic actions, cost cutting, service reductions, infrastructure renewal reductions and a more aggressive approach to non-rate income generation. Continued efforts will also be made towards productivity improvements.

As a result of the IPART determination, actions within the Operational Plan have been reduced and/or changed, with many actions for years 2 to 4 subject to funding.

Recommending:

- 1. THAT** the draft Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2025-26 containing the Budget and Statement of Revenue Policy for 2025-2026 be endorsed for a period of public exhibition of not less than 28 days, from 27 May to 24 June 2025, inviting submissions from the public; and
- 2. THAT** Council receives a report at the conclusion of the period of public exhibition, providing the outcomes of public exhibition.
- 3. THAT** Council hold an extraordinary meeting on Monday 30 June 2025 for the purpose of adopting the draft Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan containing the Budget and Statement of Revenue Policy for 2025-2026.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

11.1 Notice of Motion 12/25: Commemorating the 125th Anniversary of Northern Suburbs Rugby Football Club - Crs Carr & Keen

- 1. THAT** Council formally congratulate the Northern Suburbs Rugby Football Club on its 125th anniversary in 2025, recognising its significant contribution to Australian rugby and the North Sydney community.
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2. THAT Council install a commemorative plaque at North Sydney Oval to acknowledge this historic milestone and honour the club's enduring presence and heritage at the venue.

Background

In 2025, the Northern Suburbs Rugby Football Club, widely known as the Shoremen, celebrates 125 years since its formation in 1900 through the merger of the Pirates and Wallaroos clubs. As a prominent member of the Shute Shield competition, Norths has been a cornerstone of rugby on Sydney's North Shore, with 42 players having gone on to represent the Wallabies.

The club has played a vital role in the sporting and cultural life of the North Sydney area, with North Sydney Oval serving as a cherished home ground for generations of players and supporters. In celebration of this milestone, Norths hosted a special commemorative event at their first home game of the 2025 season and launched the "Northern Suburbs Rugby Heritage Project," including a documentary series by noted rugby historian Theo Clark.

The 125th anniversary is an opportunity for Council to recognise the club's rich legacy and reaffirm its support for local sport and community identity.

11.2 Notice of Motion 13/25: Support and Acknowledgement of the North Sydney Bears' return to the NRL - Crs Carr & Keen

1. THAT Council congratulate the North Sydney Bears on their historic return to the National Rugby League (NRL) competition, rebranded as the Perth Bears, and write to the club expressing Council's support for their re-entry into top-flight rugby league.

2. THAT Council acknowledge the North Sydney Bears' 115th anniversary in 2025 by working with the club to commemorate this milestone, including the installation of a commemorative plaque at North Sydney Oval celebrating the club's legacy.

Background

The North Sydney Bears, one of rugby league's foundation clubs, are set to return to the NRL in 2027 after a 28-year absence. In partnership with a Western Australian consortium and with the support of the WA Government, the team will compete as the Perth Bears while maintaining strong ties to their heritage.

This significant development not only marks the club's return to elite competition but also celebrates their 115-year history and cultural contribution to the North Sydney community. The continued use of North Sydney Oval for at least one match per season is a vital link to this history, and the Council recognises the importance of supporting both the club's future and its legacy.

12. Matters of Urgency

Nil

13. CLOSURE
