

## **8.2. MM02: Minister's intention to revoke Crown Land management by Council in favour of Golf NSW**

On Friday 6 February, the Minister for Lands and Property – also the Minister for Sport - announced his intention to revoke Council's care, control and management of Cammeray Park and instead transfer that role to Golf NSW.

There has been no community consultation and Council has a mere 14 days to respond to this proposal.

The Minister's media release states that the NSW Government is "in discussions with North Sydney Council." This statement is incorrect.

I have written to the Minister on no fewer than eight occasions since late 2022 outlining Council's position on Cammeray Park and requesting a meeting. Not once has Council been granted that opportunity. In contrast, Golf NSW has met with the Minister on five occasions since 2023.

Correspondence received from the Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands wrongly assumes that Council intends to prevent golf from continuing at Cammeray Park and relies on Council's Open Space and Recreation Strategy to justify this claim. This is also incorrect.

Neither the Open Space and Recreation Strategy nor the supporting Needs Study proposes an end to golf at Cammeray Park.

The correspondence misrepresents Council's adopted strategy, fails to acknowledge the significant pressures facing North Sydney and overlooks Council's clear commitment to engage constructively with all stakeholders about the future of public land.

It is no secret that North Sydney is one of the three most densely populated Local Government Areas (LGA) in NSW. The North Sydney LGA has the lowest per capita provision of open space in the whole of northern Sydney and even less than that enjoyed in the City of Sydney.

In this context every square metre of public open space is precious and even more critical to liveability.

The existing undersupply of open space and the NSW Government's housing reforms are set to increase our population by a more than 30% over the next 5 to 10 years and place further pressure on existing open space.

In response to these challenges, Council adopted an Open Space and Recreation Strategy last year informed by independent research and robust community engagement. Actions within this strategy require Council to reconsider the way it uses all of its public places and spaces to ensure that as our population grows, quality of life is not diminished.

The Strategy and accompanying Needs Study emphasised the significant deficit of open space and recreation land within the North Sydney LGA. Planned housing and population growth will place increasing pressure on this deficit.

For this reason, and in the public interest, Council has adopted a holistic approach to open space and recreation planning, requiring consideration of all public places and spaces to meet the needs of a growing population.

Strategic directions contained within the strategy include:

*1. Deliver additional space for sports and recreation*

This strategic direction requires master planning and feasibility of significant Council landholdings including land currently occupied by Crows Nest Community Centre, car parking facilities, facilities within the North Sydney civic precinct including Council's administration centre, North Sydney Community Centre, Stanton Library and commercial properties. In addition, this direction aims to repurpose grey spaces into green spaces in the North Sydney CBD, collaborate with PCYC to retain recreation facilities for youth and explore opportunities for new harbour swimming sites.

*2. Maximise the capacity of our existing open spaces and recreation facilities*

The relevant reference to Cammeray Park is as follows:

“2.1 In consultation with the community, develop a masterplan for Cammeray Park that increases opportunities for multi-use and addresses community demand for active and passive recreation.”

In addition to Cammeray Park, other actions within this direction call for a review of North Sydney Oval and North Sydney Indoor Sports Centre, along with actions to multi-purpose tennis courts and other sports fields. Together these actions aim to provide for the current lack of open space which will increasingly impact quality of life as the population grows.

*3. Provide new and upgraded facilities within existing public spaces*

This strategic direction focuses on improved infrastructure within existing facilities to cater for intensified use including playground, amenities, shade, outdoor fitness etc.

Cammeray Park forms the largest single parcel of recreational land in the North Sydney local government area. The Western Harbour Tunnel/Warringah Freeway Upgrade project resulted in the permanent loss of 3 hectares of the Cammeray Parklands reserve and over 3,000 trees. What remains of the public land is even more vital to the wellbeing of the North Sydney community.

Yes, the strategy calls for a new masterplan for Cammeray Park with a view of maximising use of Cammeray Park and not limited to benefitting one sporting group.

Nowhere does it say that this would exclude golf.

The Open Space and Recreation Strategy also calls for increased opportunities for community use of North Sydney Oval, North Sydney Indoor Sports Centre and all other sports fields and courts. It even includes reviewing roads and car parks and public land currently occupied by community centres and operational buildings.

Just as we are unable to build more roads as the population grows, we cannot expand open space. We have to maximise the use of the public space we have, in a way that accommodates the needs of as many people as we can.

While Cammeray Park may be suitable for nine holes of par-three golf today, that may not be the case forever - even golf is evolving.

The following extract from Golf NSW Annual Report 2025 highlights the move towards 'off-course' golf facilities which include venues and technologies that facilitate golf experiences outside of traditional 9- or 18-hole courses, such as standalone driving ranges, indoor golf simulators, etc.

Golf NSW CEO stated

“Whilst interest and participation in golf are at generational high levels, this has not, in all instances, transpired into club prosperity/health. For many clubs, increased operational costs have outpaced income streams, putting upward pressure on membership subscription fees.

Off-course facilities, especially in metropolitan areas, continue to benefit from a 'waiting list' environment which is now prevalent across many clubs.”

Modern golf experiences can be co-located with other sporting and recreation facilities and to suggest this is not the case ignores the principles of Council's Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

Contrary to the Minister's advice, Council has committed to working with all stakeholders, including golf, to determine if and when change is required to support the broader community need and intended to do this through consultation with key stakeholders, sporting associations and importantly, the community.

In December 2025, Council resolved to extend the existing lease of Cammeray Golf Course until 30 September 2029 to allow sufficient time for meaningful community and stakeholder engagement on the site's future.

The Council is the most appropriate organisation to care for, control, and manage this important piece of public land on behalf of the community.

A decision to award Golf NSW care, control, and management of the Golf Club lease effectively privatises green space that should always remain accessible to the community.

The use of Ministerial powers to permanently quarantine Cammeray Golf Course for a single user group is short-sighted, contrary to good public land management, and against the public interest.

Any decision about Cammeray Parklands must respond to the chronic shortage of open space in North Sydney and balance recreation, environmental and community needs. Any decision must follow thorough and transparent community consultation.

**I therefore recommend:**

- 1. THAT** Council urgently write to the Minister for Crown Lands, the Hon Stephen Kamper, MP to urge him to reconsider this proposal, consider the broader context of housing growth and liveability for the people of North Sydney and engage with Council in respect of the future of Cammeray Park and the public interest.
- 2. THAT** Council seek urgent legal advice from Senior Counsel including whether the proposed revocation of Council as Crown Land Manager of Cammeray Park is legally valid in the circumstances and whether there is any basis to seek to restrain, prevent or challenge the proposed decision.
- 3. THAT** Council make a strong submission opposing the proposed revocation, within the 14-day period afforded by the Minister, including a submission that that the entirety of Cammeray Parklands be retained and returned to the care and control of North Sydney Council as Crown Land Manager on behalf of the North Sydney community.
- 4. THAT** Council educate and inform the community in relation to the proposed decision and Council's position.

**COUNCILLOR ZOË BAKER  
MAYOR**



## Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Ms Therese Cole  
Chief Executive Officer  
North Sydney Council  
PO Box 12  
North Sydney NSW 2059

**Email:** [therese.cole@northsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:therese.cole@northsydney.nsw.gov.au), [council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au)

5 February 2026

---

**Subject:** Cammeray Golf Course

Dear Ms Cole,

I write to advise of a proposed administrative decision concerning North Sydney Council's appointment as Crown land manager to the land currently occupied by the Cammeray Golf Course. I do so in my capacity as Deputy Secretary for Crown Lands.

The proposed decision is to revoke North Sydney Council's appointment as Crown Land Manager for Cammeray Golf Course under section 3.10 of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (NSW) (**CLM Act**).

The decision relates only to the land currently occupied by the Cammeray Golf Course.

### **Context for the proposal**

The Minister's preliminary view is that the Cammeray Golf Course should continue to be used for golf purposes. In that context, the proposal forms part of the Minister's consideration of the most appropriate entity to manage the land.

The Minister's delegate has had reference to Council's Open Space and Recreation Strategy (January 2025) and the report to Council at its 10 February 2025 meeting entitled "10.1. Informing Strategies - planning for our next 10 years". Council does not intend to allow Cammeray Golf Course to be used for golf purposes in future.

The Minister's current intent is that the Cammeray Golf Course will continue to be used for golf into the future. To that end, the Minister is considering the appointment of Golf NSW as the Crown Land Manager of the Cammeray Golf Course.

### **Opportunity to make submissions**

Before any final decision is made, North Sydney Council is invited to be heard.



## Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

You may provide submissions, together with any information, views or comments you wish the Minister to consider in relation to the proposed revocation. Any submissions received by the date specified below will be considered by the Minister prior to determining whether to proceed with the proposal.

This invitation is made to afford procedural fairness and does not involve any pre-determination of outcome.

### How to respond and extensions

Please provide your written submission by 5:00pm Thursday, 19 February 2025 to Mr Tim Deverell, Director Regional Operations East via email to [tim.deverell@crowmland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tim.deverell@crowmland.nsw.gov.au) or post to PO Box 2185, Dangar NSW 2309. A timely determination of this matter is essential. Accordingly, extensions to the due date will be considered for exceptional circumstances and must be requested prior to the deadline. In the absence of submissions from the Council, the Minister (or delegate) may proceed to make the decision without further notice to you.

### Decision-maker

The decision will be made by the Minister (or delegate) under the CLM Act, following which North Sydney Council will be notified.

Please address any queries, requests for disclosure of material, or extension requests to:  
Mr Tim Deverell, Director Regional Operations East, M: 0447 845 483 or  
E: [tim.deverell@crowmland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tim.deverell@crowmland.nsw.gov.au)

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to receiving any submissions you may wish to make.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Melanie Hawyes'.

Melanie Hawyes

Deputy Secretary Crown Lands  
Crown Lands and Public Spaces



MyServiceNSW

(<https://account.service.nsw.gov.au/>)

## Ministerial media release

# Securing the future of golf at Cammeray

Published: 6 February 2026

Released by: Minister for Lands and Property

The Minns Labor Government has today announced its intention to secure the future of golf at Cammeray Golf Course where Golf has been played for 120 years.

The current lease on the golf course is due to expire in May 2026 and the Government is moving to give certainty to golfers as well as all other users of the park that sporting uses will continue into the future.

The Minns Labor Government is in discussions with Golf NSW, North Sydney Council, Cammeray Golf Club and other stakeholders in relation to the future management of the golf course.

Cammeray Golf Course is part of the wider Cammeray Park reserve which has hosted golf since 1906. It provides the community with a public and affordable 9-hole par 3 course for people of all ages and skill levels, from beginners and juniors to high performance players.

Cammeray Park is also home to tennis courts, croquet lawns, a skate plaza, soccer and rugby matches, and community events.

The Minns Labor Government continues to support Golf at all levels. Today's announcement follows previous support delivered through the Organisational Support and Level the Playing Field Program to increase Golf participation, as well as Destination NSW sponsorship of more than 54 Golf tournaments over 2024-26.

### **Minister for Lands and Property and Sport Steve Kamper said:**

“Cammeray Golf Course has been part of Sydney’s sporting fabric for more than a century, and we want to secure its future for generations to come.

“The NSW Government is looking to ensure access to golf in the heart of the North Shore to support community recreation and wellbeing.

“We’re proud to back golf as a sport that brings people together and supports local jobs.”

**Golf NSW Chief Executive Officer Stuart Fraser said:**

“Golf NSW is thrilled Minister Kamper and the NSW Government are providing certainty for golf and golfers at Cammeray Golf Course.

“Cammeray Golf Course is a unique public facility, welcoming everyone from beginners and juniors to elite players, so we whole heartedly support these moves to ensure its’ long-term future.”

## Related ministerial articles

---

**Ministerial media release**

29 January 2026

**[It’s a catch! World’s best fish market welcomes over 230,000 visitors in its first week \(/ministerial-releases/its-a-catch-worlds-best-fish-market-welcomes-over-230000-visitors-its-first-week\)](#)**

Sydney’s iconic new fish market has welcomed more than 230,000 people and traded more than 160 tonnes of seafood through its world-class auction, trading and retail facilities in its first week of operating.

---

**Ministerial media release**

16 January 2026

**[Help kick off the upgrade of Leichhardt Oval \(/ministerial-releases/help-kick-off-upgrade-of-leichhardt-oval\)](#)**

Designs for the \$40 million upgrade of Sydney’s iconic Leichhardt Oval have been unveiled and the community is encouraged to have its say on the proposal.

---

**Ministerial media release**

2 December 2025

**Culturally significant harbour swim spot re-opens for summer (/ministerial-releases/culturally-significant-harbour-swim-spot-re-opens-for-summer)**

Barangaroo's much loved swim spot, Marrinawi Cove, has officially re-opened just in time for summer, after an upgrade undertaken by the Minns Labor Government has taken the popular bay spot to another level delivering a larger swimming area and increased amenities.

## Related information

---

**Sport and recreation** →

---

**Visiting and exploring NSW** →

---