



Council Chambers
12 March 2026

An Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Cammeraygal lands at the Council Chambers, North Sydney at 7.00pm on Monday 23 March 2026. 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. Items by Exception**
 - 7. Mayoral Minutes**
Nil
 - 8. Reports of Committees**
Nil
-

9. Reports to Council

- 9.1 Matters Outstanding to 9 March 2026
- 9.2 Investment and Loan Borrowings Report as at 28 February 2026
- 9.3 Commercial and Group Use of Open Space Policy - post-exhibition report
- 9.4 3-15 Christie Street, Wollstonecraft - Fire and Rescue NSW Inspection Report
- 9.5 Traffic Matters - Spofforth Street / Rangers Road - update report
- 9.6 North Sydney Olympic Pool Redevelopment Project Update

10. Notices of Motion/Questions with Notice

- 10.1 Notice of Motion 3/26 - Kelly's Place - Crs Keen and Carr

11. Matters of Urgency

Raised by Councillors

12. 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 23 MARCH 2026

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 9 March 2026 be taken as read and confirmed.

5. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

6. ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

7. MINUTES OF THE MAYOR

Nil

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

9. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

9.1 Matters Outstanding to 9 March 2026

Report of Ian Curry, Acting Service Unit Manager Corporate Governance

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 8 December 2025 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Recommending:

1. THAT the report be received.

9.2 Investment and Loan Borrowings Report as at 28 February 2026

Report of Lu Chen, 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 28 February 2026.

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

For the month of February, the total investment portfolio (which includes Term Deposits and Bonds) provided a return of +0.32% (actual), or +4.19% p.a. (annualised), outperforming the AusBond Bank Bill Index return of +0.28% (actual) or +3.76% p.a. (annualised).

Returns on investments exceeded the February YTD budget by \$619,084. This result includes fees paid to Council's investment advisers for the period.

Recommending:

1. THAT the report on investments held at 28 February 2026, prepared in accordance with clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, and the information on Loan Borrowings, be received.

9.3 Commercial and Group Use of Open Space Policy - post-exhibition report

Report of Marcelo Occhiuzzi, Director Planning and Environment

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the result of public consultation associated with the exhibition of the draft *Commercial and Group use of Open Space Policy* and seek endorsement of the Policy.

The Draft Commercial and Group Use of Public Open Space Policy establishes a framework to manage organised and commercial activities in North Sydney's parks and reserves while maintaining equitable access for casual community use.

North Sydney has one of the lowest levels of public open space per capita in the Sydney metropolitan region, with current provision estimated at 10.53m² per resident and an open space deficit projected to increase to 69.95 hectares by 2036.

Council currently has no formal policy framework to regulate commercial operators, large group activities, or operational use of parks by organisations, limiting Council's ability to manage impacts, address complaints and protect public assets.

Community consultation undertaken between 5 September and 6 October 2025 generated significant engagement, with 201 submissions received reflecting a range of views including concerns regarding fees for school use and support for charging commercial operators who generate income from public space.

The Draft Policy introduces a transparent approval and permit system, enabling Council to better manage competing uses of limited public open space, regulate commercial activities, and protect park infrastructure and community amenity.

If adopted, the Policy will support sustainable management of public open space, improved governance of organised activities, and fairer cost sharing for maintenance of Council's parks and reserves, reducing reliance on general rate revenue.

In response to submissions, refinements to the proposed approach are recommended to better reflect differing levels of demand across the open space network. Commercial and large group use of public open space are recommended to be subject to fees on a sliding scale based on location, while permit requirements for large group use will apply only to the parks and reserves identified in this report and its attachments.

In response to submissions, it is recommended that commercial kayaking operations at Quibaree Park, Blues Point, and Milson Park be managed through a competitive Expression of Interest (EoI) process to ensure safe operation, protect local amenity, and provide transparent management of commercial use of these foreshore locations.

Recommending:

- 1. THAT** Council endorse the Commercial and Group use of Open Space Policy as amended at attachment 1 to commence 1 July 2026 following the adoption of fees and charges.
- 2. THAT** appropriate signage be erected at relevant locations to ensure enforceability of this policy position, in accordance with the requirement of Section 632 of the Local Government Act 1993.
- 3. THAT** provision of a licence for the commercial kayaking operations involving watercraft from Quibaree Park, Blues Point Reserve, and Milson Park be determined by way of Expression of Interest for an initial two-year period. That such a licence be limited to one operator only per site.
- 4. THAT** fees and charges be developed in accordance with the pricing principles contained within this report and be presented to Council for endorsement prior to public exhibition.
- 5. THAT** Council endorse the hierarchy of parks and reserves contained within this report for the purpose of drafting fees and charges.
- 6. THAT** within the Draft fees and charges, the following parks continue to be free for groups up to 60 people: Anzac Park, Brennan Park, Green Park, Primrose Park, Milson Park, St Thomas Rest Park, Tunks Park (excluding the foreshore), Warringah Park, and Waverton Park.

9.4 3-15 Christie Street, Wollstonecraft - Fire and Rescue NSW Inspection Report

Report of Long Huynh, Team Leader Building Compliance

The purpose of this report is to enable Council to determine whether to issue a Fire Safety Order in response to an inspection report received from Authorised Fire

Officers of Fire and Rescue NSW concerning the premises located at 3-15 Christie Street Wollstonecraft.

Authorised Fire Officers from Fire and Rescue NSW conducted an inspection of 3-15 Christie Street, Wollstonecraft on 2 December 2025 and issued an inspection report to Council.

When an inspection report is received, it must be tabled at a Council meeting for Council to determine whether it will exercise its powers to give a Fire Safety Order and notify the Commissioner of Fire and Rescue of its determination.

The building currently has an ongoing Fire Safety Order issued upon the building, and Council officers are working with the building owner's representative to close out any outstanding matters.

Council officer undertook an inspection on 10 February 2026 and found that many of the items raised had already been rectified by the building owners fire contractors. The items identified in the inspection report are considered routine and relatively minor for a building of this size and nature. Council staff are currently liaising with the building owners to facilitate the rectification of the fire safety matters raised. The issue of an Order in this instance, would add unnecessary administrative burden without improving fire safety outcomes.

Recommending:

1. THAT Council does not exercise its powers to give another Fire Safety Order in response to the Fire and Rescue NSW inspection report.

2. THAT Council notify the Commissioner of Fire and Rescue NSW of its determination.

9.5 Traffic Matters - Spofforth Street / Rangers Road - update report

Report of Eoin Cunningham, Service Unit Manager Traffic & Transport Operations
This report responds to a Council resolution of 9 February 2026 regarding traffic and pedestrian safety on Spofforth Street and Rangers Road, Cremorne.

North Sydney Council (NSC) representatives have met with Mosman Council to discuss traffic calming and pedestrian safety improvements along Spofforth Street.

Mosman Council advised that they were open to discussing NSC's concerns and working collaboratively to achieve a balanced outcome, noting the need for retention of parking along Spofforth Street to support the shopkeepers and their customers. NSC has raised the issue of traffic and pedestrian safety on Spofforth Street with TfNSW and requested that they consider funding, investigation, consultation, design, and installation of traffic calming and pedestrian safety improvements along Spofforth Street, in the context of anticipated increased traffic along the street due to the Warringah Freeway Upgrade project.

Recommending:

1. THAT Council note the contents of this report in relation to progressing traffic calming and pedestrian safety matters on Spofforth Street, Cremorne.

9.6 North Sydney Olympic Pool Redevelopment Project Update

Report of Gary Parsons, Director Open Space & Infrastructure

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the North Sydney Olympic Pool Redevelopment Project.

Construction works are now substantially complete, with the contractor (Icon) focused on final testing, commissioning, and rectification of remaining defects to progress toward the issuance of an Occupation Certificate, Practical Completion, and handover to Council.

A design/construction issue affecting the seawater intake pumps has delayed commissioning of the 50-metre pool's top-up water system. These pumps are expected to be operational by the end of March 2026, which is the final outstanding requirement for the issuance Occupation Certificate.

Although the contractual Practical Completion date remains 19 July 2024, Icon has not yet applied for Practical Completion. Based on current commissioning challenges with seawater intake pumps, Practical Completion is now anticipated in mid-April 2026. The overall project remains within the \$122M forecast budget; however, variations, with a submitted value of \$10.89M are still to be resolved.

Operational readiness is well advanced, including staff onboarding, program finalisation, procurement of equipment and furnishings, and the development of a 12-week marketing campaign, which will commence following Practical Completion.

Recommending:

1. THAT the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A of the Local Government Act:

(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.

4. THAT Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to extend key consultants on the North Sydney Olympic Pool redevelopment into April 2026 as required, using the "extenuating circumstances" provisions under s55(3)(i) of the Local Government Act (1993).

5. THAT Council authorise the extension of Council's Works Insurance Policy for the redevelopment of the North Sydney Olympic Pool into April 2026 as required.

6. THAT Council note that extensions of key consultants and insurances on the North Sydney Olympic Pool redevelopment will be reported to the Council meeting on 27 April 2026.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

10.1 Notice of Motion 3/26 - Kelly's Place - Crs Keen and Carr

1. THAT Council:

- 1) urgently revisit the current timeline for Kelly's Place to vacate its premises at Hume Street Park and ensure that no relocation occurs until a suitable and agreed alternative has been identified and secured.
- 2) work constructively and collaboratively with Kelly's Place, consistent with the resolutions passed at the November 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting, to identify and

secure a viable relocation pathway before any demolition or vacating of the premises takes place.

- 3) provide meaningful assistance to support the relocation and fit-out of suitable new premises, along with ongoing peppercorn rent to ensure the continuity and sustainability of this valued not for profit childcare service in the North Sydney area.

Background

Kelly's Place is a long-standing community parent-run, not-for-profit childcare center that has been operating for approximately 40 years. North Sydney Council has been providing the premises within Hume Street Park, and the centre is able to accommodate 45 children aged 0–5 years, full-time or part-time.

Kelly's Place provides a high standard of early childhood education and care as measured by the National Quality Framework, a government initiative that aims to raise quality and drive continuous improvement and consistency across education and care services. In fact, Kelly's Place has been awarded exceeding by The National Quality Standards in May 2019 and February 2025.

The ratio of educators to children at Kelly's Place significantly exceeds the minimum standards required by the Education and Care Services National Regulations. Specifically, Kelly's Place for parts of the day maintains: four staff to 12 children for 0 - 2-year-olds (national regulation: 1:4); three staff to 10 children for 2 - 3-year-olds (national regulation: 1:5); and three staff to 20 children for 3 - 5-year-olds (national regulation: 1:10).

Kelly's Place exceeds not only the staff:child ratios but also the educators have higher qualifications than required by the regulations.

The North Sydney Local Government Area is fortunate to have a centre that is so well run and provides high quality early education and care to families in the North Sydney area, given well-documented recent concerns about childcare quality across the sector.

The relocation of Kelly's Place has been the subject of discussion at two previous Council Meetings. At the Council meeting of 17 November 2025, Council resolved the following in relation to Kelly's Place:

- 1. THAT Council extend the lease for the Kelly's Place Children's Centre for a further period of 12 months, and during this time, works with Kelly's Place management and Committee to explore all other opportunities for continued operations including but not limited to relocation to private property, consideration of smaller operations and smaller premises.*
- 2. THAT Council establish a relocation working group with Kelly's Place Children's Centre to meet regularly and as when needed.*
- 3. THAT Council write to the State Government to support the relocation of Kelly's Place Children's Centre.*

Despite these resolutions, progress towards identifying a suitable alternative for Kelly's Place has been limited. More recently, Kelly's Place has been advised that it will need to vacate the building by the end of the year to allow North Sydney Council's plans for Stage 2 of Hume Street Park to proceed - a timeline that does not yet appear to have been accompanied by a confirmed relocation solution.

Kelly's Place serves 50 families who depend on it for high-quality, affordable childcare in an area where demand continues to grow. The waitlist has 160 families. Establishing a comparable community parent-run, not-for-profit center from scratch would take considerable time that these families simply do not have. Both open space and

childcare are important forms of community infrastructure, and Council has an opportunity to pursue a path that does not require sacrificing one for the other. It is hoped that, with genuine commitment and goodwill, a workable solution can be found for Kelly's Place and the families it serves.

11. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil

12. CLOSURE