

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

# COUNCIL MEETING

## AGENDA

Tuesday 26 November 2024

6:30pm

Council Chambers

65 Homebush Road, Strathfield

and

by Audio-Visual Link



# Statement of Ethical Obligations

In accordance with clause 3.23 of the Model Code of Meeting Practice, released by the NSW Office of Local Government, Councillors are reminded of their Oath or Affirmation of Office made under section 233A of the Act and their obligations under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

## Oath or Affirmation of Office

The Oath or Affirmation is taken by each Councillor whereby they swear or declare to undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of Strathfield and Strathfield Council and that they will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgment.

## Conflicts of Interest

All Councillors must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at Council Meetings in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct. All declarations of conflicts of interest and how the conflict of interest was managed will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the declaration was made.

Councillors attending a meeting by audio-visual link must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct. Where a Councillor has declared a pecuniary or significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter being discussed at the meeting, the Councillor's audio-visual link to the meeting will be suspended or terminated for the time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by Council, or at any time during which Council is voting on the matter.

Councillors should ensure that they are familiar with Parts 4 and 5 of the Strathfield Council Code of Conduct in relation to their obligations to declare and manage conflicts of interests.



## Recording of Council Meetings

Persons in the gallery are advised that under the *Local Government Act 1993* a person may NOT tape record the proceeding of a meeting of a Council or committee without the authority of the Council or committee.

**“Tape record” includes a video camera and an electronic device capable of recording speech.**

Mobile phones must be turned off so as not to disrupt the meeting. Anyone, including Councillors, found using a mobile phone will be told to leave the meeting immediately and for the duration of the said meeting.

An audio recording of this meeting will be taken for minute taking purposes as authorised by the *Local Government Act 1993*.

**This meeting is live streamed on Council’s website to allow the community to follow Council debates and decisions without the need to attend meetings in person. Members of the public attending or speaking at a meeting agree to have their image, voice and personal information (including name and address) recorded and publicly broadcast. Strathfield Council does not accept liability for any defamatory remarks or inappropriate comments that are made during the course of a meeting. Any part of the meeting that is held in closed session will not be streamed.**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Item	Page No.
1. Moment of Reflection	
2. Recognition of Traditional Custodians	
3. Apologies and Application for Leave of Absence	
4. Disclosures of Interest (Nature of Interest to be disclosed)	
5. Acknowledgements	
Nil	
6. Confirmation of Minutes	
Ordinary Council Meeting 22 October 2024 .....	7
7. Mayoral Minute(s)	
7.1 Mayoral Minute 08/24 - Monthly Mayoral Street Meetings .....	35
7.2 Mayoral Minute 09/24 - Strathfield's 140th Anniversary preparation.....	36
7.3 Mayoral Minute 10/24 - Strathfield Youth Leadership Forum.....	37
7.4 Mayoral Minute 11/24 - School Maths Day .....	38
8. Items by Exception	
9. Public Forum	
10. Notices of Motion	
10.1 Establishment of a Cultural, Arts and Performance Centre in the Strathfield LGA - Councillor Esther Kim.....	39
10.2 Bus Shelter - Pemberton Street at Arthur Road - Councillor Rory Nosworthy .....	41
10.3 Prioritise Crossings on Exeter Road - Councillor Rory Nosworthy .....	42
10.4 Consequences of Loans Cancellation - Councillor Rory Nosworthy .....	43
10.5 Shade Cloth at Tavistock Reserve - Councillor Rory Nosworthy.....	44
10.6 Remove the Requirement for Mayoral Diary and Expenses to be Tabled at Meetings - Councillor Matthew Blackmore .....	45
10.7 Council Protocol - Councillor Matthew Blackmore.....	46
10.8 Recission Motion - Strathfield Connector Bus - Councillors John-Paul Baladi, Matthew Blackmore, Sandy Reddy and Esther Kim .....	47
11. Reports to Council	
General Managers Unit	
GMU1 Annual Report 2023-2024 .....	49

### Corporate and Community Services Reports

CCS1	Audited Annual Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024 .....	300
CCS2	Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) for the Quarter Ended 30 September 2024 .....	399
CCS3	Draft Terms of Reference - Budget Review and Finance Committee (BRFC) .....	410
CCS4	Investment Report - October 2024 .....	416
CCS5	Current Status of Council Resolutions .....	429
CCS6	Tenders Advertised and Awarded November 2024 .....	433
CCS7	Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) - Two Additional Delegates as Alternates Required .....	434
CCS8	Ordinary Council Meeting, Committee and Councillor Workshop Schedule 2025 .....	435
CCS9	Councillor Workshop 12 November 2024 .....	438
CCS10	Councillor Workshop 14 November 2024 .....	443
CCS11	Statistics on Calls, Complaints, Queries, Suggestions etc Received by the Council Service Desk .....	448
CCS12	Multicultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference .....	452
CCS13	Small Grant Application Second Quarter 2024/2025 .....	459

### Planning and Environment Reports

PE1	Draft Planning Proposal - Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 - Housekeeping Amendment 2024 .....	465
PE2	Proposed Review of Planning Proposal (PP-2024-2011) - Strathfield Medium Density Housing Strategy .....	539
PE3	Proposed Amendments to Fees and Charges for Planning and Environment Directorate - Building, Compliance and Regulatory .....	546

### Engineering and Operations Reports

EO1	The Battle of Kapyong Memorial .....	550
EO2	Draft Strathfield Parklet Policy .....	561

## 12. Reports from Committees

12.1	Report from Traffic Committee Meeting on 19 November 2024 .....	573
12.2	Report from Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting on 17 October 2024 .....	611

## 13. Question With Notice

Nil

## 14. Matters of Urgency

## 15. Confidential Matters

Nil

16. Conclusion of the Meeting

MICHAEL MAMO  
GENERAL MANAGER

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 22 October 2024

6:30pm

Council Chambers

65 Homebush Road, Strathfield

and

by Audio-Visual Link



Minutes of the Council Meeting of Strathfield Municipal Council held on 22 October 2024, in the Council Chambers, 65 Homebush Road, Strathfield and by Audio-Visual Link.

**COMMENCING:** 6:30pm

**PRESENT:** Councillor John-Paul Baladi  
Councillor Benjamin Cai  
Councillor Matthew Blackmore  
Councillor Karen Pensabene (Audio-Visual Link)  
Councillor Sandy Reddy  
Councillor Rory Nosworthy  
Councillor Esther Kim

**STAFF:** Michael Mamo, General Manager  
Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community  
Clare Harley, Director Planning and Environment  
Cathy Edwards-Davis, Director Engineering and Operations  
Melissa Mallos, General Counsel  
Rodney Sanjivi, Chief Financial Officer  
Dylan Porter, Manager, Planning and Place  
Cathy Jones, Chief Strategy Officer  
Amanda Rutherford, Governance and Procurement Manager  
David McQuade, Senior Governance Officer

1. **MOMENT OF REFLECTION:** The Prayer was read.
2. **RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS:** The Recognition was read.
3. **APOLOGIES AND APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSNECE**

#### **ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK**

Councillor Pensabene submitted a request to the General Manager seeking to join the meeting by Audio-Visual Link and sought to do so due to significant health reasons.

Clause 5.18 within *Council's Code of Meeting Practice* outlines that Councillors may attend and participate in meetings of the Council and committees of the Council by Audio-Visual Link with the approval of the

Council or the relevant committee should the Councillor be unable to attend in person due to a natural disaster, extenuating or other circumstance or significant health issue.

As is required under Council's *Code of Meeting Practice* the Council is required to consider this request.

224/24

**RESOLVED:** (Baladi / Reddy)

That Councillor Pensabene be approved to participate in the meeting of 22 October 2024 by way of audio-visual link due to significant health reasons.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Cai, Reddy, Baladi, Nosworthy and Kim

Against the Motion: Pensabene

#### 4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST (NATURE OF INTEREST TO BE DISCLOSED)

Councillor Nosworthy declared a Non-pecuniary/Non-Significant conflict of interest for item *10.12 Alteration of Parking Provisions for Shared Vehicles such as GoGet and Uber CarShare – Councillor Rory Nosworthy* and managed the conflict of interest by remaining in the meeting during discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Nosworthy declared that he is a non-financial member of the company GoVan and can access vans but not passenger vehicles.

Councillor Blackmore declared a Pecuniary conflict of interest for item *CCS10 OLG Councillor Conduct and Meeting Practices - New Framework Submission – Due 15 November 24* and managed the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting during discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Blackmore declared that this item goes to prohibiting real estate agents from having employment if they are a Councillor and would impact his livelihood.

#### 5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

##### 5.1 Acknowledgement Speech for Korea Day at Burwood Park, 28 September 2024 – Councillor Esther Kim

Councillor Kim declared herself deeply honoured to stand as Councillor of Strathfield and president of the Korean Society of Sydney and New South Wales. Councillor Kim acknowledged that the Korea Day festival is a celebration of Korean culture, traditions and heritage and the beauty of multiculturalism in Sydney.

In times of crisis both here and abroad, events like Korea Day remind us of the strength that comes from unity, coming together makes our communities more cohesive, resilient and better equipped to face any

challenges. Whether it's through shared culture, support for each other, or simply celebrating together, we can continue to build a strong, inclusive and vibrant society.

Councillor Kim thanked everyone who helped make the Korea Day event possible.

## 5.2 Past Councillors – Councillor Benjamin Cai

Councillor Cai acknowledged past Councillors – Ms Nella Hall, Mr Sharangan Maheswaran and Mr Raj Datta in the last term of Council. Councillor Cai noted that they had worked very well together, especially Ms Nella Hall who helped lots. They made a positive contribution to the community and will miss them.

## 5.3 Tamil Seniors – Councillor Rory Nosworthy

Councillor Nosworthy recently visited the Tamil Seniors and experienced their cultural practices and spoke to the community group about the hiring of Council venues. Councillor Nosworthy wished to celebrate their contribution to the community and ongoing commitment to their culture and society.

## 5.4 King Charles Visit - Councillor John-Paul Baladi

Councillor Baladi acknowledged the current visiting tour of Australia by King Charles III and wished the King and Queen Camelia the best on their tour of our great nation.

## 6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

225/24

**RESOLVED:** (Reddy / Blackmore)

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 8 October 2024, a copy of which has been furnished to each Councillor, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairman and General Manager be authorised to sign such Minutes.

*Voting on this item was unanimous*

## 7. MAYORAL MINUTE(S)



## 7.1 Mayoral Minute 07/24 - Long Term Financial Planning

226/24

RESOLVED: (Baladi)

1. That Council recognises the work that has been done to publish Strathfield's comprehensive Long Term Financial Plan, which has sought to mend our previously outdated and unsustainable financial planning.
2. That Councillors, who have spent the past months engaging with the ideas and concerns of residents and businesses, seek to support the community by strengthening Council's long term financial planning.
3. That the following is to be presented in a Councillor Workshop before the end of this calendar year (2024):
  - Possible alterations to the current Special Rate Variation (SRV) to reduce or halt the planned increases for residents
  - Potential opportunities to offset planned borrowings and expected debt, noting the Land and Property Strategy will soon be published
  - Any other feasible expenditure-reducing measures which contribute to the above-mentioned objectives
  - An outline of where council can increase revenue opportunities

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Cai, Reddy, Baladi and Kim

Against the Motion: Councillors Pensabene and Nosworthy

## 8. ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

### Items by Exception

227/24

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That in accordance with Section 13 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice the items below be dealt with by exception and that they be adopted as recommended by a single Motion:

- 10.3 Status of Council Licenses and Leases - Councillor Matthew Blackmore
- 10.6 Strathfield Owned Automatic External Defibrillators - Councillor Matthew Blackmore
- 10.7 Review of Fencing and Hoarding Rules During Building Works - Councillor Matthew Blackmore
- 10.9 Busking in Strathfield Square - Councillor Esther Kim

- 10.10 Installation of Gym Equipment in Ismay Reserve - Councillor Esther Kim
- 10.11 Extension of the Inner West BRIDJ On-Demand Bus Service - Councillor Rory Nosworthy
- 10.12 Alteration of Parking Provisions for Shared Vehicles such as GoGet and Uber CarShare - Councillor Rory Nosworthy
- 10.13 Strathfield Council Events Committee - Councillor Benjamin Cai
- GMU1 State of the City Report
- CCS2 Investment Reports - August 2024 & September 2024
- CCS3 Tenders Advertised and Awarded August, September & October 2024
- CCS4 Current Status of Council Resolutions
- CCS5 Tabling of Annual Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests & Other Matters Return - Clause 4.21
- CCS6 Model Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics 2023/2024
- CCS8 Councillor Workshop 15 October 2024
- CCS11 Draft Councillor & Staff Interaction Policy
- PE1 Homebush Movement & Place Connectivity and Streetscape Upgrade
- PE2 Post Exhibition Report - Amendment to Part P - Heritage of Strathfield DCP 2005
- 12.1 Report from Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting on 7 August 2024
- 12.2 Report from Traffic Committee meeting on 20 August 2024
- 12.3 Report from Traffic Committee meeting on 17 September 2024
- 12.4 Report from Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee Meeting on 5 September 2024

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Reddy, Baladi, Nosworthy and Kim

Against the Motion: Nil

### **10.3 Status of Council Licenses and Leases – Councillor Matthew Blackmore**

**228/24**

**RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEW BLACKMORE**

**Moved by:** (Baladi / Reddy)

**That:**

1. At the December 2024 Councillor Workshop, a presentation is provided on the status of all licenses and leases on all Council owned property.
2. Councillors be informed at the Councillor Workshop of Council's Licenses and Leases Policy which

was endorsed in December 2022.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**10.6 Strathfield Owned Automatic External Defibrillators – Councillor Matthew Blackmore**

**229/24**

**RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEW BLACKMORE**

**Moved by:** (Baladi / Reddy)

That:

1. Strathfield Council register Council owned Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) with Heart of the Nation.
2. A report be prepared on the cost of moving the Strathfield Council owned AEDs to the outside of Council owned buildings so they are accessible 24/7 to the Strathfield residents.
3. Council investigates any grant opportunities available in relation to AEDS.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**10.7 Review of Fencing and Hoarding Rules During Building Works – Councillor Matthew Blackmore**

**230/24**

**RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEW BLACKMORE**

**Moved by:** (Baladi / Reddy)

That a report be prepared for an upcoming Council Meeting in relation to current rules and regulations about the erection of fences and hoardings during building works in the Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA).

The report includes but not limited to:

- Options for Council to ensure that fencing and hoardings during the construction period do not restrict the view of the building site from the street level and opportunities for any large area of "blank" areas to have images of local historic or artistic images to lessen the harsh visual impact to residents
- Current and possible restrictions to height for fencing and hoarding

- Any fees, charges or penalties which could be included in next financial year's budget in relation to fencing and hoarding which can align with any new rules if Council chooses to implement them

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**10.9 Busking in Strathfield Square – Councillor Esther Kim**

231/24

**RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR ESTHER KIM**

**Moved by:** (Baladi / Reddy)

That:

1. Council prepares a report, to be presented at the December 2024 Councillor Workshop, that provides a policy to allow busking in the Strathfield Square area.
2. The report should include the requirements needed for Council to issue a Licence to Play permit and any other guidelines and requirements to permit busking in an urban area.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**10.10 Installation of Gym Equipment in Ismay Reserve – Councillor Esther Kim**

232/24

**RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY ESTHER KIM**

**Moved by:** (Baladi / Reddy)

That:

1. Council prepares a report to be presented at a workshop in December 2024 for the installation of Gym Equipment in Ismay Reserve.
2. That the report includes budget considerations for the second half of the 2024-2025 budgetary year.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

10.11 Extension of the Inner West BRIDJ On-Demand Bus Service – Councillor Rory Nosworthy

233/24

RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR RORY NOSWORTHY

Moved by: (Baladi / Reddy)

That Council writes to the NSW Government and requests that they investigate the extension of the Inner West BRIDJ on-demand bus service into the Strathfield Local Government Area.

**RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION**

Councillor Nosworthy declared a Non-pecuniary/Non-Significant conflict of interest for item *10.12 Alteration of Parking Provisions for Shared Vehicles such as GoGet and Uber CarShare (Councillor Rory Nosworthy)* and managed the conflict of interest by remaining in the meeting during discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Nosworthy declared that he is a non-financial member of GoVan so can access vans but not passenger vehicles.

10.12 Alteration of Parking Provisions for Shared Vehicles such as GoGet and Uber CarShare – Councillor Rory Nosworthy

234/24

RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR RORY NOSWORTHY

Moved by: (Baladi / Reddy)

That a report be presented to a future Council Meeting on the alteration of parking provisions for shared vehicles such as GoGet and Uber CarShare which includes providing new signage for dedicated carshare parking locations across the Strathfield Local Government Area.

**RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION**

10.13 Strathfield Council Events Committee – Councillor Benjamin Cai

235/24

RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR BENJAMIN CAI

Moved by: (Baladi / Reddy)

That a report be provided to a future Council Workshop and meeting addressing the development of an Events Committee for Strathfield Council.

*RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION*

#### GMU1 State of the City Report

236/24

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

1. That the State of the City Report be endorsed.
2. That it be noted the report may be edited to graphically enhance but content will not be amended.

*RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION*

#### CCS2 Investment Reports - August 2024 & September 2024

237/24

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That the record of cash investments as at 31 August 2024 and 30 September 2024 be received and noted.

*RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION*

#### CCS3 Tenders Advertised and Awarded August, September and October 2024

238/24

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That Council tenders advertised and awarded in the months of August, September and October 2024 be received and noted.

*RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION*

CCS4 Current Status of Council Resolutions

239/24

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That the report on the status of Council resolutions be noted.

*RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION*

CCS5 Tabling of Annual Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests and Other Matters Return - Clause 4.21

240/24

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That Council receive and note the report concerning tabling of Annual Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests and Other Matters Returns.

*RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION*

CCS6 Model Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics 2023/2024

241/24

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That the report be received and noted.

*RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION*

CCS8 Councillor Workshop 15 October 2024

242/24

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That the report be received and noted.

*RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION*

**CCS11 Draft Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy**

**243/24**

**RESOLVED:** (Baladi / Reddy)

That Council adopt the Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy 2024.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**PE1 Homebush Movement and Place Connectivity and Streetscape Upgrade**

**244/24**

**RESOLVED:** (Baladi / Reddy)

1. That Council notes its consideration of the findings of the Strathfield Active Travel Survey (2024).
2. That Council progress the proposed 50% concept design of the Homebush Movement and Place upgrade project to public exhibition for a four (4) week period – 25 October 2024 to 22 November 2024 - and provide the opportunity for the Strathfield community to participate in the consultation process.
3. That Council receive and consider the outcomes of the public exhibition at the upcoming Council meeting on 10 December 2024.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**PE2 Post Exhibition Report - Amendment to Part P - Heritage of Strathfield DCP 2005**

**245/24**

**RESOLVED:** (Baladi / Reddy)

1. That Council, pursuant to Section 3.43 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 and in accordance with clause 14 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation 2021, adopt the amendments to Part P of the Strathfield Consolidated DCP 2005, with the changes as outlined in the body of this report and included at Attachment 3.
2. That the General Manager be endorsed to make minor modifications to any numerical, typographical, interpretation and formatting errors, if required, prior to the finalisation of the amendment to Part P -



Heritage

3. That Council give public notice of the decision to approve the amendments to Strathfield Consolidated DCP, on its website within 28 days in accordance with Clause 14(2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.
4. That all those who made a submission be notified in writing of Council's decision
5. That a comprehensive review of Part P – Heritage be undertaken which includes the identification of classifications of each property within the Heritage Conservation Areas and a further report be presented to Council.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

12.1 Report from Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting on 7 August 2024

246/24

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That the Minutes of the Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting held on 7 August 2024 be noted and the recommendations be adopted.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

12.2 Report from Traffic Committee meeting on 20 August 2024

247/24

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That the Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting held on 20 August 2024 be noted and the recommendations be adopted.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

12.3 Report from Traffic Committee meeting on 17 September 2024

248/24

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That the Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting held on 17 September 2024 be noted and the recommendations be adopted.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**12.4 Report from Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting on 5 September 2024**

**249/24**

**RESOLVED:** (Baladi / Reddy)

That the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 5 September 2024 be noted and the recommendations be adopted.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**9. PUBLIC FORUM**

Nil.

**10. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**10.1 Strathfield Connector Bus – Councillor Matthew Blackmore**

**MOTION:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

That:

1. Council ceases the Connector Bus Service at its earliest possible time.
2. A report be presented to a 2025 Council Meeting prior to Annual Budget that includes, but is not limited to, the money raised from the sale of the buses and the estimated savings.
3. That a report providing the costs of maintaining one community bus which can be used or hired by local community organisations, churches, schools etc. be provided to the December 2024 Council Meeting.

**AMENDMENT:** (Nosworthy / Cai)

That:

1. A report on the current usage of the Connector Bus be prepared.
2. A report be presented to a 2025 Council Meeting prior to Annual Budget that includes, but is not limited to, the money raised from the sale of the buses and the estimated savings.
3. That a report providing the costs of maintaining one community bus which can be used or hired by local community organisations, churches, schools etc. be provided to the December 2024 Council Meeting.

The Amendment was put.

For the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Cai, Nosworthy and Kim

Against the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Reddy and Baladi

The Amendment was carried and became the Motion.

**MOTION:** (Nosworthy / Cai)

That:

1. A report on the current usage of the Connector Bus be prepared.
2. A report be presented to a 2025 Council Meeting prior to Annual Budget that includes, but is not limited to, the money raised from the sale of the buses and the estimated savings.
3. That a report providing the costs of maintaining one community bus which can be used or hired by local community organisations, churches, schools etc. be provided to the December 2024 Council Meeting.

**AMENDMENT:** (Baladi / Reddy)

A briefing on the current usage of the Connector Bus be prepared for a briefing on the Connector Bus for the next Councillor Workshop.

The Amendment was put.

For the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Cai, Reddy, Baladi, Nosworthy and Kim

Against the Motion: Councillor Blackmore

The Amendment was carried and became the Motion.

250/24

**RESOLVED:** (Baladi / Reddy)

A briefing on the current usage of the Connector Bus be prepared for a briefing on the Connector Bus for the next Councillor Workshop.

For the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Cai, Reddy, Baladi and Nosworthy

Against the Motion: Councillors Blackmore and Kim

#### **10.2 Commitment to Residents in Relation to Council's Red Bin Service – Councillor Matthew Blackmore**

251/24

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

That Council makes a commitment to the residents to maintain the weekly Red Bin service whenever the Food Organics Waste bin is implemented.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Reddy, Baladi and Kim

Against the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Cai and Nosworthy

#### **10.4 Plaques, Memorials and Statue Policy and Review -- Councillor Matthew Blackmore**

252/24

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

That:

1. Council provides a report to the February 2025 Council Meeting on the excessive number of plaques, memorials and statues across the Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) including multiple for the same project.
2. The same report to include, but not limited to, the cost of finding a suitable location to put or catalogue the excess materials.
3. Council staff to provide a Draft Plaques, Memorials and Statue Policy that includes, but is not limited to, the justification for installation, whose names should be recorded and budgetary implications.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Cai, Reddy, Baladi and Kim

Against the Motion: Councillors Pensabene and Nosworthy

#### **10.5 Loading Zone in Burlington Road, Homebush – Councillor Matthew Blackmore**

##### **MOVED:**

That the Traffic Committee examine the location of the loading zone in Burlington Road, Homebush with the view to re-locating the loading zone to The Crescent so as not to use so many car parking spaces.

##### **MOTION:** (Blackmore / Baladi)

1. That the Traffic Committee examine the location of the loading zone in Burlington Road, Homebush with the view to re-locating the loading zone to The Crescent so as not to use so many car parking spaces.
2. That the Traffic Committee also examine the location of the motorbike vehicle zone on Burlington Road, Homebush with a view to relocating the motorbike vehicle zone to The Crescent so as to not use as many car parking spaces.

##### **253/24**

##### **RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Baladi)

1. That the Traffic Committee examine the location of the loading zone in Burlington Road, Homebush with the view to re-locating the loading zone to The Crescent so as not to use so many car parking spaces.
2. That the Traffic Committee also examine the location of the motorbike vehicle zone on Burlington Road, Homebush with a view to relocating the motorbike vehicle zone to The Crescent so as to not use as many car parking spaces.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Reddy, Baladi, Nosworthy and Kim

Against the Motion: Nil

#### **10.8 Report on Possible Geographical Names Board Application – Councillor Matthew Blackmore**

##### **254/24**

##### **RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Baladi)

That a report be prepared for an upcoming Council Meeting with a possible case for a Geographical Names Board application for the renaming of parts of Homebush (South of the Railway) to Strathfield.

The report includes but not limited to:

- The possible boundaries for a proposal
- The possible case for a change
- The process of an application
- Budgetary implications and timeframes

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Cai, Reddy, Baladi, Nosworthy and Kim

Against the Motion: Pensabene

#### **10.14 A report on Marlene Crescent and Davidson Street, Greenacre – Councillor Benjamin Cai**

**MOTION:** (Cai / Baladi)

That Council investigate and report back at a future Councillor Workshop and Meeting on the potential to adjust the postcode for Marlene Crescent and Davidson Street, Greenacre, so that it reflects a postcode exclusive to the Strathfield Local Government Area.

For the Motion: Councillors Cai and Reddy

Against the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Baladi, Nosworthy and Kim

The Mayor declared the Motion lost.

#### **10.15 Rescission Motion - 215/24 PE6 Draft Proposal - Strathfield Medium Density Housing Strategy – Councillors Matthew Blackmore, John-Paul Baladi and Sandy Reddy**

**MOTION:** (Blackmore / Baladi)

That:

1. Council rescind Resolution 215/24 (PE6 Draft Planning Proposal: Strathfield Medium Density Housing Strategy) from Council Meeting 13 August 2024 that states:

*215/24*

*RESOLVED: (Datta / Cai)*

1. *That Council notes the advice provided by the Strathfield Local Planning Panel on 1 August*

*2024 regarding the drafting of a Planning Proposal in relation to the Strathfield Medium Density Housing Strategy.*

- 2. That Council supports the intent of proposed amendments to the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 to facilitate medium density housing consistent with the NSW Low and Mid-Rise Housing Policy and Council's Medium Density Housing Strategy, as outlined in the body of the report and resolves to incorporate the proposed amendments into a Planning Proposal.*
- 3. That Council endorses the draft Planning Proposal Attachment 1 for lodgement with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for Gateway determination.*
- 4. That Council delegates authority to the General Manager to make necessary amendments to the Planning Proposal and supporting documents arising from a Gateway Determination and prior to public exhibition.*
- 5. That should a Gateway Determination be issued which enables public exhibition, a further report is to be presented to Council following the exhibition period. The report is to address any submissions received. A further update on the progress of the Planning Proposal is to be provided at that time.*
- 6. That the Strathfield Development Control Plan (DCP) be reviewed and updated concurrently with the Planning Proposal to ensure consistency with the objectives and controls contained in the Planning Proposal.*
- 7. That a report be presented to Council which outlines the proposed amendments to the DCP prior to public exhibition.*
- 8. That a further report be brought back to Council to seek endorsement of the proposed amendments to the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 and the adoption of amendments to the Strathfield Development Control Plan, following public exhibition.*

*For the Motion: Councillors Cai, Datta, Hall and Reddy*

*Against the Motion: Nil*

2. If the above Rescission Motion is carried the Alternate Motion is Moved:

A Councillor Workshop be held in November 2024 to discuss finding alternative solutions which increases the Medium Density Housing Supply in Strathfield but does not destroy the Strathfield

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moniker of “Oasis in the West”.

The Rescission Motion was put.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Cai, Reddy, Baladi and Kim

Against the Motion: Councillors Pensabene and Nosworthy

The Motion was rescinded and Alternate Motion moved.

**MOVED:**

A Councillor Workshop be held in November 2024 to discuss finding alternative solutions which increases the Medium Density Housing Supply in Strathfield but does not **destroy the Strathfield moniker of “Oasis in the West”**.

**MOTION:** (Blackmore / Baladi)

1. A Councillor Workshop be held in November 2024 to discuss finding alternative solutions which increases the Medium Density Housing Supply in Strathfield but does not **destroy the Strathfield moniker of “Oasis in the West”**.
2. That if any planning proposal that has been lodged with NSW Planning it be withdrawn and an alternate proposal be prepared after feedback from the Councillor Workshop.
3. That the new plan be prepared to meet any deadline that the NSW Planning has given to Council.

**255/24**

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Baladi)

1. A Councillor Workshop be held in November 2024 to discuss finding alternative solutions which increases the Medium Density Housing Supply in Strathfield but does not **destroy the Strathfield moniker of “Oasis in the West”**.
2. That if any planning proposal that has been lodged with NSW Planning it be withdrawn and an alternate proposal be prepared after feedback from the Councillor Workshop.
3. That the new plan be prepared to meet any deadline that the NSW Planning has given to Council.



For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Cai, Reddy, Baladi and Kim

Against the Motion: Councillors Pensabene and Nosworthy

## 11. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

### CCS1 Draft Annual Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

256/24

**RESOLVED:** (Baladi / Reddy)

That the Mayor, Councillor Cai, General Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer sign the Statement by Councillors and Management on the General-Purpose Financial Statements (GPFS) of Strathfield Municipal Council and the Special Purpose Financial Statements (SPFS) for the Hudson Park Golf Driving Range for the year ended 30 June 2024.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Reddy, Baladi, Nosworthy and Kim

Against the Motion: Nil

### CCS7 NSW Public Libraries Association Nomination of Councillor Representative

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That Council nominates a Councillor to be its elected representative on the NSW Public Libraries Association.
2. That Council allocates expenditure from Councillors Conferences & Seminars budget in FY2025/2026 for attendance of the annual SWITCH Conference.

**MOTION:** (Baladi / Reddy)

1. That Council nominates Councillor Reddy to be its elected representative on the NSW Public Libraries Association.
2. That Council allocates expenditure from Councillors Conferences & Seminars budget in FY2025/2026 for attendance of the annual SWITCH Conference.

257/24

**RESOLVED:** (Baladi / Reddy)

1. That Council nominates Councillor Reddy to be its elected representative on the NSW Public Libraries Association.
2. That Council allocates expenditure from Councillors Conferences & Seminars budget in FY2025/2026 for attendance of the annual SWITCH Conference.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Reddy, Baladi, Nosworthy and Kim

Against the Motion: Nil

### **CCS9 2024 LGNSW Annual Conference**

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That:

1. Council selects up to four (4) voting delegates for the Conference as follows:
  - a. The Mayor
  - b. The Deputy Mayor
  - c. Two (2) selected Councillors

Note: the above assumes the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will attend.

2. Council confirms all attendees for the 2024 Conference.

#### **MOTION: (Baladi / Blackmore)**

That:

1. The four (4) voting delegates for the Conference are:
  - a. The Mayor
  - b. The Deputy Mayor
  - c. Councillor Reddy and Councillor Kim
2. Council confirms all Councillors will be attending the 2024 Conference except Councillor Pensabene.

**258/24**

#### **RESOLVED: (Baladi / Blackmore)**

That:

1. The four (4) voting delegates for the Conference are:
  - a. The Mayor
  - b. The Deputy Mayor
  - c. Councillor Reddy and Councillor Kim
2. Council confirms all Councillors will be attending the 2024 Conference except Councillor Pensabene.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Reddy, Baladi, Nosworthy and Kim

Against the Motion: Nil

Councillor Blackmore declared a Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for item *CCS10 OLG Councillor Conduct and Meeting Practices - New Framework Submission – Due 15 November 24* and managed the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting during discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Blackmore declared that this item goes to prohibiting real estate agents from having employment if they are a Councillor and would impact his livelihood.

Councillor Blackmore left the meeting, the time being 7:39pm.

#### **CCS10 OLG Councillor Conduct and Meeting Practices - New Framework Submission - Due 15 November 24**

**259/24**

**RESOLVED:** (Baladi / Nosworthy)

The Council consider the draft submission points regarding the proposed changes to the Code of Conduct for Councillors due 15 November 2024.

For the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Cai, Reddy, Baladi, Nosworthy and Kim

Against the Motion: Nil

Councillor Blackmore returned to the meeting, the time being 7:39pm.

#### **EO1 Cooks River and Strathfield Golf Club Open Space Proposal**

**260/24**

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Baladi)

That the report be received and noted.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Reddy, Baladi, Nosworthy and Kim

Against the Motion: Nil

## **EO2 Review of the Return & Earn in the Strathfield Town Centre**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That:

1. Council continues to support Return & Earn as an initiative to encourage the recycling of bottles and cans and to reduce waste going to landfill.
2. Council terminates the current Licence for the Return and Earn at the Strathfield Town Centre car park.
3. Council approach Strathfield Plaza management, to request they host a Return & Earn facility in their car park as the first preference.
4. Council hosts a Return & Earn facility in the Coronation Parade car park (behind the Enfield Hall) should the facility at Strathfield Plaza not proceed.

### **MOTION: (Blackmore / Baladi)**

That:

1. Council continues to support Return & Earn as an initiative to encourage the recycling of bottles and cans and to reduce waste going to landfill.
2. Council terminates the current Licence for the Return and Earn at the Strathfield Town Centre car park.
3. Council approach Strathfield Plaza management, to request they host a Return & Earn facility in their car park as the first preference.
4. Council hosts a Return & Earn facility in the Coronation Parade car park (behind the Enfield Hall) should the facility at Strathfield Plaza not proceed.

### **AMENDMENT: (Nosworthy / Baladi)**

That:

1. Council continues to support Return & Earn as an initiative to encourage the recycling of bottles and cans and to reduce waste going to landfill.
2. Council terminates the current Licence for the Return and Earn at the Strathfield Town Centre car park.
3. Council approach Strathfield Plaza management, to request they host a Return & Earn facility in their car park as the first preference.
4. Council hosts a Return & Earn facility in the Coronation Parade car park (behind the Enfield Hall) and recycling bins for waste paper and red bins to reduce waste in the area of the Return & Earn facility, should the facility at Strathfield Plaza not proceed.

**FORESHADOWED AMENDMENT:** (Baladi / Blackmore )

That:

1. Council continues to support Return & Earn as an initiative to encourage the recycling of bottles and cans and to reduce waste going to landfill.
2. Council terminates the current Licence for the Return and Earn at the Strathfield Town Centre car park.
3. Council approach Strathfield Plaza management, to request they host a Return & Earn facility in their car park as the first preference.
4. Council considers alternate locations such as the Coronation Parade car park should the facility at Strathfield Plaza not proceed.

The Amendment was put.

For the Amendment: Councillors Pensabene and Nosworthy

Against the Amendment: Councillors Blackmore, Cai, Reddy, Baladi and Kim

The Amendment was lost. The Foreshadowed Amendment became the Amendment.

The Amendment was put.

**AMENDMENT:** (Baladi / Blackmore )

That:

1. Council continues to support Return & Earn as an initiative to encourage the recycling of bottles and cans and to reduce waste going to landfill.
2. Council terminates the current Licence for the Return and Earn at the Strathfield Town Centre car park.
3. Council approach Strathfield Plaza management, to request they host a Return & Earn facility in their car park as the first preference.
4. Council considers alternate locations such as the Coronation Parade car park should the facility at Strathfield Plaza not proceed.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Reddy, Baladi, Nosworthy and Kim

Against the Motion: Nil

The Amendment became the Motion. The Motion was put.

**261/24**

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

That:

1. Council continues to support Return & Earn as an initiative to encourage the recycling of bottles and cans and to reduce waste going to landfill.
2. Council terminates the current Licence for the Return and Earn at the Strathfield Town Centre car park.
3. Council approach Strathfield Plaza management, to request they host a Return & Earn facility in their car park as the first preference.
4. Council considers alternate locations such as the Coronation Parade car park should the facility at Strathfield Plaza not proceed.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai, Reddy, Baladi, Nosworthy and Kim

Against the Motion: Nil

## 12. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Note: All Reports from Committees were dealt with by Exception (resolution 227/24).

## 13. QUESTION WITH NOTICE

### 13.1 Audio Visual Access – Councillor Rory Nosworthy

In the Minutes from the Ordinary Council Meeting on 8 October 2024, states a Motion was put forward to allow audio visual access to the meeting for Councillor Pensabene.

The Strathfield Code of Meeting Practice section 5.18, requires Councillors to act reasonably when considering a request by Councillors to attend meetings via audio visual link.

Councillor Pensabene's extenuating health circumstances are well known in the Strathfield community this year. In fact, on 5 September 2024 you yourself Mr Mayor, as then a concerned resident, sent her a text acknowledging her poor health, offering your prayers and wishing her a speedy recovery.

At the Council Meeting 8 October 2024, you as a Councillor at the time, with the support of Councillor Kim, Councillor Reddy and Councillor Cai voted against this Motion for Councillor Pensabene to join the meeting via audio-visual link.

Therefore, I ask you Mr Mayor and Councillors Kim, Reddy and Cai, if you could provide a reasonable explanation for voting against the Motion on 8 October 2024.

The Chair asked Councillors if they wish to reply.

Councillor Cai, Councillor Kim and Councillor Reddy declined to comment.

The Chair stated I would like to note that Councillor Pensabene has made public statements on her personal social media profiles and public to the Sydney Morning Herald and ofcourse in tonight's motion. The comments that were made were include that she is considering legal action against Strathfield Council or considering her options at that, so in the interest of not prejudicing any legal action that Councillor Pensabene might take against Strathfield Council, I will refrain from making any comment.

Councillor Reddy left the meeting, the time being 7:52pm.

## 14. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

15. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil.

16. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7:52pm.

The foregoing Minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the Council of the Municipality of Strathfield on 26 November 2024.

Chairman\_\_\_\_\_

General Manager\_\_\_\_\_



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7.1 MAYORAL MINUTE 08/24 - MONTHLY MAYORAL STREET MEETINGS

AUTHOR: John-Paul Baladi, Mayor

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I MOVE:

That a report be provided to Council to establish a budget to fund the cost of the Council resourcing Monthly Mayoral Street Meetings to better support the Mayor's community engagement activities outside of official events. This regular activity will include appropriate shelter, staff support and advertising in Council communications.

Rationale

The goal of this initiative is to engage with members of the community by setting up a stall in busy locations and providing residents with an opportunity to meet the Mayor and discuss any local issues affecting them.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That a report be provided to Council to establish a budget to fund the cost of the Council resourcing Monthly Mayoral Street Meetings to better support the Mayor's community engagement activities outside of official events. This regular activity will include appropriate shelter, staff support and advertising in Council communications.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

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7.2 MAYORAL MINUTE 09/24 - STRATHFIELD'S 140TH ANNIVERSARY PREPARATION

AUTHOR: John-Paul Baladi, Mayor

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I MOVE:

That Strathfield Council begins preparations for the upcoming 140th Anniversary of Incorporation, including that the Council:

1. Commissions a coffee-table style pictorial book showcasing local history, key people, and other relevant historical images, to be published in 2025.
2. In preparation for the 150th anniversary, initiates a plan to commission a complete history book about Strathfield, to be launched prior to that celebration.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Strathfield Council begins preparations for the upcoming 140th anniversary of incorporation, including that the Council:

1. Commissions a coffee-table style pictorial book showcasing local history, key people, and other relevant historical images, to be published in 2025.
2. In preparation for the 150th anniversary, initiates a plan to commission a complete history book about Strathfield, to be launched prior to that celebration.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

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**7.3 MAYORAL MINUTE 10/24 - STRATHFIELD YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM**

**AUTHOR:** John-Paul Baladi, Mayor

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**I MOVE:**

That Strathfield Council invites all local (and surrounding areas) High School Captains and Leaders to attend a seminar in the term 3 school holidays focused on community service and leadership, beginning in 2025.

This is to be called the "Strathfield Youth Leadership Forum" and will engage young leaders within our community with keynote speakers, important lectures, and local leaders (such as Citizen of the Year, a local Police Officer, etc.) to inform and educate them on the ideas of community service and leadership in our community.

The Mayor and Councillors are to discuss the details of this event with the General Manager and discuss the best approach with the relevant schools.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Strathfield Council invites all local (and surrounding areas) High School Captains and Leaders to attend a seminar in the term 3 school holidays focused on community service and leadership, beginning in 2025.

This is to be called the "Strathfield Youth Leadership Forum" and will engage young leaders within our community with keynote speakers, important lectures, and local leaders (such as Citizen of the Year, a local Police Officer, etc.) to inform and educate them on the ideas of community service and leadership in our community.

The Mayor and Councillors are to discuss the details of this event with the General Manager and discuss the best approach with the relevant schools.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

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7.4 MAYORAL MINUTE 11/24 - SCHOOL MATHS DAY

AUTHOR: John-Paul Baladi, Mayor

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I MOVE:

That Strathfield Council supports STEM in Local Schools by establishing an annual "School Maths Day" on or around 14 March each year, which will include activities and events which promote STEM curricula and rewards STEM skills.

This event is to be hosted and run by Council with the collaboration of all local high schools and primary schools, beginning in 2025.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Strathfield Council supports STEM in Local Schools by establishing an annual "School Maths Day" on or around 14 March each year, which will include activities and events which promote STEM curricula and rewards STEM skills.

This event is to be hosted and run by Council with the collaboration of all local high schools and primary schools, beginning in 2025.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

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10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR KIM

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF A CULTURAL, ARTS AND PERFORMANCE CENTRE IN THE STRATHFIELD LGA

I MOVE:

1. That Council produces a comprehensive report in conjunction with the ongoing Land and Property Strategy, to evaluate the establishment of a dedicated cultural arts and performance centre within the Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA).
2. That the report includes the following key elements:
  - a. Assessment of the Pomeroy Street Building: Evaluate the feasibility of repurposing the Pomeroy Street building as a potential site for the cultural, arts, and performance centre, including considerations of space, accessibility, and community needs.
  - b. Funding Options: Provide a detailed analysis of available funding options for the development of the centre, including potential grants, partnerships, and budget allocations.
  - c. Alternative Venues: Explore and assess any other suitable Council owned buildings, including but not limited to the property at 64 High Street, Strathfield, that could be repurposed for this purpose.
  - d. Community Engagement: Outline a plan for community consultation to gather input from residents on the desired features and potential uses of the centre, ensuring it reflects the diverse cultural identities and needs of the Strathfield community.
3. That Council presents the findings and options at a future Councillor Workshop for further discussions and decision-making, prioritising the creation of a vibrant space that supports exhibitions, performances and other cultural activities to enhance community engagement and celebrate local heritage.

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council produces a comprehensive report in conjunction with the ongoing Land and Property Strategy, to evaluate the establishment of a dedicated cultural arts and performance centre within the Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA).
2. That the report includes the following key elements:
  - a. Assessment of the Pomeroy Street Building: Evaluate the feasibility of repurposing the Pomeroy Street building as a potential site for the cultural, arts, and performance centre, including considerations of space, accessibility, and community needs.
  - b. Funding Options: Provide a detailed analysis of available funding options for the development of the centre, including potential grants, partnerships, and budget allocations.

- c. Alternative Venues: Explore and assess any other suitable Council owned buildings, including but not limited to the property at 64 High Street, Strathfield, that could be repurposed for this purpose.
  - d. Community Engagement: Outline a plan for community consultation to gather input from residents on the desired features and potential uses of the centre, ensuring it reflects the diverse cultural identities and needs of the Strathfield community.
3. That Council presents the findings and options at a future Councillor Workshop for further discussions and decision-making, prioritising the creation of a vibrant space that supports exhibitions, performances and other cultural activities to enhance community engagement and celebrate local heritage.

## ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

10.2 NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR NOSWORTHY  
SUBJECT: BUS SHELTER - PEMBERTON STREET AT ARTHUR ROAD

I MOVE:

That Council presents a report to a future Councillor Workshop on the options available to install a bus shelter at the bus stop on Pemberton Road, at Arthur Street, Homebush West. The bus stop ID is 2135140.

Rationale

A significant number of school students commuting to Strathfield Girls High School, from Homebush West, use this bus stop on a daily basis and lack adequate protection from the weather.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council presents a report to a future Councillor Workshop on the options available to install a bus shelter at the bus stop on Pemberton Road at Arthur Street, Homebush West. The bus stop ID is 2135140.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

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10.3 NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR NOSWORTHY

SUBJECT: PRIORITISE CROSSINGS ON EXETER ROAD

I MOVE:

That the crossings at Exeter Road, Homebush West be prioritised as the first and second crossings to be completed by Council, due to their high usage by primary school aged students and their families.

Rationale

The Traffic Committee report of 19 November 2024 highlights a number of zebra crossings to be installed. It lists those around Homebush West Primary school as the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> priority.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the crossings at Exeter Road, Homebush West be prioritised as the first and second crossings to be completed by Council due to their high usage by primary school aged students and their families.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.



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10.4 NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR NOSWORTHY  
SUBJECT: CONSEQUENCES OF LOANS CANCELLATION

I MOVE:

That Council staff provide a report to the December Councillor Workshop on the estimated increase to the current backlog of infrastructure asset renewal. The backlog currently stands at 3 times the recommended level according to the Office of Local Government. The report should consider the effect of the withdrawal of the remaining half of the loan taken out to fund asset renewal.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council staff provide a report to the December Councillor Workshop on the estimated increase to the current backlog of infrastructure asset renewal. The backlog currently stands at 3 times the recommended level according to the Office of Local Government. The report should consider the effect of the withdrawal of the remaining half of the loan taken out to fund asset renewal.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

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10.5 NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR NOSWORTHY

SUBJECT: SHADE CLOTH AT TAVISTOCK RESERVE

I MOVE:

That Council provides a report to a future Councillor Workshop on the costs associated with the installation of a shade cloth above the play equipment at Tavistock Reserve, Homebush West.

Rationale

There is insufficient shade provided in the afternoon at Tavistock Reserve. The play structure becomes unusable in summer due to surface heat from the high level of heat absorbed throughout the day in the direct sun.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council provides a report to a future Councillor Workshop on the costs associated with the installation of a shade cloth above the play equipment at Tavistock Reserve, Homebush West.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

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10.6 NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BLACKMORE

SUBJECT: REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT FOR MAYORAL DIARY AND EXPENSES TO BE TABLED AT MEETINGS

I MOVE:

That the Mayoral Diary report, including any expenses claimed by all Councillors, is no longer required to be to be tabled at Council Meetings.

Rationale

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on the 1 October 2019, Council passed Resolution 147/19 requiring the tabling of the Mayoral Diary including and expenses claimed by all Councillors, be tabled at each Ordinary Council Meeting.

Council is required to account for all expenses in a variety of ways to the public and oversight bodies for example in the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements.

Since this resolution has been passed, improvements have been made in communications between Councillors and to residents regarding activities undertaken by the Mayor and this report is an unnecessary burden on staff resources.

Should Councillors become concerned at a future date they can request information via the new iConcierge Strathfield Hub or the formal GIPA process.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Mayoral Diary report, including and expenses claimed by all Councillors, is no longer required to be to be tabled at Council Meetings.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

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10.7 NOTICE OF RESCISSION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BLACKMORE  
SUBJECT: COUNCIL PROTOCOL

I MOVE:

That the resolution 211/24 for the item CCS6 - Council Protocol adopted at the Council Meeting 13 August 2024 be rescinded.

**"211/24**

*RESOLVED: (Hall / Datta)*

*That Council adopts the Draft Council Protocol 2024 subject to the amendment to clause 10 Council Publications to read as follows:*

*Mayoral letters from the Mayor in their official capacity are to display images of the Mayor only where appropriate.*

*Operational communications to residents for example letters that inform them of traffic implications for an event, will come from Council staff and will not contain images or names of councillors or the Mayor. Councillors shall be emailed copies of general operational communication sent to residents for their information only.*

*Operational communications to residents including all policies for exhibition, upcoming events (e.g. printed and eNewsletters) will contain images and names of all councillors.*

*For the Motion: Councillors Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy*

*Against the Motion: Nil"*

Rationale

The Council Protocol adds an unnecessary burden on staff in relation to notifications to Councillors of invitations to events and protocols surrounding Council run events.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the resolution 211/24 for the item CCS6 - Council Protocol adopted at the Council Meeting of the 13 August 2024 be rescinded.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

- 10.8 NOTICE OF RESCISSION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLORS BALADI, BLACKMORE, REDDY AND KIM
- SUBJECT: RECISSION MOTION - STRATHFIELD CONNECTOR BUS

WE MOVE:

That the resolution for the item 10.1 Strathfield Connector Bus passed at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 22 October be rescinded:

**"250/24**

*RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)*

*A briefing on the current usage of the Connector Bus be prepared for a briefing on the Connector Bus for the next Councillor Workshop.*

*For the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Cai, Reddy, Baladi and Nosworthy*

*Against the Motion: Councillors Blackmore and Kim"*

If the Notice of Rescission is carried, it is proposed to move the following alternative Motion:

1. That the Strathfield Connector services are immediately, or as soon as is lawfully practicable, ceased.
2. That a report is provided to consider one Strathfield Connector Bus being kept for use by the community as an on-demand hire service, with options for a hire model to be presented at a Councillor Workshop.

## RECOMMENDATION

That the resolution for the item 10.1 Strathfield Connector Bus passed at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 22 October be rescinded:

**"250/24**

*RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)*

*A briefing on the current usage of the Connector Bus be prepared for a briefing on the Connector Bus for the next Councillor Workshop.*

*For the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Cai, Reddy, Baladi and Nosworthy*

*Against the Motion: Councillors Blackmore and Kim"*

If the Notice of Rescission is carried, it is proposed to move the following alternative Motion:

1. That the Strathfield Connector services are immediately, or as soon as is lawfully practicable, ceased.
2. That a report is provided to consider one Strathfield Connector Bus being kept for use by the community as an on-demand hire service, with options for a hire model to be presented at a Councillor Workshop.

#### ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report

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GMU1                    ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024  
AUTHOR:            Cathy Jones, Chief Strategy Officer  
APPROVER:        Michael Mamo, General Manager

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## RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the Annual Report for 2023-2024, noting upon endorsement negligible editorial changes and formatting updates are anticipated during the graphic design process.

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present to Council the Strathfield Council Annual Report 2023-2024.

## REPORT

The Annual Report is one of the key accountability mechanisms between Council and the Strathfield community. Preparation and presentation of the Annual Report within five (5) months of the end of the financial year is a requirement under section 428 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. This Annual Report is the first annual report within the framework of the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan 'Strathfield 2035'. The Community Strategic Plan was adopted in June 2022, following the Council election in December 2021. The Operational Plan 2023-2024 and Delivery Program 2022-2026 were also adopted in June 2023.

The Strathfield Council's Annual Report 2023-2024 outlines Council's achievements and effectiveness in implementing its Delivery Program through the Operational Plan 2023-2024 and includes Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL) reporting on how Council is progressing against measures based on social, economic, environmental and civic leadership challenges and opportunities. As 2024 is also the year of an ordinary Council election, progress reporting on the Community Strategic Plan is also included in the Annual Report, which is a statutory requirement. The State of the City Report was endorsed at the 22 October 2024 Council Meeting and is an addendum to the 2023-2024 Annual Report.

The Report contains statutory reporting in compliance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, clause 217 of *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and annual reporting requirement checklist issued by the Office of Local Government.

Audited financial statements are part of the Annual Report but are usually presented separately. The draft financial statements to 30 June 2024 were adopted by Council resolution at the 22 October 2024 Council meeting, subject to opinion of the NSW Audit Office.

The format of the Annual Report provides comprehensive reporting to the community about Council's achievements and progress over the last financial year. Following endorsement of the Report, the Annual Report will be graphically designed, and the final version may contain minor edits.

Council must endorse the Annual Report by 30 November 2024. Following endorsement, a copy of the Report will be sent to the Minister for Local Government and also published on Council's website.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. [↓](#) Annual Report 2023-2024 draft
2. [↓](#) Strathfield Council Audited Financial Statements 2023-2024





**CONTENTS**

About our Annual Report .....	5
Our Community Strategic Plan .....	6
Message from the Mayor .....	8
Message from the General Manager .....	9
Our Year in Review - Highlights .....	11
About Strathfield Council .....	15
Our Community Finance Report 2023-2024 .....	19
Capital works snapshot .....	21
Delivery Program Progress .....	22
Communicating with our community .....	24
Awards and Recognition .....	26
Vale .....	28
Awards .....	29
Community Events .....	30
Features .....	32
Our Sustainable Environment .....	37
Our Governance .....	44
Democratic governance .....	45
Mayor and Councillors .....	46
Our Councillors .....	47
Council meetings and sub-committees .....	50
Engaging Our Community .....	53
Case Study .....	54
Community satisfaction and priorities .....	56
Our Partnerships .....	57
Our Volunteers .....	58
Our Corporate Governance .....	60
Digital and Information management .....	64
Our Organisation .....	66
Our Executive .....	67
Our Profile .....	70
Work, health and safety .....	72
Our Performance .....	73
Annual Report 2023-2024 – final draft	page 2

Planning with our community.....	74
Community Strategic Plan Progress.....	76
Meeting the goals of the 2022-2026 Delivery Program.....	96
Connectivity Theme .....	97
Community Wellbeing Theme .....	102
Celebrating Culture and Place Theme .....	107
Liveable Neighbourhoods Theme.....	112
Responsible Leadership Theme.....	121
Applications to Access Information.....	126
Councillors.....	130
Disability Inclusion .....	133
Financial .....	135
Contracts and Legal.....	139
Planning.....	145
Staff reporting .....	148
Public Health and Regulatory Activities .....	150
Glossary .....	160

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### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Wangal people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the Strathfield area is located.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders continued custodianship of Country – land, seas, and skies.

We acknowledge the historical stewardship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the important contribution they make to our communities and economies.

We reflect on the continuing impact of policies of the past and recognise our responsibility to work with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families, and communities, towards better economic, social and cultural outcomes.

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## About our Annual Report

Welcome to Strathfield Council's 2023-2024 Annual Report.

The Annual Report is one of the key accountability mechanisms between Council and the community and has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* and clause 217 of *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and the *Office of Local Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines*.

Strathfield Council's Annual Report 2023-2024 outlines achievements and challenges of the financial year and actions taken by Council to progress its Delivery Program 2022-2026 and annual Operational Plan 2023-2024

The Annual Report also includes Council's Financial Statements prepared in accordance with the Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting as well as information required by the Local Government Act. Council's Audited Financial Statements are presented as a separate attachment.

### Feedback or questions

Feedback or questions relating to this annual report are welcome.

Email: [council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au)

Mail: Strathfield Council  
PO Box 120  
Strathfield NSW 2135

Draft



Scan here to view our Annual Reports

## Our Community Strategic Plan

In June 2022, Council adopted a new Community Strategic Plan, Strathfield 2035.

Strathfield 2035 expresses our community's vision and aspirations for the future of the Strathfield area. It is a plan that is in partnership with our community stakeholders to lead Strathfield into the future.



Scan here to view our Community Strategic Plan Strathfield 2035

The progress of our Community Strategic Plan is reported through Annual Reports with the detailed State of Strathfield Report presented following the next Council election in September 2024.

### Our Community Vision

Strathfield community's long-term vision for the future of the Council area was adopted in the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan in June 2022, which sets values to guide future strategic directions and planning for the Strathfield community.

*"Located in the heart of Greater Sydney, Strathfield is highly connected to transport, education and employment. It's culturally diverse and socially cohesive community is proud of its heritage and residential character, safe neighbourhoods, leafy environments and parklands. Strathfield is a place that embraces learning, culture, productivity and opportunity."*

### Role of Council

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to:

- provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning and decision-making.
- carry out functions in a way that provides the best possible value for residents and ratepayers.
- plan strategically, using the integrated planning and reporting framework, for the provision of effective and efficient services and regulation to meet the diverse needs of the local community.
- apply the integrated planning and reporting framework in carrying out their functions so as to achieve desired outcomes and continuous improvements.
- work co-operatively with other councils and the State government to achieve desired outcomes for the local community.
- manage lands and other assets so that current and future local community needs can be met in an affordable way.
- work with others to secure appropriate services for local community needs.
- act fairly, ethically and without bias in the interests of the local community.
- be responsible employers and provide a consultative and supportive working environment for staff.



### Social justice principles

Social justice principles are intrinsic to Council's work and Council acknowledges the rights of all to equal access to services and facilities within the Strathfield Local Government Area. Principles include:

- fairness in the distribution of resources (equity)
- rights are recognised and promoted (rights)
- fair access to the economic resources and services essential to meet basic needs and to improve quality of life (access)
- opportunities for genuine participation and consultation about decisions affecting lives (participation).

Council is committed to identifying and addressing physical, communication and attitudinal barriers that exist in the delivery of services and facilities to the community.

### Guiding principles

Council is guided by principles set out in the *Local Government Act 1993* that assist Council in exercising its functions, undertaking decision-making, actively engaging with communities and completing strategic planning as part of its integrated planning and reporting framework.

In carrying out its functions and responsibilities Council is also guided by social justice principles and quadruple bottom line (QBL).

### Quadruple Bottom Line

Council also considers the long term and cumulative effects of actions on future generations and the principles of ecologically sustainable development. The quadruple bottom line (QBL) approach addresses environmental, social, economic and civic leadership considerations and ensures that community priorities are addressed in a balanced and holistic manner. QBL progress reporting is included in the Performance section of this report.

## Message from the Mayor

I am proud to present our Annual Report to the Strathfield community, which reports on the delivery of our community vision and the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan 'Strathfield 2035'. The Annual Report provides insight into the achievements of our Council and community over 2023-2024 in delivering a wide range of services, projects and programs in our local area. I recommend that this report is read alongside Council's State of the City Report, which provides a robust overview of progress over the last Council term and identification of challenges for the new Council term.



One of our challenges is ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of Council to deliver quality services, liveable spaces and support the needs of local community. We need to deliver for current communities while planning for future and growing populations. To meet these challenges, Council resources including the management of our assets must be effectively and efficiently managed and offer value for money services.

Proposals by the New South Wales Government to significantly increase the population and housing density of the Strathfield area will have significant impact on our community as well as Council's operations. The Homebush Transport Orientated Development Masterplan and other planning initiatives present major challenges but also opportunities to work with the NSW Government and other partners to deliver high quality infrastructure, housing and transport to support current and future generations living, working, studying or visiting the Strathfield LGA.

In September 2024, the Strathfield community elected a new Council, who will guide the progress of our Council area for the next four (4) years. Our elected Councillors reflect the diversity of our local community and bring to Council a wide range of experiences, knowledge and skills. I welcome our new Councillors Esther Kim and Rory Nosworthy and our returning Councillors Matthew Blackmore, Benjamin Cai, Karen Pensabene and Sandy Reddy. I acknowledge the efforts and achievements of our previous Council who served from 2021 to 2024 and their advocacy for the people of Strathfield and their commitment to improving the life of our community.

I also acknowledge the efforts and dedication of our General Manager, Michael Mamo, his Executive Team, and Council staff.

**Cr John-Paul Baladi**  
**MAYOR**



## Message from the General Manager

I am pleased to present Strathfield's Annual Report for 2023-2024, which provides an overview of the Council's performance, achievements and statutory reporting for the past financial year. Council has also presented the State of the City Report, which provides a summary of our status and sets out our community's key challenges.

In September 2024, the voters of the Strathfield area elected their Councillors for the 2024-2028 period. Those Councillors elected include Matthew Blackmore, Benjamin Cai, Karen Pensabene, Sandy Reddy, Rory Nosworthy, John-Paul Baladi and Esther Kim. We also acknowledge the efforts of Strathfield's outgoing Councillors including Raj Datta, Nella Hall, Sharangan Maheswaran whose Council term had commenced in December 2021.



In the past financial year, significant progress was made in addressing a range of major issues and preparing the organisation to deal with significant future challenges. Of particular significance are the increased housing and population targets under New South Wales Government led planning. Early this year, the New South Wales Government announced the Homebush Transport Orientated Development draft Masterplan, which is initially estimated a yield of 8,900 new dwellings or 22,500 new residents. This and other planning initiatives affecting Strathfield LGA will result in Strathfield planning for and servicing a high growth environment, presenting the Council with both challenges but also opportunities to shape our future communities.

This year Council continued to deliver a diverse range of quality programs, facilities and services and improved the effective management of community assets and resources. Council has invested record amounts in the renewal of the condition and quality of local infrastructure such as footpaths and roads across the Strathfield Council area. Council has received over \$21 in grant funding under the Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants (WSIG) program for upgrades of several facilities and an additional \$5.9 million for active infrastructure near Parramatta Road. These projects and other capital works including renewals and maintenance of assets such as roads, footpaths and buildings will be delivered in the new term of Council.

Council has also commenced preparing strategies to identify how will we progress a range of issues to support out challenging environment including strategies such as Land and Property, Resilience and Recreation and Wellness. Underpinning these strategies and plans, is implementing robust civic leadership and governance structures to ensure our operations and decision making is effective, efficient, accountable and transparent.

Council prides itself on its commitment to serving the community and providing the best services we can. I look forward to continuing to work closely with the Mayor and Councillors, my Executive Team and Council staff to serve our local community and continue to build for a prosperous future Strathfield.

**Michael Mamo**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

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## Our Year in Review - Highlights

### Connectivity Theme

- We have actively engaged to the New South Wales Government on the Homebush Transport Orientated Development (TOD) program and Masterplan and advocated for appropriate funding for infrastructure to support growth and new populations.
- We prepared designs for the projects funded by New South Wales Government's Western Sydney Investment Grant at Airey Park, Hudson Park, Begnell Field, Strathfield Park and Cooke Park. Community engagement commenced in July 2024.
- We completed 100% of all capital works programs for roads and footpaths and 90% of kerbs and gutters.
- We progressed the Strathfield wide transport and traffic study with completion expected in late 2024.
- We commenced the design phase of stage 1 of the Homebush Active Transport Network, which will link Homebush West to the Strathfield Town Centre.
- We went live internally in January 2024 with the new iConcierge system and staff have been using the new CRM as their main source of venue, waste and service requests. Live implementation for public access is scheduled for mid-August 2024.
- We have progressed the new Council website project with expected release in late 2024.
- We exhibited and adopted the amended Community Facilities Plan of Management and new Plans of Management for Hudson Park and Mason Park, which include Crown Land Reserves.

### Community Wellbeing Theme

- We granted over \$58,000 to 26 community organisations for a diverse range of initiatives that support local resident involvement in community-based activities.
- We worked collaboratively with Police to improve community awareness of community safety through community activities such as Strathfield Square crime prevention pop-up stall and Coffee with a Cop.
- We worked with partners to deliver health programs for seniors including fitness, health and falls prevention.
- We facilitated school holiday programs for local children and youth including sports, arts and movies.
- We held 10 weekly youth drop-in service for children and youth at Strathfield Library during school terms with activities including table tennis and board games.
- We completed 100% of agreements for sportsgrounds hire and commenced work on agreements for the summer season in 2024-2025.
- We delivered litter and rubbish removals of our major parks on a scheduled three times a week cycle.
- We undertook tree inspections for almost 6,500 trees and tree maintenance works including crown lifting, deadwooding, tree removals and stump grinding on 3,000 trees to date.
- We partnered with the Strathfield SES to upgrade their building located at the Council Depot in Weeroona Road Strathfield.

### Celebrating Place and Culture Theme

- We hosted delegates from our Sister City, Gapyeong County in South Korea. Nine (9) delegates visited Strathfield on Monday 20 May 2024. A welcome ceremony was held in the Strathfield Town Hall, the delegates were taken on a tour program of the Strathfield LGA and a Welcome Ceremonial Dinner in the evening.
- We welcomed nearly 250,000 visits to the Library, over 160,000 borrowings and 87,000 wifi sessions with 28,000 patrons using the extended hours library service.
- We ran 210 programs in Strathfield Library in 2023-2024 with over 3,700 people attending including activities for preschool, primary school and adults with bilingual programs.
- We partnered with multiple organisations and facilitated five (5) major exhibitions at the Library's Ironbark Gallery including displays and talks on history and art historical exhibitions showcasing our local community.
- We celebrated Australia Day 2024 with performances by Walangari Karntawarra and Diramu Aboriginal Dance and Didgeridoo.
- We presented the 2024 Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year awards on Australian Day.
- We celebrated the Strathfield Festival at Strathfield Square in May 2024 with over 25,000 people attending to enjoy live music, roving entertainment, and local cuisines served by nearby businesses.
- We conferred Australian citizenship on 596 residents at ceremonies held by Council.
- We commemorated ANZAC Day at our Memorial Service on 25 April 2024 at Davey Square Memorial.
- We adopted a Reconciliation Action Plan and celebrated National Reconciliation Week in May 2024 including a talk on Aboriginal History at Strathfield Library.

#### Liveable Neighbourhoods Theme

- We prepared and presented the Strathfield Medium Density Housing study and strategy which was adopted by Council in August 2024.
- We completed community engagement, prepared an options report for the Strathfield Town Centre Master Plan and created a community vision. This will guide the preparation of the Strathfield Town Centre Master Plan, which secured grant funding for its development.
- We made representations to the NSW Government proposed Homebush Transit Orientated Development (TOD) program and participated in the process to deliver a new Masterplan, led by the NSW Government, for the Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy (PRCUTS) area by the end of 2024.
- We completed flood mapping and are working with Burwood Council and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water to determine criteria for property tagging in the catchment area.
- We continued our street tree data collection program of the estimated 12,000 street trees and have achieved around 70% of the data collection.
- We determined 107 development applications.
- We determined a total of 148 tree management applications in 2023-2024.
- We serviced our parks on a fortnightly basis (weather permitting) including visual inspections and serviced for litter and rubbish 3 times per week and both days on weekends.
- We cleansed all town centres on a daily basis and undertook a twice weekly graffiti inspection program.

### Responsible Leadership Theme

- We held 10 ordinary Council meetings over 2023-2024 and prepared for the 2024 Council election including preparing for induction and training programs for the new Council term.
- We implemented the Operational Plan and Budget 2023-2024 from 1 July 2023, endorsed the Annual Report 2022-2023 in November 2023 and 6 month Delivery Program reports in April and July 2024.
- We held quarterly Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) Meetings.
- We made representations to State and Federal Members of Parliament and government departments and agencies on issues of community priority including transport and traffic management, planning and public land and open space.
- We reviewed and adopted new and amended policies including Mandatory Data Breach Policy, Public Interest Disclosure Policy, Code of Meeting Practice and Councillors Fees and Expenses Policy.
- We determined 24 formal access applications within the statutory timeframe and processed 147 informal access applications.
- We completed 7 internal audits in 2024 which included development application approvals, fire safety, compliance certification, records, management, procurement, fraud and corruption, plant and fleet management and assurance mapping updates.
- We worked in collaboration and managed partnerships with other tiers of government, neighbouring councils, regional organisations including Southern Sydney Region of Councils (SSROC) and Local Government NSW (LGNSW) and local community organisations.
- We progressed our asset condition program with 70% data collection and evaluation of open space buildings data completed and improvements to stormwater GIS database improved and consolidation of the stormwater asset database.
- We prioritised and addressed issues concerning Council's long term financial sustainability issues through adopting new programs and measures including improved efficiencies, expenditure savings and increasing Council revenue.

### Our Challenges and opportunities

- Progress planning and community engagement for upgrades and new facilities funded under the Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants Program in Airey Park, Begnell Reserve, Hudson Park, Strathfield Park and Cooke Park.
- Preparation of masterplans for Homebush Transport Orientated Development (TOD) and Strathfield Town Centre to guide future development, and the development of a Medium Density Housing Strategy.
- Public exhibition and adoption of a new Strathfield Infrastructure Contributions Plan.
- Providing training and induction programs for the Councillors elected at the election in September 2024.
- Community engagement and review of the Integrated Planning and Reporting system and adoption of reviewed or new strategic and operational plans.
- Improvements to the maintenance and cleanliness of Strathfield's public domains, parks, and residential streets, with particular emphasis on illegal dumping.
- Deliver local infrastructure improvements including renewals and maintenance of road and footpaths, kerbs and gutter, buildings, and parks renewals to ensure assets meet community service standards and reduce asset backlogs.
- Improving community access to Council services and bookings through the implementation of iConcierge application for online bookings, payments and lodging of requests.
- Opening of the Community Service Centre at Homebush to provide support services, especially for Strathfield's multicultural communities.
- Preparation of Council's Recreation and Wellness Strategy.
- Implementation of Council's Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Continuing operations in Council's works areas, parks and gardens, compliance activities, town planning/development approval, natural resource management, environmental initiatives, and waste collection services.
- Provision of corporate management services to support the operational areas of Council such as people and culture, records management, finance, and technology infrastructure.
- Operations of governance, administration, and secretariat activities consistent with legislative requirements as well as providing support for elected Council members.
- Facilitation and delivery of a range of community programs to support the social, recreation, health, and leisure needs of Strathfield's multi-cultural and diverse community.
- Continued operation of library and information services which provide access to programs and services to support literacy programs, early learning, and cultural needs.
- Coordination of a wide range of events and exhibitions to encourage local community participation and involvements.

## About Strathfield Council

### Our History

Strathfield Council acknowledges the Wangal clan of the Darug Aboriginal people as the traditional owners of the Strathfield area. The first European land grants to free settlers commenced in 1793 in the District of Liberty Plains, partly located within the current Strathfield LGA. Residential growth commenced in the late 1800s promoted by access to rail transports at Homebush, Strathfield and Flemington.

Significant population growth occurred after WWI and with the addition of the former Homebush Council in 1947 and part of Enfield Council in 1949, the population stabilised around 27,000 to 29,000 until the 2000s, when population increased due to redevelopment of land for multi-unit dwellings particularly in town centres and transport hubs adding nearly 20,000 additional people over the last twenty years.

### Our Council

Strathfield Council was incorporated on 2 June 1885, which included the suburbs of Redmyre (renamed Strathfield), Homebush and Druitt Town (formerly parts of Strathfield South and western areas of Strathfield). The unincorporated area of Flemington (now Homebush West) was added to the Strathfield Council area on 19 February 1892. From 1892, the Council area was divided into three wards: Strathfield, Flemington and Homebush Wards. In 1916, wards were abolished and all Aldermen were elected by those eligible to vote. On 19 August 1930, parts of Homebush West were transferred from the Lidcombe Municipality to Strathfield Council. The former Municipality of Homebush was added to Strathfield Council on 25 May 1947. The west ward of the former Municipality of Enfield was added to Strathfield Council on 1 January 1949. There have been two minor boundary adjustments. In 1953, Strathfield Council's south western boundary at Roberts Road Greenacre was altered when the site of the former Bankstown Sanitary Depot came under Bankstown Council control. In 1992, the western boundary of the Strathfield Municipality was adjusted involving land exchanges between Strathfield and Auburn Councils.

### Our place in Sydney's Inner West

The Local Government Area (LGA) of Strathfield has a total area of approximately 13.9 square kilometres. Strathfield Council is located in Sydney's Inner West about 10.5 kilometres from the city centre and half way between Parramatta and the city. Homebush Bay Drive bounds the Local Government Area to the north, Powells Creek, The Boulevarde and Coronation Parade to the east, Punchbowl Road and Juno Parade in the south and Roberts Road, Chullora rail yards, Rookwood Cemetery and the Sydney Olympic Park rail line to the west. Strathfield Council includes the suburbs of Strathfield (postcode 2135), Strathfield South (2136), Homebush (2140), Homebush West (2140) and part of Greenacre (2190). Sydney Markets is also located within the Strathfield LGA and has its own postcode, 2129. The Strathfield LGA is characterised by a variety of land uses including residential, commercial, industrial, public and private recreation, and environmental areas.

### Our Demographics

The estimated resident population of Strathfield LGA was 47,824 with a population density of 3,423 persons per square km (2023). The LGA's medium age is 33 years. The largest population segment and persons aged 25-34 years who total 24.3% of the population. 12% of the population are aged over 65 years and 0.4% of the population are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

The Strathfield LGA is a culturally diverse community with approximately 58.9% born overseas and 65% of residents speaking a language other than English at home including Mandarin, Nepali, Cantonese, Korean and Arabic. 67% of Strathfield's housing is comprised of medium and high density as compared to 46% in Greater Sydney. Whereas only 31% of housing is a separate dwelling as compared to 53% in Greater Sydney. The Census 2021 reported a significant increase in new housing with nearly 4,000 new dwellings added between 2016 and 2021, the majority being new medium to high density development. The proportion of units to houses has increased since the 2016 Census. The majority of residents live in units. 48% of Strathfield's residents either own or are purchasing their home and 44% are renting. Over 40% live in family households while 20% live in lone person households. The average household size in the LGA is 2.73 people.

### Our Economy

The Strathfield LGA has significant commercial and industrial areas. The major commercial centre is the Strathfield Town Centre adjacent to Strathfield Station, with commercial areas also located at Homebush, Homebush West, Sydney Markets, Strathfield South and Cave Road. The Strathfield LGA features highly connected rail, bus and road systems. Strathfield Station, one of the largest and busiest railway stations in NSW, lies in the heart of the Strathfield LGA. There are also rail stations at Homebush and Flemington. The LGA has about 24,000 jobs and more than 6,700 businesses. Over 44% of the residential population have a degree or higher qualification and 33.8% of residents aged over 15 are professional workers.

### Our Environment

Whilst the Strathfield LGA is largely developed, the natural environment plays a vital role in contributing to local and regional ecosystems and human settlements with a range of local and district parks and reserves with foreshores along Cooks River and Coxs Creek, and Powells Creek which flows to Parramatta River. Strathfield's tree lined streets, well-kept gardens, playing fields, parks, public domains and natural areas contribute to the cultural identity and healthy environment of the LGA. About 9% of the LGA is open space. There is currently 9.06 hectares of remnant bushland across the Strathfield LGA which is less than 1% of the LGA's total area. Of this 4.4 hectares contain the Castlereagh Ironbark Forest, an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC).



Scan here for more information on Strathfield Council



## Strathfield at a Glance – Our Demographics

### Strathfield Council

Incorporated 1885

Number of Councillors 7

### Population

Total 47,824 (ABS ERP 2023)

Density: 3,423 persons per sq km (2023)

LGA Area: 14.1 sq kms

### Suburbs

Greenacre (part)

Homebush

Homebush West

Strathfield (part)

Strathfield South

### Parks & Trees

Number of park trees 24,000 (estimated)

Number of street trees 12,000 (estimated)

Largest parks Hudson Park, Mason Park, Strathfield Park, Bressington Park

Public open space 9%

Number of sportsgrounds 23

Number of parks 60

### Transport & Infrastructure

Number of rail stations 3

Number of streets 239

Length of Kerb and Guttering 194 km

Length of Footpaths and Cycleways 199 km

### Age Groups

Median Age 33 years (2023)

0-14 years 15% (2021)

15-29 years 27% (2021)

30-44 years 26% (2021)

45-64 years 20% (2021)

Over 65 years 12% (2021)

### Demographics

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People 0.4% (2021)

Overseas born residents 58.9% (2021)

Languages spoken at home 65% speak a language other than English including Mandarin, Nepali, Cantonese, Korean, and Arabic (2021)

**Health & Wellbeing**

Birthrate 1.21 (2022)

Life expectancy males 81.3 years (2022)

Life expectancy females 85.2 years (2022)

SEIFA Index of disadvantage: 1011 (2021)

**Households**

Average household size 2.73 people (2021)

Family households 40% (2021)

Lone households 19% (2021)

Group households 8% (2021)

Couples with children 33% (2021)

**Housing**

Total dwellings 16,700+ (2023)

Medium-high density 67% (2021)

Separate dwelling 31% (2021)

Own or purchasing residence 48% (2021)

Renting 44% (2021)

**Education**

Local schools - 18

Universities - 1

Degree or higher qualification - 44% (2021)

University attendance - 9% (2021)

Completed Year 12 - 77% (2021)

**Economy**

Gross regional product \$3.8 billion (2023)

Total jobs 23,951 (2023)

Local businesses 6,934 (2023)

Professional workers (over 15) 33%

Residents living and working in Strathfield LGA 14% (2021)

Residents in the labour force 63% (2021)

Resident professional and manager occupation 46% (2021)

**Largest industries (by employment)**

Transport, Postal, and Warehousing

Retail Trade

Education and Training

Construction

Sources: Census 2021 (ABS), Regional Population (ABS), Strathfield Council records, ID Profile Economy ID, NIEIR Economic Data

## Our Community Finance Report 2023-2024

Council is required to report to the community on its financial performance and position for the year, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*. The financial statements for 30 June 2024, are attached.

### Overview

In the 2023-2024 financial year, Council demonstrated significant improvement in financial performance across several key indicators, reflecting effective fiscal management and a focus on strengthening the Council's financial position. This improvement has been driven by a combination of targeted revenue growth strategies and disciplined cost containment measures under the council's Special Variation (SV) initiative and a comprehensive financial improvement program.

### Income Statement Highlights

#### Revenue Growth

Total income from continuing operations rose by 22.6% to \$73.99 million, up from \$60.30 million in 2023. Key drivers of this increase included a rise in rates and annual charges, which grew by \$3.34 million to \$36.92 million, compared to \$33.58 million in the prior year. This growth was supported by the Special Variation (SV), which was implemented to sustain essential services and maintain financial stability. User charges and fees also saw an increase, rising by \$0.58 million to \$5.29 million, compared to \$4.71 million in 2023.

A significant portion of the revenue growth was due to an increase in capital grants and contributions, which climbed by \$9.42 million to \$22.94 million, up from \$13.52 million in the prior year. However, it is important to emphasise that this capital income is restricted to funding capital projects and infrastructure development and does not contribute to the council's operational funding needs.

#### Cost Containment and Efficiency Gains

On the expenditure side, disciplined cost control was instrumental in achieving a stronger financial position. Total expenses from continuing operations were contained to \$58.58 million, an increase of just 3.9% over the previous year, reflecting effective cost management despite inflationary pressures.

Employee costs, which make up the largest component of expenses, rose by 5.6% to \$25.81 million. This increase was largely due to legislated factors outside the council's control, including adjustments under the Local Government State Award and mandated increases to the superannuation guarantee rate. These changes were implemented in accordance with state and federal regulations, impacting the overall employee benefits expense. Despite these cost pressures, other areas such as materials and services expenses were tightly managed, remaining nearly flat at \$19.78 million compared to \$20.26 million in 2023.

In summary, Council's focus on responsible revenue growth, cost efficiency, and compliance with legislative obligations has significantly strengthened its financial performance and position, supporting both sustainable service delivery and investment in essential community infrastructure.

#### Balance Sheet Highlights

As at 30 June 2024, the council's Statement of Financial Position reflects a strong and improved balance sheet, with an increase in both total assets and net assets.

#### Assets

Total assets increased by 6.6% to \$574.15 million, up from \$538.87 million in 2023, primarily due to growth in cash reserves and infrastructure investments.

- Current assets grew significantly by 48.5% to \$52.39 million from \$35.27 million in the prior year. Primarily driven by an increase in cash and investments as a result of high developer contributions income collected during the year. Developer contributions funds are a legally restricted and are to be used in accordance with the contribution plans.
- Non-current assets increased by 3.6% to \$521.76 million, up from \$503.60 million in 2023. The most substantial contributor to this increase was infrastructure, property, plant, and equipment (IPPE), which grew to \$504.41 million from \$481.73 million, reflecting its fair value (i.e. the depreciated current replacement cost).

#### Key Financial Ratios

Several financial ratios further illustrate the council's improved position:

- The Operating Performance Ratio showed a positive shift, improving to (11.57%) from (16.23%) last year, indicating progress towards balancing recurrent expenses with revenue.
- The Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio decreased to 65.14% from 72.40%, showing reliance on self-generated revenue sources.
- The Unrestricted Current Ratio improved to 5.13x, up from 4.32x, highlighting enhanced liquidity and the council's ability to cover short-term obligations.
- The Rates and Annual Charges Outstanding Percentage increased slightly to 6.28% from 4.86%, suggesting a minor rise in overdue receivables.
- Lastly, the Cash Expense Cover Ratio increased to 17.30 months from 12.77 months, indicating robust cash reserves to cover operational expenses if needed.

## Capital works snapshot

During 2023-2024, Council's capital works program included the upgrades and maintenance of community buildings, renewals of roads, footpaths, drainage or park facilities. A detailed list of Capital works completed in 2023-2024 is contained on pages xx

### Major Projects

A number of major projects were undertaken including restoration of heritage buildings owned by Council and completion of civil works at village centres. Some of our 2023-2024 projects included:

- Restoration of the historic Strathfield Town Hall including replacing the slate roof and internal works.
- Landscaping and civil works at Cave Road shopping centre
- Scheduled and reactive maintenance of all Council buildings including parks amenities, administration, library, community centres etc.

### Transport infrastructure

Council maintains 97 km of roads (239 streets) and 199 km of footpaths and cycleways. Bridges, car parking and pathways are also part of our local transport infrastructure. A complete list of all projects is detailed on page xx. Some of our 2023-2024 key projects included:

- Road resurfacing involving resheeting of asphalt surfaces on roads including Pemberton Street and Newton Road intersection Strathfield, Short Street West Homebush, Dickson Street Strathfield, Coronation Parade and Bede Street Strathfield South
- Installation of pedestrian crossing at High Street Strathfield
- Roundabout at Bridge Road and Loftus Crescent to mitigate crashes and speeding
- Footpath renewal in Strathfield and Strathfield South

### Drainage and kerbs and guttering

Council maintains 194 km of kerbs and guttering, 65.49 kms of stormwater pipes and 2599 stormwater pits. Some of our 2023-2024 projects included:

- Mitigation of potential flooding issue involving a blocked stormwater pipe at Freshwater Park. The pipe was cleared and replaced with a channel made from recycled sandstone. This has become a home for a family of ducks.
- Replacement of the culvert running under Telopea Ave in Homebush West. The replacement ensures the culvert continues to work effectively and protect homes from flooding. Work began at the end of April 2024 and was completed in June 2024.

## Delivery Program Progress

### Overview

Council's Delivery Program 2022-2026 details the principal activities Council will undertake over a four year period to achieve the goals and aspirations identified by the local community in the Community Strategic Plan, Strathfield 2035. The five themes or key priority areas in the Community Strategic Plan 'Strathfield 2035' that inform the Delivery Program and Operational Plan include: Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Celebrating Culture and Place, Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership

The Operational Plan outlined the activities Council included to undertake during the 2023-2024 year to achieve its Delivery Program commitments. These plans are supported by the Resourcing Strategy which consists of the following plans:

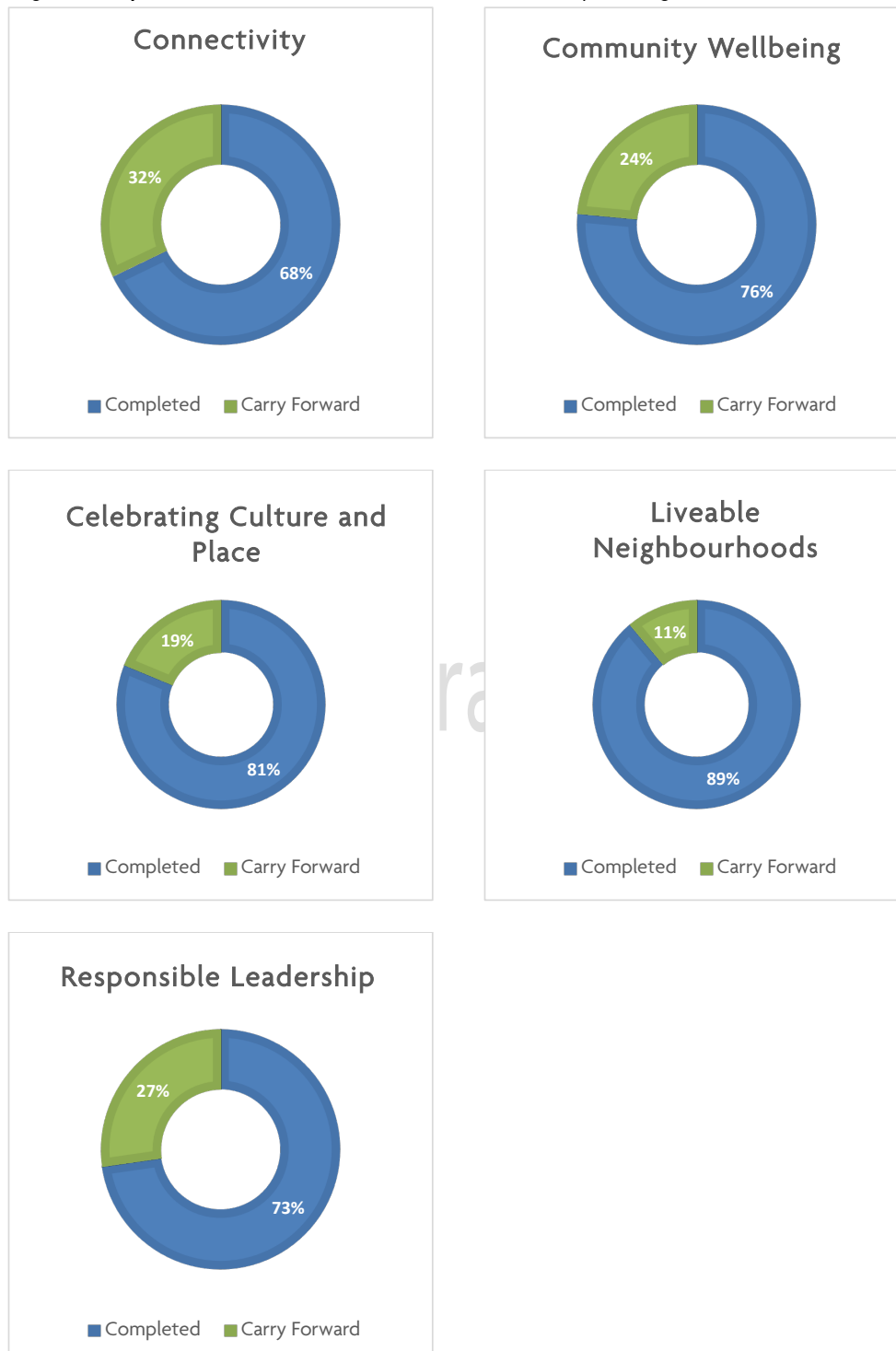
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Asset Management Strategy and Plans
- Workforce Management Strategy

The 2023-2024 Operational Plan included a total of 151 actions. This includes capital works, community programs, environmental and waste programs, events, regulating public health and planning and development.

6 monthly reports were presented to Council in April and July 2024 for the periods June to December 2023 and January to June 2024.

The Plan contains actions which reflect both ongoing services and new projects or initiatives which contribute to the four-year outcomes.



**Progress of Operational Plan 2023-2024 based on Community Strategic Plan Themes**

## Communicating with our community

Council is committed to fostering open lines of communication with the local community through various mediums. This is to keep the community up to date with projects, initiatives and events that are managed by Strathfield Council.

Information is disseminated via Council's website, social media channels, eNews, printed newsletter, videos on Council's YouTube channel, advertising and rates notice distributions. The main aim of Council's communications efforts is to keep the community informed, encourage contributions that can help guide policies/projects and maintain transparency. Have Your Say, our online engagement site, was launched in 2022, which facilitates engagement of community on Council's draft proposals, plans and policies.

<b>E-News</b>	<b>Print Newsletters</b>
Council distributes the Enews email to over 31,000 recipients each week. Enews contains information on events, major proposals, community engagement, project updates, local history and community news updates. Enews special editions are also issued for major projects and special events. In 2023-2024, a total of 62 newsletters were issued including 50 weekly and 12 special editions.	Many residents want to receive information in print. With no local newspapers in the local area, the printed newsletter is a valuable form of communication to our community. These newsletters issue monthly and were issued to 19,000 households in the Strathfield LGA. Each newsletter includes a monthly update from the Mayor, highlights upcoming events, features programs run by Strathfield Library and Council's Community Services team, showcases sustainability topics and includes project updates.
<b>Social Media</b>	<b>Rates Notice information</b>
Council's presence and number of followers on social media has continued to increase over time. It is an effective medium to distribute timely communications and is useful during instances requiring urgent messaging. Social media is a growing medium used by the community to obtain information and updates they are interested in. Council had 22,121 social media hits (followers/likes) across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn in 2023-2024 and a total of 1,595 social media updates. There was a total social media reach of 534,324.	Council distributes an information brochure with the quarterly issue of rates notices. This brochure is received by ratepayers and is focused on projects that are funded by rates, waste education projects and events/programs run by Council.
<b>Videos</b>	<b>Flyers</b>
Council posts videos to Strathfield TV, Council's YouTube channel. It includes video recordings of Council meetings, Mayor's Council Meeting recap videos and highlights from Council events.	Letters and/or flyers are distributed to residents for projects or events requiring community engagement or community notification. Over



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Videos on 'Future Strathfield' and 'Our Council, Our Neighbourhoods' provide information on current projects and Strathfield as a destination.

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the past 12 months, Council has organised the distribution of 11 letters/flyers to local residents.

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## Awards and Recognition

Council recognises those who generously donate their time to help others. The Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year award is held annually on Australia Day to recognise those who make significant contributions to the Strathfield community. The 2024 awards were presented by Mayor Cr Karen Pensabene to Ms Bridget Sakr (Citizen of the Year) and Ms Roukaya Ayoub of Strathfield Girls High School (Young Citizen of the Year). Also in attendance were our Australia Day Ambassadors, Ms Maria Venuti AM and Mr Col Hardy OAM, with the Hon. Tony Burke MP, Federal Member for Watson, Ms Sally Sitou, MP Federal Member for Reid and Mr Jason Yat-sen Li, MP State Member for Strathfield.

### 2023 Strathfield Local Citizen of the Year Award



Figure 1 Maria Venuti, Col Hardy, Mayor Karen Pensabene, Bridget Sakr with Jason Yat-sen Li MP, Sally Sitou MP and Tony Burke MP

### Citizen of the Year

Mrs Bridget Sakr is a local resident and active community member, who was inspired by her own personal tragedy to reach out and help those in her community experiencing trauma. Mrs Sakr's 11-year-old daughter was tragically killed in a car crash in 2019. Mrs Sakr has since advocated for other grieving families with similar experiences. Mrs Sakr has volunteered as a mentor to Santa Sabina students and sponsors a yearly scholarship for students in Years 10-12, demonstrating her commitment to the wellbeing of young locals. Her outstanding work with the community through various endeavours, and her empathetic nature has earned her a place in the hearts of Strathfield locals.

### Young Citizen of the Year

Ms Roukaya Ayoub is a Year 12 student who attends Strathfield Girls High School. She has been involved with many community initiatives including supporting the Chalmers Road Special Education School's 10-week reading program and fundraising for school facilities. She volunteers with children at day care centres and coaches soccer, showcasing her ability to connect with and inspire children and benefit their overall wellbeing. She has also participated in MATW Projects including fundraising to construct wells in African nations, and assisting in raising almost half a million dollars to support families in third world countries during Ramadan. These are just a few of the charitable endeavours that highlight her empathy, social conscience, and unwavering eagerness to assist those less fortunate.

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## Vale

Strathfield Council commemorated the passing of former Mayor Laurel O'Toole and Alderman George Hallworth in 2023.

### Laurel O'Toole (1942-2023)

#### Alderman/Councillor (1991-2000) and Mayor (1998-2000)

Laurel Jennifer O'Toole grew up in Auburn and Homebush, completing her schooling at Strathfield Girls High. She trained as a nurse at Auburn Hospital and later pursued midwifery at Crown Street Hospital. After marrying Vic O'Toole, the couple returned to Strathfield to live. Laurel was first elected to Strathfield Council as an Alderman in the 1991 Council election and was re-elected in 1995, serving two consecutive terms until 2000. She was elected Mayor in September 1998 and again in 2000, and also served as Deputy Mayor in 1998. In 2003, she recorded an oral history interview, which is held at Strathfield Library. In this interview, she discusses her service on many committees, the development of the bid for the Sydney Olympics, and the importance of community involvement in local government. Laurel passed away on 24 August 2023. She is survived by her husband Victor and their children, David, Sandra, and Greg.



### George Hallworth (1925-2023)

#### Alderman (1980-1983, 1987-1991)

George Hallworth was elected as an Alderman on Strathfield Council in 1980, serving from 20 September 1980 to 23 September 1983. He successfully contested the 1987 Council election, serving a second term from 26 September 1987 to 13 September 1991. During his tenure, George held several key positions. He was Vice-Chairman of the Parks Committee in 1982-1983, Deputy Chairman of the Community Services Committee in 1988, Chairman of the Community Services Committee in 1989-1990, and Chairman of the Library Committee from 1989 to 1991. For many years, George operated a general store on Cave Road in Strathfield. He was deeply involved in the community, contributing to various organisations including Rotary, Meals on Wheels, Red Cross, Probus, and the School for Seniors. In recognition of his long service to the community, he was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2001.



George was married to Catherine Hallworth and had four children: Vivien (deceased), Lesley, Susan, and Peter. He also had many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## Awards

Awards and acknowledgements received by Council in 2023-2024 include:

### **2024**

Silver Award Australasian Reporting Awards for Strathfield Council Annual Report 2023-2024

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## Community Events

Strathfield Council delivers a broad range of events to meet the diverse needs and interests of our community. In 2023-2024, the following events were held.

### July 2023

- Net calls Net, Weave calls Wave: Marta Romani and Karl Logge at Ironbark Gallery (11 May-25 June 2023)
- Women's FIFA World Cup Screenings (27 & 31 Jul 2023)
- NAIDOC Week with Walangari Karntawarra (27 June – 27 August 2023)

### August 2023

- Women's FIFA World Cup Screenings (7 August 2023)
- Somewhere in Between: Marina Mavritsky at Ironbark Gallery (31 August – 29 October 2023)

### September 2023

- Homebush Vibes (16 September 2023)

### October 2023

- Strathfield Town Hall 100 Year Anniversary (Monday 9 October 2023)
- Children's Week Event at Strathfield Library (October 2023)

### November 2023

- History of the Strathfield Town Hall at Ironbark Gallery – Strathfield Council and Strathfield-Homebush District Historical Society (1 November-10 December 2023)
- Movies in the Park at Strathfield Park (4 and 18 November 2023)
- Community Christmas Morning Tea (24 November 2023)

### December 2023

- Strathfield Christmas Carols at Strathfield Park (2 December 2023)
- Cooks River: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow at Ironbark Gallery (14 December 2023 – 11 February 2024)

### January 2024

- Australia Day at Strathfield Square (26 January 2024)
- School Holidays Programs – Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer and Touch Football (January 2024)
- Lunar New Year Event at Strathfield Library (30 January 2024)

### February 2024

- Beaches, Boats and Bays: Julian Corcoran at Ironbark Gallery (16 February – 21 April 2024)
- Movies in the Park at Strathfield Park (17 February 2024)

### March 2024

- International Women's Day (8 March 2024)
- Movies in the Park at Strathfield Park (9 March 2024)
- Movies in the Park at Strathfield Park (23 March 2024)

April 2024

- ANZAC Day (25 April 2024)
- Safe from the rising tide? Andrew Tomkins at Ironbark Gallery (23 April – 21 July 2024)

May 2024

- Strathfield Festival (2 to 4 May 2024)

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## Features

### Connecting Art



High quality art projects were installed on the recently constructed Powells Creek pedestrian bridges at Hamilton Street and Lorraine Street representing aspects of the cultural, social and environment life and heritage of the local district. These bridges connect the Strathfield and Canada Bay Council areas and provide pedestrian and cycle access to a broader regional active transport network.

The Lorraine Street Bridge features lights that represent the bird migration between Siberia & Strathfield. Lights represent the patterns formed by movement of both people and animals, as thousands of individuals often follow the same path. The light works pay testament to the power, magnitude and importance of these migratory journeys, whilst also celebrating the journey and story of every individual.

The Hamilton Street Bridge lights represent the journeys of the people from over 100 nations that have migrated to the Strathfield district, including the First Nations. The lights represent these journeys around Earth's circumference. The final project delivery will involve an additional bridge across Powells Creek at George Street, Homebush in 2025.

The artwork opened on 25 October 2023 and was funded by the NSW Government under the Parramatta Urban Amenity Improvement Program.



### Winter Warmer



The Winter Warmer event debuted in the Strathfield Town Centre on Saturday, 13 July 2024. Residents and visitors were invited to embrace the winter chill and participate in a variety of activities.

Attendees could stroll through the winter markets while enjoying live music, savour local treats in a canopied outdoor dining space, and roller skate with family in the middle of the Square. Located right outside the bustling Strathfield Train Station, the Winter Warmer brought a festive energy to thousands of locals and visitors, aiming to inject vibrancy into the streets and help create a thriving local community.

The event featured live music, canopied dining spaces, and skating alongside the markets. This project was funded by the NSW Government.

### Celebrating 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Strathfield Town Hall



The Strathfield Town Hall, first opened in 1923, has been a cornerstone of community life in the Strathfield area for over a century. Throughout its 100-year history, it has hosted a wide range of events, including Council meetings, citizenship ceremonies, weddings, parties, dances, public meetings, orchestral performances, singing and theatrical shows, and civic functions.

In 2023-2024, significant heritage conservation work was undertaken to restore the Town Hall's slate roof and hall interiors. These restorations were completed in time for the 100th anniversary celebrations in October 2023.

To commemorate this milestone, the Council hosted several events, including an official opening dinner, a morning tea with a historical talk, and a historical exhibition. The Town Hall Historical Exhibition was initially displayed in the Town Hall and later moved to the Ironbark Gallery at Strathfield Library. This exhibition was organised in collaboration with the Strathfield District Historical Society.

### Celebrating international partnerships



Strathfield Council established a Sister City Relationship with Gapyeong County in 2011, in the province of Gyeonggido South Korea to foster cultural, economic, educational and social exchanges. For over 30 years, the Strathfield LGA has been home to many Korean businesses and residents of either Korean birth and/or ancestry.

In May 2024, officials from Gapeyong County visited Strathfield under our Sister City agreement. The visit involved a Town Hall welcome ceremony which included the Councillors, senior executives and members of the Korean communities to welcome the delegates. The Delegates participated in a tour of program of the Strathfield area, visit to Strathfield Girls High School and Strathfield Library, and a Welcome Ceremonial Dinner in the evening including guests from Consulate General of Korea, Member for Strathfield and other Korean Leaders distinguished guests.

### Beautifying Strathfield



New public art installations have been unveiled across the Strathfield area, celebrating various aspects of our shared community and cultural life. The Mural Project, designed by artist Christina Huynh, features new murals in key locations in Strathfield, Homebush, and Homebush West.

The mural “Well Wishes,” located at the Strathfield Town Centre carpark, offers a message of good luck and prosperity to all who pass by. At Hudson Park Oval, the amenities building now showcases “Bees, Peas and Botanicals,” celebrating the beauty of Australia’s rich flora.

In the Homebush West Town Centre on The Crescent, the mural “Pastime Potato Soup” depicts a still life of tea time, surrounded by native flora, a wooden tin, and the beloved dish, potato soup. On Broughton Road, near the corner of Rochester Street in Homebush, the mural “Fincho Study” features a sketchbook scene of Moleskine studies of the Australian Red-Browed Finch among eucalyptus gum nuts.

This project, funded by the NSW Government, also included installations at the Strathfield Library outdoor deck, inspired by local botanicals.



## Our Sustainable Environment

Council is committed to improving sustainability in Council's operations and across the Strathfield Council area. We understand that the challenges posed by environmental issues are significant, but we are committed to reducing consumption and emissions, through responsible practices, collaboration, education and by example. In the 2023 Strathfield Community Survey, 72% of the community indicated support for Council improving its environmental performance through investment of resources. This section provides reporting on Council's operational performance and that of the overall council area.

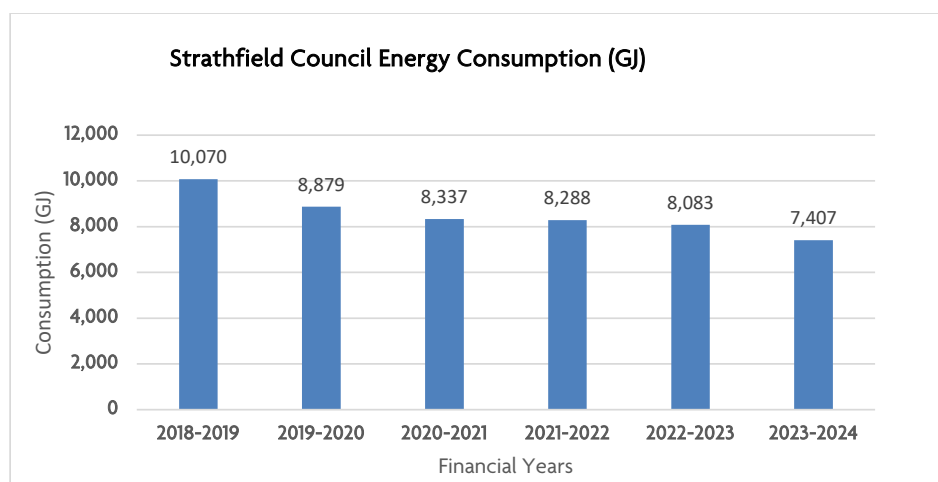
### Council operations - Energy Consumption

Across all Council facilities, the total energy use for 2023-2024 was 7,407 GJ, not including fuels types. This represents a decrease of 8.4% from the previous year. Usage has declined by 26.4% since 2018-2019.

The largest energy consumer is street lighting, which used 3,360GJ, which represents 45.41% of Council's total energy use. Reductions in energy use are attributable to actions to improve efficiency through installation of solar panels on Council buildings, in parks and in conversion to LED of older streetlights.

Some of these measures included:

- Upgraded streetlights with energy-efficient LED technology
- Introduced solar-powered lighting in public spaces
- Installed solar panel systems on council buildings
- Implemented energy-efficient heating, cooling, and ventilation systems across council properties

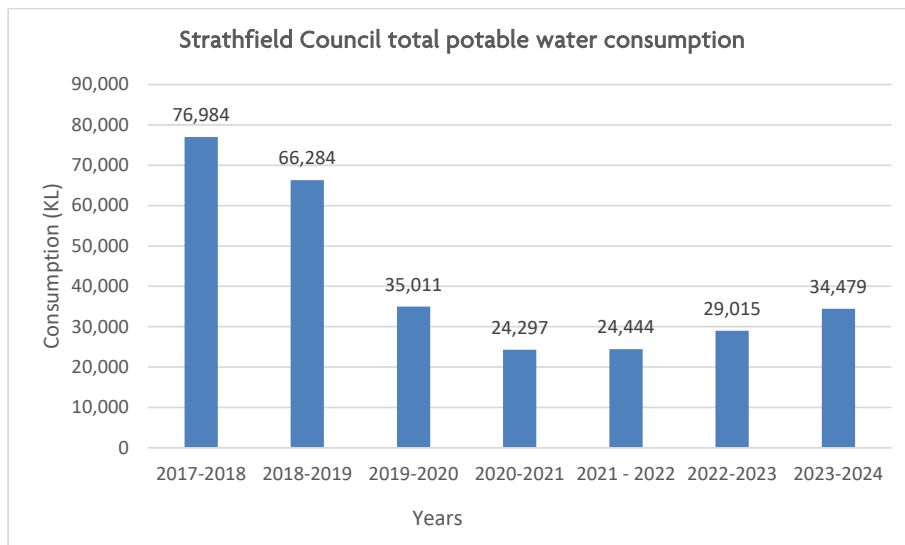


Source: Azility Management Energy usage statistics 2018-2024

**Council operations – water efficiency**

Council has reduced its potable water use in the local area by 55.2% since 2017-2018. The decline is partly due to increased rainfall, installation of automated irrigation systems and transforming Hudson Park from a golf course, which was Council's highest consumer of water, to a park. Use of potable water in Council facilities including parks and sports fields totalled 34,479kL in 2023-2024.

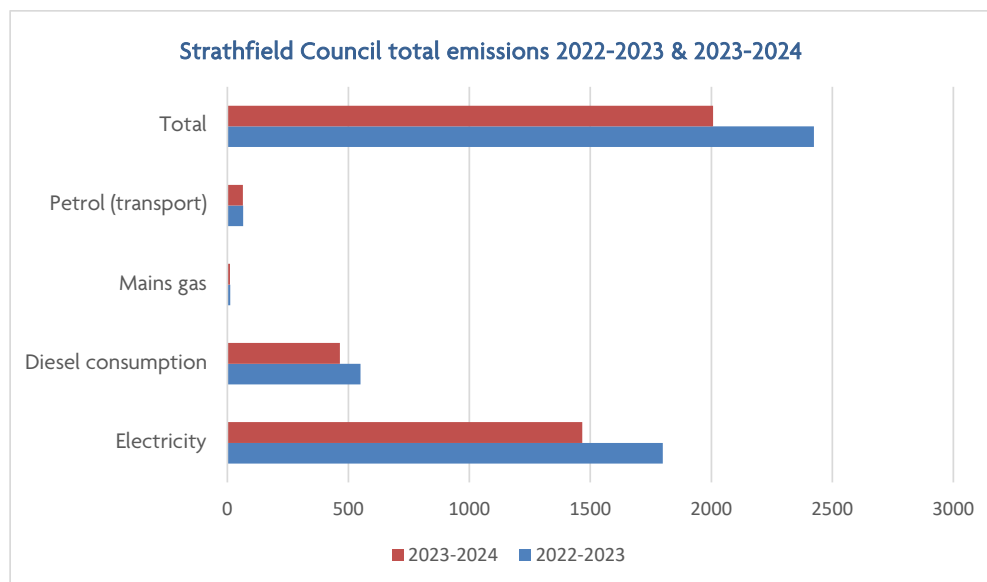
The highest water users are parks containing sportsgrounds such as Bressington Park, Mason Park, Airey park and Strathfield Park.



*Source: Azility Management potable water data 2017-2024*

### Council operations – total emissions

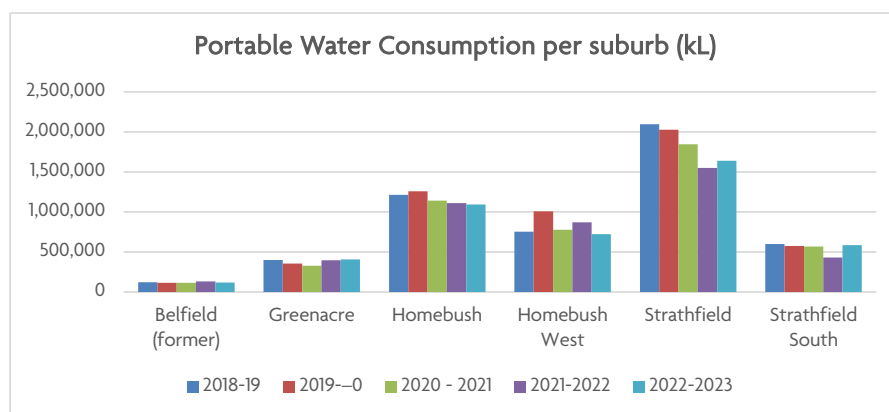
In 2023-2024, Council's total emissions were 2,007t CO<sub>2</sub>-e (all scopes). Electricity contributed the highest emissions at 73% or 1,467tCO<sub>2</sub>-e, followed by diesel consumption at 23% or 465.38t CO<sub>2</sub>-e. Mains gas contributes 0.6% or 11.11t CO<sub>2</sub>-e and other petrol for transports 3.2% or 63.87 CO<sub>2</sub>-e.



Source: Azility Management total emission data 2022-2024

### Strathfield LGA - Water Consumption

The most recent water consumption data is for 2022-2023. During 2020-2022 were affected by COVID protocols, which affected consumption. In the most recent data, potable water consumption has increased in Greenacre, Strathfield and Strathfield South.

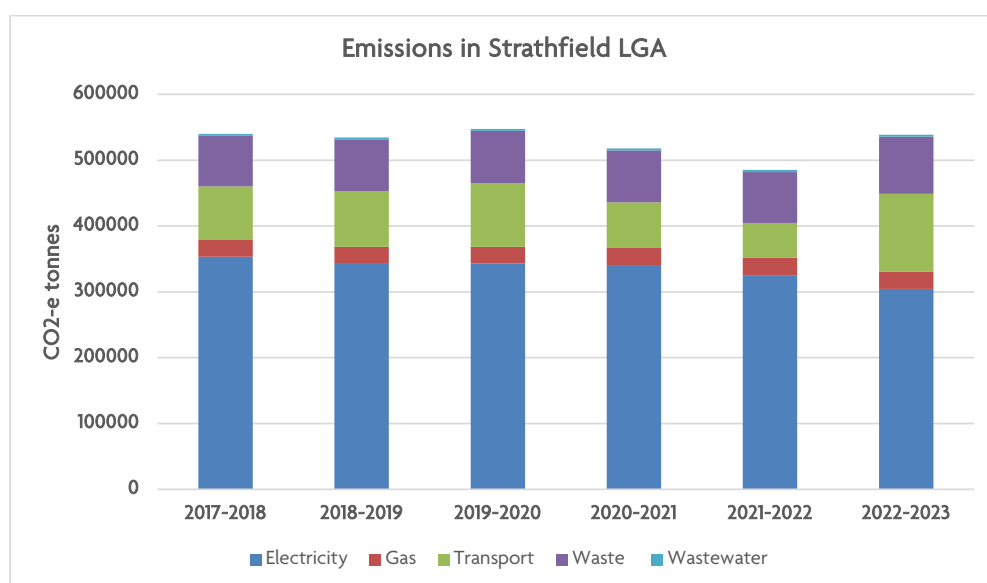


Source: Resilient Sydney platform utilising Sydney Water Data and Kinesis.

### Strathfield LGA - Energy Consumption and Emissions

Access to reliable and affordable energy supply underpins economic activity and our quality of life, however use of energy from non-renewable sources leads to greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. There has been an overall decline in both the total and per person amount of energy use in the Strathfield LGA. Emissions from energy consumption were also reduced, likely due to COVID pandemic protocols which reduced movement through lockdowns and working from home protocols. However, with the easing of restrictions, emissions generally have or are increasing to pre-COVID levels.

### Strathfield LGA emissions by source



Source: Resilient Sydney platform

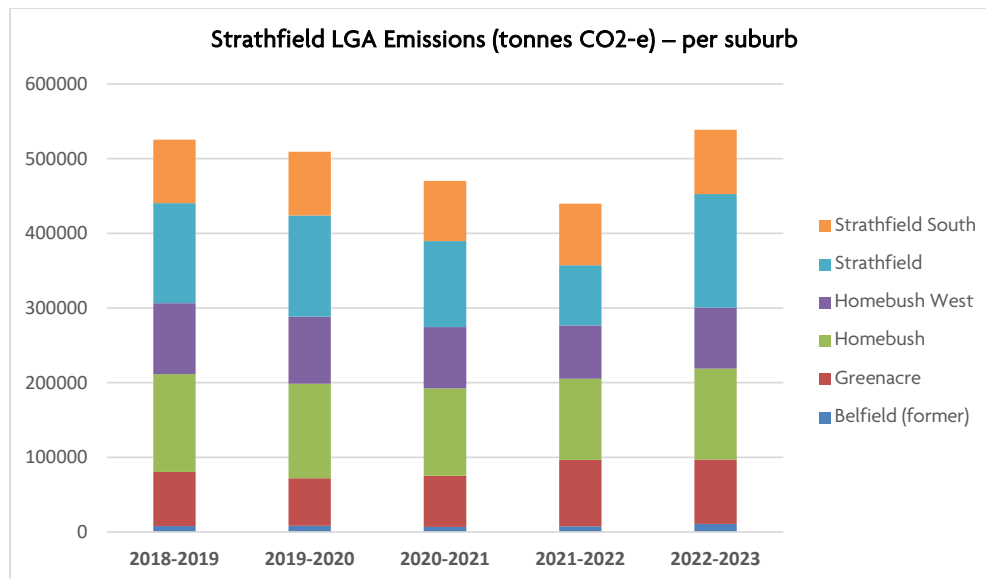
Emissions generally declined in Strathfield LGA due to COVID measures in the period of 2020-2022. This was particularly noticeable in the decline in transport emissions from 96,306 CO2-e tonnes in 2019-2020 to 53,416 CO2-e tonnes in 2021-2022, due to increased amounts of remote working.

However, from 2022-2023 with the relaxing of COVID measures, emissions started increasing. The most current data is from 2022-2023. The largest increase was emissions from transport, which increased from 53,416 CO2-e to 118,235 CO2-e.

Waste also increased from 77,157 CO2-e in 2021-2022 to 86,929 CO2-e in 2022-2023. Electricity, however, is still lower than 2013-14. The 2022-2023 result of 304,627 CO2-e is lower than 2021-2022 of 325,565 CO2-e.



### Strathfield LGA emissions – per suburb



Source: Resilient Sydney platform

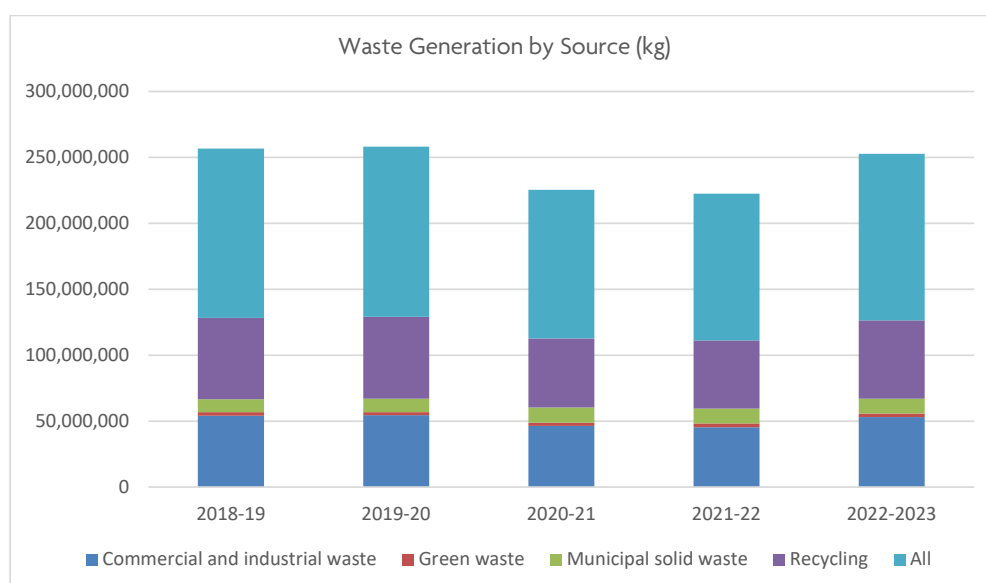
Strathfield LGA Emissions (tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e) indicate that the general decline in the Strathfield LGA and across most suburbs over 2020-2022 was due to the impact of COVID measures. As at 2022-2023, emissions have increased above 2018-2019 levels. The largest increase of emissions was in the suburb of Strathfield.

### Waste generation in Strathfield LGA.

Council does not manage industrial and commercial waste, which in 2022-2023 generated 42% of all waste in the Strathfield LGA.

In the five years of data from 2018-2019 to 2019-2020, all types of waste including commercial and domestic (solid waste, recycling and green) increased.

Total waste generation in the Strathfield LGA reached its highest level of 129,079,209 kilos in 2019-20, however due to impact of COVID, total waste fell to 111,290,575 in 2021-2022. 2022-2023 is the first post COVID year. The most recent data is from 2022-2023, however indicates that commercial and industrial waste has increased and is approaching pre-COVID levels.



Source: Resilient Sydney platform

### Tree canopy

Green tree canopies are crucial in providing vital shade that reduces ambient temperatures and mitigates the urban heat island effect. They increase biodiversity and habitat, improve air quality by removing airborne particles and air pollution, mitigate the impact of climate change, act as a storehouse and sequester carbon dioxide and reduce stormwater flows and nutrient loads. Strathfield's urban tree landscape enhances streetscape appearance, provides habitat for birds and native animals, improves air quality, provides shade and reduces UV radiation and heat energy absorption.

Trees also have social benefits by providing a sense of place and creation of local identity, improving community cohesion through an improved public domain, encouraging outdoor activity, reconnecting children with nature, reducing heat-related illness and improving mental wellbeing. Trees also increase property values, reduce energy costs, decrease health costs and reduce drainage infrastructure costs.

Tree canopies are calculated across all land types in the LGA including residential, industrial, parklands and roads. The Greater Sydney goal by 2036 is 40% tree canopy cover. However, the estimated tree canopy of the Strathfield LGA is 16.7% (NSW Planning, Industry and Environment 2022), which is a slight decline from 16.8% (2019). There is considerable variation within suburbs in the Strathfield LGA and noticeably the suburb of Strathfield declined from 22.9% (2019) to 20.3% (2022).

Tree canopy ranging from higher coverage in parks and reserves to very low canopy coverage on some large industrial sites and some residential streets. All land uses including private dwellings and industrial sites will need to improve their tree canopy cover in order to improve the canopy of their suburb and the Strathfield LGA. Tree canopy goals for the Strathfield LGA cannot be met entirely through tree plantings on public land such as street and park trees.

Council has continued to replace street and public tree planting with 150 new street trees planted in 2024. Council continued our street tree data collection program of the estimated 12,000 street trees and has achieved around 70% of the data collection, which is expected to be completed in 2024-2025. The data collected guides the street tree maintenance works. Council has engaged contractors to undertake maintenance of street trees including road and building clearances, dead wooding, tree removals, formative pruning and stump removals.

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# Our Governance

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## Democratic governance

Strathfield Council is incorporated under the *Local Government Act 1993*. Council is an elected system of government and is directly accountable to the local community. Council is an independent, statutory corporation responsible for administering a local government area (LGA) under its jurisdiction. Leadership of councils is provided by 'the council' – the elected or councillors.

Strathfield Council is comprised of seven councillors, who are elected by the residents and ratepayers of the Strathfield LGA. This Annual Report covers the financial year 2023-2024 and the Council that was elected in December 2021 to September 2024. The 2024 Council election was held on 14 September 2024. The Act gives NSW councils broad powers to independently plan for and manage local community services and facilities in consultation with their local community.

The role of the Councillors is to direct and control the affairs of the Council in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and other applicable legislation. The elected councillors make the policies and decisions that drive and shape the direction and achievement of the LGA's vision into the future. They work together with the community and the General Manager to set the strategic direction of the LGA. Their role is defined in the *Local Government Act 1993*, to:

- represent the interests of electors, ratepayers and residents
- provide leadership and guidance to the community
- facilitate communication between the community and the Council
- participate in local government decision-making processes at Council and committee meetings.

Councillors elect the Mayor every two years (or when a vacancy arises between elections) and the Deputy Mayor every year. The Deputy Mayor performs the functions of the Mayor when authorised to do so.

The role of the Mayor is to:

- preside at meetings in accordance with the Act
- provide leadership and guidance to the community
- carry out civic and ceremonial duties on behalf of the local government
- speak on behalf of the local government
- liaise with the General Manager on the affairs of local government and the performance of its functions.

At Strathfield Council, Councillors elect the Mayor every two years and the Deputy Mayor every year.

### Councillor fees and expenses

The Mayor and councillors receive an annual fee endorsed by Council and set within the approved range by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal. The maximum Mayor's fee for 2023-2024 was \$47,390 and Councillor fee \$21,730. The Mayor and Councillors also receive reimbursement of

expenses relating to their roles, as detailed in Council's Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy. This policy was last reviewed and adopted on 14 November 2023.

### Conduct of councillors

Council's Code of Conduct incorporates the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW. It sets the minimum standards of conduct for council officials. It is prescribed by regulation to assist council officials to:

- understand and comply with the standards of conduct that are expected of them
- enable them to fulfil their statutory duty to act honestly and exercise a reasonable degree of care and diligence
- act in a way that enhances public confidence in local government.

Failure by a councillor to comply with the standards of conduct constitutes misconduct under the *Local Government Act 1993*, which provides for a range of penalties that may be imposed on councillors for misconduct, including suspension or disqualification from civic office. A councillor who has been suspended on three or more occasions for misconduct is automatically disqualified from holding civic office for five years. The Code of Conduct was reviewed and adopted by Council on 10 October 2023.

## Mayor and Councillors

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The following Councillors were elected at the ordinary election of Council on 14 September 2024.

- John-Paul Baladi
- Matthew Blackmore
- Benjamin Cai
- Esther Kim
- Rory Nosworthy
- Karen Pensabene
- Sandy Reddy

The positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected from and by the Councillors. Cr John-Paul Baladi was elected Mayor and Cr Benjamin Cai was elected Deputy Mayor for 2024-2026 on 8 October 2024.

This report covers the financial year of 2023-2024. During this financial year, Councillors were Matthew Blackmore, Benjamin Cai, Raj Datta, Nella Hall, Sharangan Maheswaran, Karen Pensabene and Sandy Reddy. Cr Karen Pensabene served as the Mayor of Strathfield during 2023-2024. Cr Benjamin Cai served as Deputy Mayor from 5 May 2023 to 5 September 2023, followed by Cr Sandy Reddy from 5 September 2023 to 14 September 2024.

## Our Councillors

### Councillor John-Paul Baladi

Cr John-Paul Baladi was first elected to Council in September 2024. He was elected Mayor in October 2024 to serve from 2024 to 2026.

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### Councillor Matthew Blackmore

Cr Blackmore was first elected to Council in September 2017 and was re-elected in December 2021 and September 2024. Cr Blackmore served as Mayor in 2023-2024 and has been elected three times as Deputy Mayor during his time on Council.

Cr Blackmore was born, raised and educated in Strathfield. Cr Blackmore is a passionate advocate for the residents of the Strathfield LGA and strives to ensure that Strathfield is a top place to live.

Cr Blackmore has chaired Council's Traffic Committee, Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee and represented Council at SSROC. Cr Blackmore is interested in listening to residents who are the cornerstone of our community. He strongly supports focussing on local issues rather than State or Federal politics.



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### Councillor Benjamin Cai

Cr Cai was first elected to Council in December 2021 and was re-elected in September 2024. Cr Cai served as Deputy Mayor in 2023 and was re-elected Deputy Mayor for 2024-2026 in October 2024. He has been a member of the Wellbeing Advisory Committee and Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee. Cr Cai migrated to Australia from China 30 years ago and has lived in Strathfield for more than 24 years. He has a background in sales and is currently a director of a finance company.

He graduated from the University of NSW with two degrees, majoring in the Applied Linguistics and Secondary Education. He has a long history of involvement in community organisations and is a President of the Lions Club. Being a councillor has provided him with the opportunity to improve connections, social and economic wellbeing of local communities through his service at Strathfield Council.



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### Councillor Esther Kim

Cr Esther Kim was first elected to Council in September 2024

Cr Esther Kim was first elected to Council in September 2024. Cr Kim was born and raised in Busan, South Korea and migrated to Australia in 1987. She graduated from Busan National University with a major in French language education.

Cr Kim previously worked as a Trade Finance Manager at KEB Australia Limited (Merchant Bank of Korea Exchange Bank) and since has been involved with her family business and volunteer activities.

Cr Kim is interested in opportunities to improving transport, enhancing town centre activities and cultural diversity of the Strathfield area through serving our local community.

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### Councillor Rory Nosworthy

Cr Rory Nosworthy was first elected to Council in September 2024. He moved to Strathfield at the age of 13, from regional NSW. He played in local sports teams throughout his 20s including the Strathfield Cricket Club and Strathfield Strikers (football). He is still involved with local sports as local football referee in the Canterbury Football Association, covering ACU and the Strathfield Strikers.

Cr Nosworthy has been a public high school teacher for a decade, currently in Western Sydney, teaching science. He is enrolled as a PhD student at UTS, researching equity in NSW schools.



He became a councillor to advocate for the local area and providing a voice for essential workers in our community especially affordable housing. He advocates that high quality services are maintained to support a high quality of life for all residents. He has interests in community transport options such as mass and active transit and expansion and investment in green space and parks

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### Councillor Karen Pensabene

Cr Pensabene was first elected to Council in September 2017 and was re-elected in 2021 and 2024. She served as Mayor from March 2023 to September 2024. She served as Deputy Mayor in 2020-2021 and 2023-2024. Cr Pensabene has been a resident of Strathfield for over 25 years. In that time she has served on many community organisations such as Meals on Wheels, president of Parent and Friends Associations, Traffic and Safety co-ordinator at her local school and represented residents at many community events.



Cr Pensabene's involvement in the community based Save Our Councils Coalition in 2015 campaign against the State Governments Forced Amalgamation plan. She was awarded the Strathfield Citizen of the Year Award for 2017. Her experience in successfully advocating against Council amalgamation inspired her to seek election as a Councillor. Cr Pensabene is passionate about the community she represents. She enjoys engaging with and helping residents and has made huge contributions to the management and distribution of Council's facilities. It is her aim to create a better Strathfield Community by engaging in and contributing to all community functions and working towards making Strathfield a great place to live and work.

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### Councillor Sandy Reddy

Cr Sandy Reddy was first elected to Council in December 2021 and was re-elected in September 2024. She served as Deputy Mayor in 2023-2024 and as Chair of the Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee. She is focused on getting to know local residents and assists them by raising their issues at Council meetings. She is a strong believer that "small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world".



Cr Reddy is a first generation migrant Hindu from India. She holds a Bachelor of Law, Master of Anthropology and also completed her Graduate Certificate in Migration Law from Australian National University. She runs her own practice of Education and Migration Services and lives in Strathfield with her husband and children. Cr Reddy has always been a keen volunteer in the local community and involved in a range of activities including coordinating school chess tournaments, Clean up Australia, Share the Dignity, volunteering at State Emergency Services and providing free migration services. Cr Reddy was awarded Strathfield Citizen of the Year in 2020 and has received primer recognition for her services during the bushfires.

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## Council meetings and sub-committees

Strathfield Council is required to meet at least 10 times per year. Ordinary meetings are meetings scheduled on a monthly basis, usually the first Tuesday of each month. Extraordinary meetings are additional meetings called between scheduled ordinary meetings. Council meetings deal with reports prepared by staff on policy, finance, land use planning, the results of public exhibitions and consultation, legal matters, legislative requirements and other matters of interest to the community. The Mayor and councillors can also raise matters to be debated at Council meetings through mayoral minutes, notices of motion and rescission motions. A decision or resolution is made when a majority of councillors vote in favour of a motion.

The public is welcome to attend Council meetings, with the exception of confidential sessions. Council meetings are live broadcasted enabling all members of the public to watch Council proceedings from their homes or remote locations. Agendas of Council meetings are published on Council's website a minimum of three days prior to the meeting. Meeting minutes are available on the website.

### Councillor Meeting Attendance

Name of Councillor	Ordinary meetings	Extraordinary meetings	Total meetings
Cr Matthew Blackmore	10	1	11
Cr Nella Hall	13	1	14
Cr Karen Pensabene	10	1	11
Cr Benjamin Cai	14	0	14
Cr Raj Datta	14	1	15
Cr Sandy Reddy	14	0	14
Cr Sharangan Maheswaran	10	1	11

### Councillor Workshop Attendance 2023-2024

A total of 19 Councillor Workshops were held in 2023-2024. This table records workshop attendance.

#	Date of Workshop	Name of Councillor						
		Blackmore	Cai	Datta	Hall	Pensabene	Reddy	Maheswaran
1	20 June 2023	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	18 July 2023	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3	22 August 2023	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4	19 September 2023	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
5	24 October 2023	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
6	1 November 2023	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
7	21 November 2023	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
8	28 November 2023	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
9	11 December 2023	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
10	6 February 2024	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
11	13 February 2024	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
12	12 March 2024	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
13	19 March 2024	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
14	8 April 2024	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
15	9 April 2024	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
16	15 April 2024	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
17	14 May 2024	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
18	21 May 2024	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
19	11 June 2024	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>

### Council Committees

The following councillors were appointed to represent Strathfield Council on the following statutory, regional bodies or committees involving members of public over the 2023-2024 year.

Committee	Purpose	Councillor members
Cooks River Alliance (CRA)	Regional partnership of Councils and agencies in the Cooks River catchment working to improve the health of Cooks catchment	Councillor Pensabene and Councillor Maheswaran
Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG).	Regional partnership of Councils and agencies in the Parramatta River catchment working to improve the health of the Parramatta River.	Councillor Pensabene and Councillor Reddy
Traffic Committee	Consider all traffic, parking and transport management issues in accordance with delegated powers from Transport for NSW.	Councillor Blackmore and Councillor Pensabene
Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee	Advise Council on compliance, risk management, fraud control	Councillor Blackmore (Delegate), Councillor Pensabene (Delegate), Councillor Datta (Alternate), Councillor Maheswaran (Alternate) and Councillor Hall (Alternate)
Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC)	A focus of Councils spanning southern, eastern, central and inner west suburbs, interact, exchange ideas and work collaboratively to solve regional issues and contribute to the future sustainability of the region.	Councillor Blackmore, Councillor Pensabene and Councillor Cai

The following Chair and Deputy Chairs were appointed to Council Advisory Committees for the 2023-2024 year:

Committee	Councillor Chair/Deputy
Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee	Chair Councillor Reddy Deputy Councillors Cai and Datta
Wellbeing Advisory Committee (disbanded 5 September 2024)	Chair Councillor Pensabene Deputy Councillors Cai and Reddy
Local Economic Development and Partnership Advisory Committee	Chair Councillor Maheswaran Deputy Councillors Reddy, Hall and Datta

## Engaging Our Community

Council is committed to delivering effective, efficient services that meet the expectations and needs of the community. Local knowledge, ideas and feedback from the community are essential to ensure Council's decision-making improves community wellbeing and long-term sustainability.

Council's approach to community engagement recognises that engagement must be tailored to particular circumstances, taking into account factors such as level of impacts, complexity, risk, significance, sensitivity, timing or opportunity. Strathfield's community is highly diverse and made up of a large number of stakeholders with various interests, opinions, interests and experience. Council engages the community through a range of methods, including online and face to face. Engagement can be about specific projects, or ongoing dialogue with key stakeholders, such as community groups, sporting groups, business and industry, State and Federal agencies, advisory committees and partners.

From 2023, all engagements such as draft plans, policies and proposals are published on the Council 'Have Your Say' engagement site, which is part of the Council website. This site supports a range of engagement processes including documents, surveys and digital online mapping. Between 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, the engagement site attracted a total of 14,212 views, 11,661 visits, 8,148 visitors and 1,321 individual feedback contributions.

These are a description of the various engagement methods available to Council.

Engagement method	Description
Have Your Say	The 'Have Your Say' engagement site was launched in November 2022. This site provides a range of tools supporting community engagement including surveys, submissions and documents.
E-News	E-News is distributed by email on a weekly basis to registered subscribers and contains information on events, activities and notifications of proposals which are seeking community feedback.
Surveys	Surveys are commonly used to obtain feedback from the community. Surveys managed by Council are generally available online through the Have Your Say site.
Workshops and Focus Groups	Facilitated workshops and focus groups are used to involve the community and obtain feedback through interaction.
Submissions	Council accepts submissions to any publicly notified engagement including proposals, plans, policies and development applications or planning proposals etc.
Website	The Council website provides a range of information including latest news, key projects, public notices, Council meeting reports and minutes and important documents such as strategies, plans and policies for viewing or downloading.
Letters	Notifications are often sent by letter to members of the community likely to be directly affected by a proposal.

Engagement method	Description
Social Media	Council utilises a range of social media to inform the community and stakeholders of engagement opportunities, providing links to information and the Have Your Say site.
Print newsletters	Council issues a monthly print newsletter to households with information on recent and upcoming events, decisions and proposals.
Print flyers	Print flyers may be distributed as part of a specific community engagement.
Banners, posters	Posters for events and community engagements may be displayed in Council's public places (customer service, library and community centres) to advertise engagement opportunities.
Rates notices	Council may provide information updates for ratepayers accompanying rates notice on an annually and/or quarterly basis.

We consulted with the community on the following plans, policies and initiatives in 2023-2024:

- Amended Community Facilities Plan of Management
- Asset Renewal Completed Projects
- Citizenship Plants Survey
- Courallie Avenue Precinct Consultation
- Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2024-2025.
- Hire of Community Facilities and Community Discount Policy
- Hudson Park Plan of Management
- Mason Park Plan of Management
- Procurement Policy
- Vehicle Crossing and Associated Works Policy
- Pesticide Notification Plan
- Presentation of Financial Statements
- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Strathfield Medium Density Housing Strategy
- Strathfield Multicultural Survey
- Strathfield South Town Centre Improvements
- Strathfield Spring Festival Review
- Strathfield Spring Festival Survey
- Strathfield Town Centre Our Place Our Future
- Transport Survey

## Case Study

### Strathfield Town Centre Masterplan Consultation

Preparing a Masterplan for the Strathfield Town Centre had long been identified as a priority project for many years while never fully progressed. In order to understand the community vision for the Town Centre, Council commenced a community engagement process in December 2023 and January 2024. The engagement was focused on providing multiple opportunities for the community to receive

information and provide feedback. A range of methods were employed including community surveys, submissions, printed information packages issued to 19,000 homes, website notifications, 153 people visited Pop-Up stalls and weekly notification in eNews during the consultation period.

Council's 'Have You Say' engagement site provided a vast range of documents, frequently asked questions, access to the survey and feedback. The site attracted 4973 views, 4049 visits, 2737 visitors and 511 individual contributions. Additional feedback was received via letters, emails and through interviews. The feedback from the Community engagement was documented in the final Community Consultation Report and informed the Background Report and the Community Vision which was placed on public exhibition in late 2024.

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## Community satisfaction and priorities

In late 2023, Council appointed Taverner Research to conduct a community satisfaction survey. Surveys are held on a regular basis and they ask the community how satisfied they are with a range of Council services and programs. The results of the survey are used to help us plan and evaluate our business and performance.

- 86% of residents expressed that they were at least somewhat satisfied with Council's performance over the last 12 months.
- 82% of residents expressed that they were at least somewhat satisfied with quality life for people living in Strathfield
- 94% of residents rate social cohesiveness and acceptance of diversity at least somewhat satisfied.
- 72% supported Council introducing programs to improve environmental performance

### What were the most popular services (excellent-good ratings)?

- Quality and condition of the Library building 92%
- Library services 87%
- Access to park and open space 87%
- Sportsground quality and condition 86%
- Children's playgrounds 84%
- Waste services 72%

### What were the most improved services (excellent-good ratings)?

The services that showed the highest improvements of ratings (excellent and good) were the condition and quality of local infrastructure:

- Roads (51% 2023, 35% 2021)
- Footpaths (51% 2023, 42% in 2021)
- Kerbs, gutters and drainage (46% 2023, 35% 2021)



## Our Partnerships

### Who we are working with

Aboriginal Heritage Office and Indigenous organisations  
Ambulance and Fire Brigade  
Australian Catholic University  
Australian Library and Information Association  
Biodiversity organisations  
Birdlife Australia  
Burwood Council, City of Canada Bay Council, City of Canterbury-Bankstown Council, City of Sydney  
Community Action for Better Living Inc.  
Community transport service providers  
Department of Planning and Environment  
Disability and Carer providers  
Early Learning Children's Centres  
Inner West Neighbourhood Aid  
Justice of the Peace (JP) Community Desk Ashfield-Burwood Branch  
Land and Housing Corporation  
Local businesses  
Local churches  
Local community organisations  
Local Government NSW  
Local private and public schools  
Macquarie University  
Metro Assist  
National Library of Australia  
NSW Food Authority  
NSW Government  
NSW Local Area Health District  
Parramatta River Catchment Group  
Police Auburn and Burwood Commands  
Resilience NSW  
Resilient Sydney  
Seniors organisations and groups  
Southern Sydney Region of Councils (SSROC)  
State Library of NSW  
Strathfield Homebush District Historical Society  
Strathfield State Emergency Services (SES)  
Settlement Services International (SSI)  
Sydney Local Health District  
Sydney West Metro  
Transport for NSW (TfNSW)  
Volunteer organisations and participants

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## Our Volunteers

Volunteers play a significant role and contribute to the social, environmental, and cultural well-being of our community and contribute to various Council programs and/or volunteer their time to support a host of community, recreation and culturally based organisations. 9.6% of the local population report doing volunteer work in the last 2021 Census, comprising 8.8% male and 10.5% females. Volunteers come from all walks of life including workers, students, professionals, young people, and retirees. Their efforts have a direct impact on the community by providing assistance and services, which connect and enhance our local community.

### Library Volunteer Programs

Strathfield Library's Reading Buddies program pairs volunteers with primary school aged children for a 30-minute reading session per week to increase their reading skills and confidence. 40 sessions were held in 2023-2024 which involved 780 participants. Volunteers included 3 community volunteers and 9 Duke of Edinburgh Award students who volunteered for the community service component of their award.

The Justice of the Peace (JP) service is run by volunteers and offers a valuable service to Strathfield residents. A total of 75 JP sessions involving 1796 attendees were provided at Strathfield Library. The JP service is run by volunteers and offers a valuable service to Strathfield residents.

### Bushcare and Environment

Council's Bushcare program is a volunteer-based, environmental conservation program which assists with a range of activities to particularly in bushland reserves such as weed removal, tree planting and habitat restoration. The Bushcare program met four times over the year to work with 25 volunteers participating.

### Community Choir and Community Garden

Council supports the Strathfield Community Choir and Community Garden. The choir attends practice on a weekly basis with membership growing to 124 members in 2023-2024. who perform voluntarily at a range of community events. Examples include the Strathfield Spring Festival, Strathfield Christmas Carols, Homebush Festival and the Mayoral High Tea Christmas Event.

The Community Garden at Elva Street Strathfield was re-launched in October 2023 and groups of community members and schools have worked on restoration, weeding and re-planting of the garden, which is primarily focused on growing food. The garden is open to members of the public to join.

### Strathfield's community organisations

Council acknowledges the vital work performed by many of our local community volunteer organisations which support and provide a wide range of community, recreational and cultural activities. We maintain and regularly update the Community Directory on the Council website which provides information and contact details for our local community organisations.



Scan here to view our community directory.

#### Becoming a volunteer



Visit the Council website for more information on becoming a volunteer. All volunteers for Council programs complete an induction process and must abide by our Code of Conduct, policies and procedures which set out the expected standards. Scan here to obtain more information about becoming a volunteer

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## Our Corporate Governance

### Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

From 4 June 2022 Council was required under the *Local Government Act 1993* to have an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) and amendments made to the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* requires all councils to have a Risk Management Framework and an Internal Audit function and to prescribe membership requirements for ARICs.

Council was required to comply with these requirements from 1 July 2024 and, commencing with the 2024-2025 annual report, to attest to their compliance with the requirements in their annual reports.

Council adopted new Terms of Reference for the ARIC as well as an Internal Audit Charter in April 2024 based on the model provided by the Office of Local Government.

The Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) is an advisory committee that provides Council with independent assurance and assistance on its compliance, risk management, financial management, governance, audit, fraud control service delivery and integrated performance and reporting responsibilities. For the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, the ARIC met six times on 28 September 2023, 19 October 2023, 14 December 2023, 22 February 2024, 7 March 2024 and 29 May 2024.

The new internal audit plan was recommended by the ARIC at the ARIC Meeting 29 May 2024 and endorsed by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting 25 June 2024. Seven audits were completed during the 2023/2024 period, these included – 1. Senior Executive and Manager Recruitment, 2. Fire Safety and Compliance and Governance Framework, 3. Development Assessment, 4. Procurement, 5. Plant and Fleet Management, 6. Fraud and Corruption and 7. Records Management.

Council's 2022-2023 Financial Statements were also audited and presented to the Ordinary Council Meeting of 26 March 2024.

### Disclosures of Interest and Gifts and Benefits

A person must not obtain a private benefit or advantage by virtue of their position as a Council official, nor misuse the power or authority of their position to unfairly influence or decide a matter where they have a real or perceived private interest. All staff, councillors and other Council officials are required to disclose promptly and fully any conflicts of interest to prevent bias, and also to remove the perception of bias, in decision-making, which in turn supports the principles of integrity, fairness, transparency and accountability.

Councillors and certain designated staff are required to complete an annual Disclosure of Interest Return. The number of designated staff is reviewed regularly. Annual returns for councillors and designated staff are published on Council's website.

### Code of Conduct

Council adopted a revised Code of Conduct on 10 October 2023, which is derived from the Model Code of Conduct for Local Government in NSW. Council's Code of Conduct forms the foundation for a strong ethical culture at Council and sets the minimum standards of conduct for all Council officials - employees, councillors, committee members and contractors. The Code covers general conduct obligations, conflicts of interest (both pecuniary and non-pecuniary), personal benefit, relationships between council officials, access to information and council resources. Councillors and new staff receive Code of Conduct awareness training during induction and refresher training is held on a regular basis.

### Service Reviews

Council's service reviews are monitored by the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC). In the 2023-2024 financial year, reviews of the Street Sweeping Service and Civil Works Team were undertaken in the context of cost and the service delivery model. In 2023-2024, the review methodology was revised and improved, which will apply to reviews for the 2024-2025 financial year. Council is committed to a minimum of two service reviews annually. In reviewing our services, Council will engage with the community and other stakeholders to determine service levels and appropriate measures. Council's service reviews will examine costs, quality and efficiency of delivery through the collection and analysis of service data that will enable informed decision making. For more information on 2023-2024 reviews, please refer to the Statutory Reporting section of this report.

### Requests for information

Council is committed to providing access to information held by Council under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*. In the 2023-2024 financial year, Council received 23 formal access applications for information. 100% of formal applications were granted access in full. The majority of information requests were informal applications and a total of 136 applications were received. For more information, please refer to the Statutory Reporting section of this report.

### Public Interest Disclosures

The new *Public Interest Disclosure (PID) Act 2022* came into operation from October 2023. It completely replaced the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994* and enhanced the protections for whistleblowers and introduced new categories of disclosures. The threshold for detrimental action was lowered and penalties were increased. The PID Act provided greater clarity on what Council is expected to do when they receive a public interest disclosure and how they must deal with it once it is identified as a PID. Accordingly, Council adopted a new Public Interest Disclosure Policy was adopted on 10 October 2023 and an accompanying procedure was endorsed by Executive in April 2024.

Training was rolled out across the organisation, including Councillors, in early 2024 in accordance with the requirements of the legislation. Council is committed to the aims and objectives of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2022* and recognise the importance of ensuring that all staff, councillors and contractors are aware of their obligations. In the 2023-2024 financial year, no disclosures were as made under the Public Interest Disclosure Act at Strathfield Council.

### Policy framework

Council's policies are regularly reviewed, evaluated and updated. In 2023-2024, Council reviewed and adopted new council policies to ensure the suite of policy documents reflect current practice and

community expectations. Examples of the policies adopted include Councillor Fees & Expenses, Code of Meeting Practice, Mandatory Data Breach Policy and Public Interest Disclosure Policy. The full list of policies adopted or amended include:

- Complaints Management Policy
- Councillor Induction and Professional Development Policy
- Councillors Expenses and Facilities Policy review
- Data Breach Policy
- Events In Council Parks and Community Facilities Policy
- Graffiti Management Policy
- Hire of Community Facilities and Community Discount Policy
- Housing Policy for Seniors
- Mobile Food Vending Vehicle Policy
- Procurement Policy
- Public Art Policy
- Public Interest Disclosure Policy
- Review of Sister City Policy
- Sponsorship Policy
- Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy
- Strathfield Affordable Housing Tenancy Policy
- Vehicle Crossing (Driveway) and Associated Works Policy

### Enterprise Risk Management

Council engaged external consultants in November 2023 to undertake the development of Council's Enterprise Risk Management Framework. They have undertaken workshops with Council's Executive, refinement of Council's Strategic Risks & Risk Appetite assessments and some foundational operational risk framework development. In concert with our Chief Safety & Risk Officer, most senior staff and managers have been included in workshops to develop the operational risk framework and expand the package to include key mitigation strategies.

The assessment of key operational risks contained within the Strategic Risk categories is nearing completion. Implementation strategies are being developed to ensure that Council will be compliant with its risk management responsibilities as set out in the NSW Office of Local Government's Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW.

### Procurement

Council is committed to procuring value-for-money goods, materials and services in a lawful, commercial, consistent, open, safe, fair, and transparent manner that ensures the application of appropriate standards of efficiency, risk management, probity, and ethics. The new Procurement Policy was adopted by Council in April 2024 and outlines the legislative and administrative framework that applies to all procurement activities undertaken by Council.

The objectives of the Policy are:

- To ensure value for money purchasing at Strathfield Council.
- To ensure compliance with the relevant legislation including the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.
- To establish Council's procurement governance framework and ensure consistency in procurement processes across all Council departments.
- To ensure that all procurement activities are conducted with honesty, fairness, and transparency.
- To ensure sustainable outcomes in purchasing including positive social, environmental, safety, governance and economic impacts to Strathfield community.

Council undertook a review of recommendations of the ICAC in recently published report on Operation Hector where the ICAC investigated allegations, concerning the conduct of employees of Inner West Council (IWC), Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and others. This informed recommendations on identifying risk exposures and ensuring appropriate monitoring and compliance with Strathfield's Procurement Framework (Policy, Code of Conduct etc).

### Preparing for Local Government Election 2024

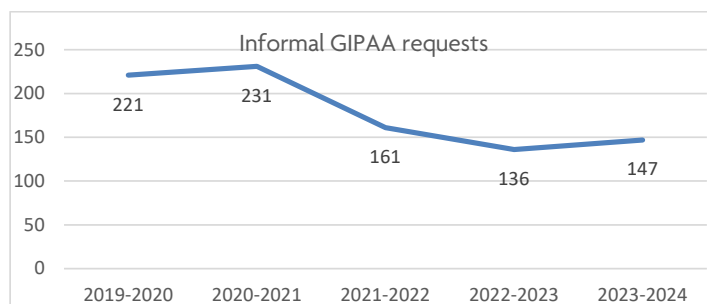
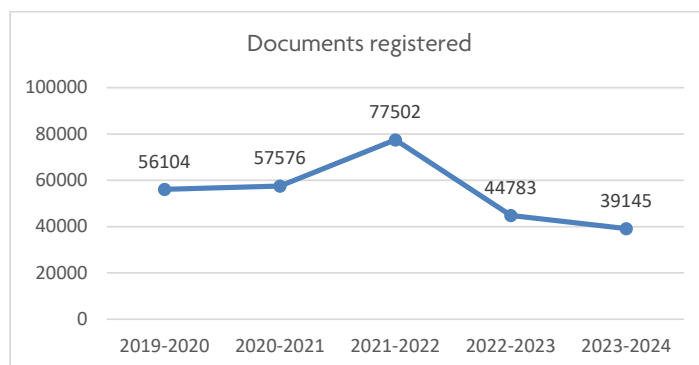
Council established a Project Control Group to oversee all aspects of Council's plans to manage the Local Government Elections in September 2024. Strathfield engaged the NSW Electoral Commission to conduct the 2024 Local Government Elections with sites for polling and pre-polling as well as provision for the Returning Officer.

Plans have been developed to ensure compliance with all relevant restrictions during the Caretaker Period and Regulated Period. A Pre-election Candidate Information Session was held on 19 June 2024 conducted by LGNSW Training and aimed to provide participants with an understanding of the role of the councillor and how it fits in with other roles and levels of government. Participants got the opportunity to discuss the expectations and potential challenges and identify key elements of council meetings - including code of conduct and conflict of interest.

## Digital and Information management

The number of records registered within our records management system in 2023-2024 was 39,145. New staff received records training and refresher training is regularly undertaken.

The *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* creates a general right of access to wide range of documents held by Council. During 2023-2024, we received and processed 147 informal applications under this Act, a slight increase on the previous year.



Council's digital security was enhanced and improved through software upgrades, digitising records, and planning a new website and intranet. Council's IT and cyber systems were audited by the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) in 2023-2024. Work has commenced on the preparation of an Information and Communications Technology Strategy (ICT) strategy. New Audio-Visual equipment was also installed in the Town Hall and the Council Chambers was upgraded to facilitate live streaming of meetings. Acoustic Panels were installed at Homebush West Community Centre to improve the acoustics in the hall.

A number of programs and initiatives were implemented focusing on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of delivering high quality Customer Services to the community. Council implemented a new CRM system and a self-service mobile apps for residents. Council's Customer Experience strategy will be finalised in 2024 and will help guide and enhance the delivery of quality customer services.



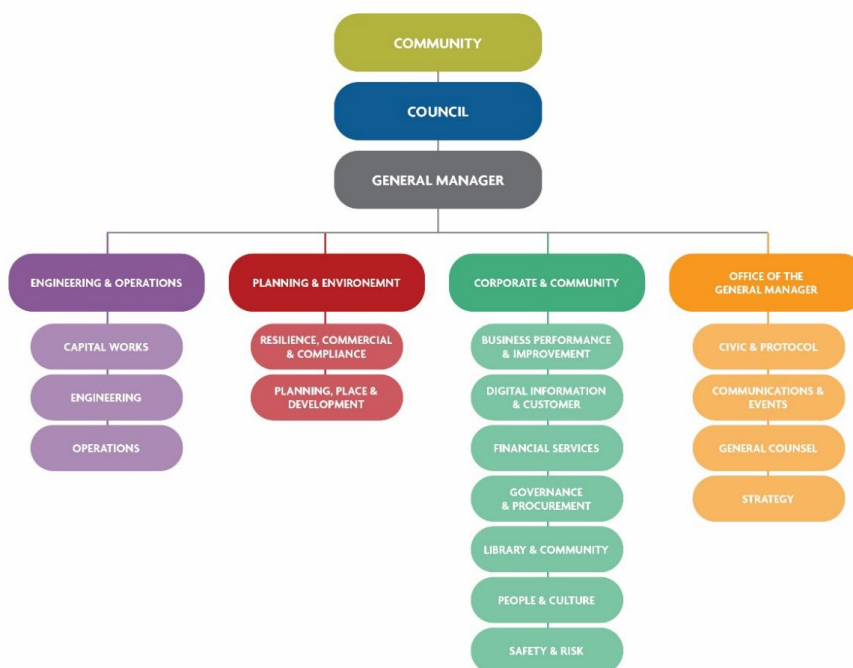
# Our Organisation

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## Our Organisation

The General Manager is responsible for the operation of the Council's organisation and for implementing decisions of the Council. The General Manager is also responsible for the day-to-day management of the Council, the exercise of any functions delegated to him by the Council, the appointment of staff, the direction and dismissal of staff and the implementation of Council's Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan.

To assist the General Manager in the exercise of their functions, there are three departments of Council. These departments are headed by three Directors which include Director Engineering & Operations, Director Planning & Environment and Director Corporate & Community. Each of the departments is divided into a number of sections, which are run by a Manager. The managers in the Office of General Manager directly report to the General Manager.



## Our Executive

The day-to-day operations of Strathfield Council are led by the General Manager who is the contact between the elected councillors and administration (employees).

The General Manager is appointed by the elected Council.

### Michael Mamo

General Manager

The General Manager is responsible for the overall performance of the Council as well as supporting the Mayor and Councillors, Legal Services, Internal Audit and Business Performance and Improvement.

Since joining Strathfield Council in August 2022, Michael has driven significant change at Council prioritising financial sustainability, establishing robust planning, governance and compliance frameworks that will enable Council to meet future challenges facing the Strathfield community.

Michael has over 20 years' experience working in the Local Government. Michael previously worked at Bayside Council as the Director City Performance and before that he was the Chief Financial Officer at Blacktown City Council, having previously worked at Waverley Council and the City of Ryde Council. Michael has an expertise in financial management and a strong enthusiasm to positively shape Strathfield Council.



### Cathy Edwards-Davis

Director, Engineering and Operations

The Director Engineering and Operations is responsible for engineering, traffic management, operations and asset management.

Cathy has driven improvements in the management of projects and capital works especially managing Council's asset portfolio and addressing reduction of backlogs and delivery of quality assets across all classes including roads, footpaths, buildings, parks and stormwater.

Cathy previously worked at Inner West Council as their Director Infrastructure, and prior to that as the Director Public Works. Cathy was also the Director Works and Infrastructure at Ashfield Council, and the Manager Engineering Services at Woollahra Municipal Council. Cathy has mentored and supported large teams to deliver successful outcomes and thrives on working with teams to ensure objectives are being met as well as the highest level of service possible.



**Clare Harley**

Director, Planning and Environment

The Director Planning and Environment is responsible for planning, development, compliance, resiliency, commercial and compliance services.

Clare is focused on preparing and driving forward strategic planning to shape the positive growth and evolution of Strathfield over the next decade, ranging from proactively managing responses to the current housing crisis to revitalisation of Strathfield's commercial centres. Clare strongly supports embedding resiliency within Council's policy and planning frameworks to proactively manage future challenges.



Clare joined Strathfield Council after working at Bayside Council as Manager Strategic Planning since 2017, with a distinguished career in local government and the private sector where she has held leadership roles throughout Australia and in London as a Strategic Planner and Urban Designer. Clare is passionate about delivering great urban design and environmental outcomes for the community which activate the local area and create opportunities to positively connect local communities.

**Melissa Mallos**

General Counsel

The General Counsel is part of the Executive Leadership Team and is responsible for providing legal services and support to the Council, optimising outcomes for Strathfield.

Melissa is recognised as an Accredited Specialist in Planning & Environmental Law. Melissa has 20 years' experience in the law, advising government clients on all matters of public and administrative law. Before joining Strathfield Melissa worked as a Senior Solicitor at the City of Sydney after completing over 14 years in private practice. Driven by excellence, Melissa is committed to identifying lawful yet practical solutions to the complex issues that arise in local government.



**Kristy Watts**

Director, Corporate and Community

The Corporate and Community services directorate is responsible for ensuring we have good strategy, governance, and policy in place, and provides key services and contact points for our community.

Kristy has driven improvements in Council's culture and organisational governance to improve Council's efficiency and customer experience, which include establishing robust governance and compliance frameworks and audit and evaluation processes that deliver higher levels of accountability.

Before coming to Strathfield Council, Kristy held the position as the Executive Manager People and Culture and the Executive Manager Customer Experience at Blacktown City Council, in addition to the Company Secretary at Blacktown Venue Management. Kristy has significant experience dealing with complex local, national, and international organisations in both the public and private sectors.



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## Our Profile

Council is committed to ensuring our workforce has the skills to deliver quality services to our community.

As of 30 June 2024, Strathfield Council employed 182 full time staff, 11 part time staff and a total headcount of 193 staff (excluding casuals). Information concerning employee demographics and staff turnover is featured in the tables below.

80% of the Executive leadership team are women.

**Table 1 Total number of Strathfield Council employees as of 30 June 2024**

Staff Profile	2023/2024	2022/2023	2021/2022	2020/2021
Number of Full-Time Staff	182	166	167	174
Number of Part-Time Staff	11	8	11	14
Headcount	193	174	178	197
Casual Employees	53	59	58	59

**Table 2 Demographics of Strathfield Council employees as of 30 June 2024**

Staff Profile	2023/2024	2022/2023	2021/2022	2020/2021
Number of male staff	126	117	122	126
Male staff (%)	66%	66.86%	68.54%	63.96%
Number of female staff	66	58	56	71
Female staff (%)	34%	33.14%	31.46%	36.04%
Prefer not to say	-	-	-	-

**Table 3 Management demographics of Strathfield Council employees as of 30 June 2024**

Staff Profile	2023/2024	2022/2023	2021/2022	2020/2021
Male staff in Management roles (level 1-4) (%)	43%	58.06%	55.56%	55.88%
Female staff in Management roles (level 1-4) (%)	57%	41.94%	44.44%	44.12%
Prefer not to say	-	-	-	-

**Table 4 Staff turnover of Strathfield Council employees as of 30 June 2024**

Staff Profile	2023/2024	2022/2023	2021/2022	2020/2021
Turnover all staff (%)	22%	39.66%	26.40%	16.24%

Staff Profile	2023/2024	2022/2023	2021/2022	2020/2021
Total number new starters	43	39	32	32

### Staff Initiatives

Several key activities were implemented over the 12- month period, with a view to ensuring that communication across teams is transparent and accessible, this included:

- Quarterly all-staff Roadshow events
- Yearly Service Awards
- Quarterly Senior Leadership Team workshops
- Actioning of the Employee culture survey results
- Health and Wellbeing Expo
- RUOK day Event
- Completion of an organisation wide restructure, enabling broader collaboration of staff
- Implementation of the Balanced Achievement Review pilot program, to focus on performance managing and ongoing development of individuals
- Fitness passport
- Working with staff to enable a flexible work environment.

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## Work, health and safety

### Managing work, health and safety

Strathfield Council continues to prioritise workplace health and safety and is committed to providing a safe workplace for all employees. Council has continued to implement both existing and new Workplace, Health & Safety initiatives to support staff, including:

- Flu vaccinations.
- Complimentary skin and heart health checks.
- Ergonomic assessments for new employees as required and for work groups where incidents or injuries have been prevalent.

Each year, Council undertakes the StateCover Self-Audit to assess its WHS compliance/competency and follows those audit outcomes to promote new policies and procedures. Council is currently progressing updates to:

- WHS Policy
- WHS Planning and Reporting Procedure
- WHS Contractor Management Procedure
- Procurement Procedure
- Documenting WHS objectives and measurable targets
- Psychosocial Hazards Policy
- Incident Investigation and Corrective Actions

For the period July 2023 to June 2024 a total of 13 workplace injuries/illnesses were reported, down from 22 in the corresponding previous period. Of these, 7 were lost-time injuries (reduced from 14 in 2022-2023) and 6 required medical treatment only. An assessment of each individual injury/incident is undertaken to determine the cause and identify any risk mitigation measures. The Executive are briefed on all incidents and are involved in the prevention actions which then ensue.

Injuries/condition	% of total
Bruise/confusion/swelling	16%
Cut/abrasion/laceration	21%
Sprains and strains	37%
Mental health	16%
Other/unspecified	10%



# Our Performance

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## Planning with our community

Council is required under the *Local Government Act 1993* to adopt an Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. The Community Strategic Plan is Council's highest-level plan, which identifies the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future and includes strategies for achieving these goals. The plan takes into account social, economic, environmental and civic leadership considerations. Strathfield Community Plan 'Strathfield 2035' is based on the five broad inter-related themes of Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Celebrating Culture and Place, Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership.

The Strathfield Community Strategic Plan is supported by the Council's Delivery Program (4-year plan) and Operational Plan (annual) which include a series of targets under each of the goals and strategies to measure the delivery of the plan.

The Resourcing Strategy supports the implementation of the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plans. It consists of three components long-term financial plan, asset management plan and workforce management plan. The Delivery Program and annual Operational Plan are monitored through half yearly reports, quarterly financial reviews and annual reports to Council.

### Meeting our legislative requirements

Our Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework brings together all of Council's plans. This set of interrelated plans reflects the community's vision and guides Council to make the best-value decisions. NSW legislation ensures councils make short, medium, and long-term plans to meet the community's needs and operate more sustainably.

Councils are required to prepare a set of planning documents:

- Community Strategic Plan (10+ years)
- Community Engagement Strategy
- Delivery Program (4 years)
- Operational Plan (1 year).

Councils must also have a 10-year Resourcing Strategy made up of a Long-Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Strategy and Workforce Management Plan. The plans must be based on principles of sustainability and social justice. They must also outline how Council will consult and engage with the community, including by formal public exhibition.

All these plans must align with the community's vision and the Council's long-term objectives. Each council, following its election, must review the plans and make sure they can be used effectively to meet present and future needs. The plans must also be updated annually.

### Performance monitoring and reporting in 2023-2024

We reported to Council on our annual budget on a quarterly basis including progress and expenditure on capital and operating projects and all Council services.

We presented to Council reports every six months of progress of DP program including major achievements, financial reporting and status reports of all actions in the Operational Plan. Reports were made for the periods July to December 2023 and January to June 2024.

We presented our Annual Reports for 2023-2024 which included:

- key achievements, organisational performance, service delivery and capital works
- statutory reporting in compliance with local government legislation
- audited financial statements.

### Strathfield 2035

Council's long-term community strategic plan, Strathfield 2035, identifies the community's priorities and aspirations for Strathfield's future. This plan guides the development of our integrated plans. Strathfield Community Plan 'Strathfield 2035' is based on the five broad inter-related themes of Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Celebrating Culture and Place, Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership. These strategic directions address QBL considerations of social, environmental, economic and civic leadership aspirations.

### Delivering our vision

The Operational Plan outlines specific actions and ongoing activities we use each year to achieve the goals identified in the Delivery Program. This includes services, annual budget, capital works program and the rates, fees and charges. The Delivery Program, and Operational Plan is reviewed annually.

### Committed to the Quadruple Bottom Line

The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Local Government Act) require councils to plan social, environmental, economic and civic leadership and governance issues in an integrated way. This is known as the quadruple bottom line (QBL) principle. QBL helps ensure councils operate sustainably and balance all the needs of the community. QBL reporting is included in the Performance Reporting section of this report under each theme.

## Community Strategic Plan Progress

In accordance with s.428(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, Council must report on the achievements of implementing the community strategic plan in the Annual Report in the year of an ordinary election. The State of City 2024 report, which was endorsed by Council in October 2024, also provides progress reporting. The State of the City is an addendum to this report.

The Strathfield Community Strategic Plan, adopted in 2022 following the delayed 2021 Council election, due to COVID pandemic. This election resulted in a shortened Council term of less than three years instead of the usual four. COVID-related measures, including border closures and lockdowns, also affected the 2021 Census results, indicating a population decline and reduced interstate and overseas migration than would usually occur. Indications are that population, migration and also emissions have increased since COVID measures were lifted.

Post COVID economic conditions have presented new challenges. The National (and international economy) has experienced high inflation coupled with crisis in housing supply and affordability. National and state-level responses, such as the National Housing Accord and programs targeting housing and population growth in Strathfield, are significant influences on local planning.

This progress report relies on data from various sources, including government agencies such as Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), NSW Health, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOSCAR), and Transport for NSW. Council-specific data comes from records and independently commissioned Community Surveys conducted in 2021 and 2023. The 2021 survey, carried out during the pandemic, showed unusually high satisfaction ratings, likely due to residents spending more time and remotely working in the Strathfield area. In contrast, many 2023 results had lower satisfaction ratings. The longer-term trend will be more apparent when the next survey is taken.

### Strategic Theme 1: Connectivity

Strathfield LGA has strong locational and transport connectivity in the Sydney metropolitan area, with access to quality transport networks and established built and social infrastructure. The high levels of connectivity of Strathfield LGA are significant attractors for residents, businesses, students, and visitors. This theme has three goals that include ensuring growth is supported by well-planned and accessible infrastructure and services across the Strathfield LGA, integrated and safe transport networks and access and delivery of service and information through effective communications and digital technology

Goal 1.1: Population and density growth is supported by well-planned and accessible infrastructure and services

- Strategy 1.1.1 Collaborate with NSW Government and agencies to plan and deliver high quality and accessible infrastructure to support population growth and increasing density
- Strategy 1.1.2 Plan and deliver high quality and strategically located local infrastructure to support current and future population needs

Since 2006, the population of Strathfield LGA has increased by about 15,000 people. Population growth is in response to increased housing supply, generally units built near town centres and transport hubs. It is primarily due to overseas migration, rather than an increase in the natural population. The COVID pandemic measures involved border closures and restricted movement, which resulted in abnormal decline in growth from 2020-2022.

State and local planning policies support increasing housing and population growth in the Strathfield LGA. Based on community engagement feedback, the community wants growth to be supported by accessible and appropriate state and local infrastructure in order to ensure infrastructure is available to accommodate growth. The CSP strategies acknowledge that planning, designing and providing quality infrastructure and services requires a collaborative, well-planned and integrated approach to ensure effective outcomes and efficient use of resources.

Council has continually collaborated and advocated with neighbouring councils to the NSW Government and key stakeholders for the delivery of regional infrastructure required to support population growth. Council progressed work on a new Masterplan for the Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy (PRCUTS). An example of a successful collaboration is the Powells Creek Three Bridge project, a project involving Council and the NSW Government under the Parramatta Road Urban Amenity Improvement Program (PRUAIP). This project involves construction of three new pedestrian and cycleway bridge crossings across Powells Creek Homebush. These projects expand active transport and access to parks and reserves. Two bridges have been completed with the third scheduled for completion in 2025.

There is significant future growth projected for the Strathfield area, particularly in the area of the Homebush Transport Orientated Development (TOD) with the entire precinct (in Strathfield and City of Canada Bay Councils) planned to have a population of 45,000 residents. The future growth will place additional pressure on infrastructure and resources. In order to fund upgrades and new infrastructure,

a review of the Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan was conducted which is expected to be adopted and operational in 2025.

An assumption underpinning the CSP goals in the 2021-2022 review was that Council's primary challenge was planning and delivering new or enhanced local infrastructure and existing infrastructure was being maintained within service levels. However, following an extensive review of Council assets including roads, footpaths and buildings, it was clear that Council had a significant funding infrastructure backlog. The backlog ratio is the cost to bring assets to satisfactory condition as a proportion of the total asset value, which was higher than the Office of Local Government ratio of less than 2%. The backlog would continue to increase unless additional funding was allocated to asset renewal programs. The result of deteriorating assets would be that assets like roads, footpaths and buildings would become unfit for purpose.

Council has taken action on its long-term financial sustainability and increased funding of asset renewals to reduce backlogs and improve the safety and condition of Council's assets. In the 2023 community survey, the quality of our local assets received increased community satisfaction ratings including footpaths received 51% excellent to good ratings from 41% in 2021, quality of kerbs, gutter and drainage 46% from 35% in 2021 and quality of roads 51% from 38% in 2021.

Some major capital works projects included:

- Continued staged development of Hudson Park, a former golf course, into a district park. Recreational facilities and amenities were completed in 2023 in the northern section of Hudson Park East. The Hudson Park driving range was also upgraded with individual hitting bays and expanded operating hours.
- Council was successful in obtaining \$21 million in grants under the Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants Program, which will be allocated to improvements to open space and community facilities at Airey Park, Begnell Field, Hudson District Park East, Strathfield Park and Cooke Park. These projects will improve access to quality sport, recreation and other community facilities and commence from 2024.
- Completion of capital works programs for renewal of roads, footpaths, stormwater, parks and playgrounds.
- Restoration and conservation work on the heritage listed Strathfield Town Hall were completed prior to celebration of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October 2023

Most public land in the Strathfield LGA owned or managed by Council is community land, which now includes Crown Land. All community land must be managed under a Plan of Management. The plans of management for the four Crown Land parks were adopted by 2024. All plans are reviewed regularly. A Land and Property Strategy is scheduled in the 2024-2025 Operational Plan to provide guidance for the optimal management of Council's land and property assets.

Goal 1.2: Strathfield LGA is accessible and connected by integrated and safe transport networks

- Strategy 1.2.1 Ensure transport networks are integrated and connected and offer efficient and safe movement to, from and around Strathfield LGA.
- Strategy 1.2.2 Ensure local transport infrastructure, networks and services are connected, safe and well-maintained across the Strathfield LGA

Access and availability of transport networks are key attractors and of high value to the Strathfield community. The Strathfield LGA is situated along the Western Rail Line with three rail stations at

Homebush, Flemington and Strathfield. Strathfield Station is the most central and connected node on the metropolitan network, providing connections to Sydney's CBD, the Northern corridor and the Central Coast, and to the North West and South West growth areas. The Sydney Metro West, scheduled for completion in 2032, will link Sydney CBD to Greater Parramatta. The closest Metro station at North Strathfield will particularly support expansion of population in Homebush, as set out in the draft Homebush Transport Orientated Development (TOD) Masterplan (2024).

Strathfield also has important road connections including Parramatta Road/Great Western Highway, Westconnex/M4 Western Motorway, Liverpool Road/Hume Highway, supported within the LGA with well-maintained local and regional roads and public and private bus services. Council commenced a Strathfield LGA wide transport and traffic report, which is expected to be completed in 2024.

Active transport involves travelling by physical movement such as walking and cycling. Council has been working to expand the available facilities to support active transport. In 2023, two of the three pedestrian and cycle bridges across Powell's Creek were completed with the third scheduled for 2025. The bridges link with parts of the Bay to Bay shared pathway, a continuous collection of cycle and pedestrian paths linking Botany Bay to Sydney Olympic Park. In 2024, the design phase of Stage 1 of the Homebush Active Transport Network commenced which will eventually link Homebush West to the Strathfield Town Centre.

Community engagement and review of the Strathfield Connector service was undertaken in 2022-2023. Reviews indicated the service had high operational costs but low patronage and, on some routes, duplicated other bus services. However, parts of the LGA in Homebush and Homebush West have no or low access to public transport, therefore the Connector Bus service routes were reduced and modified to service these areas until 2026. Council is advocating to the State Government to provide transport services to these areas of the LGA.

Goal 1.3: Access to information and services are supported by effective communications and digital technology

- Strategy 1.3.1 Deliver effective communications using various media forms that inform and engage with diverse communities
- Strategy 1.3.2 Assess and develop digital technology frameworks and systems to improve and expand service delivery and information access

Communications and technology are essential to modern connectivity, shaping how information is shared and fostering community engagement, social inclusion, and innovation. In the Strathfield LGA, using technology and effective communications is important to enhancing information access and improving community connections. In the 2023 community survey, 46% considered the information that connects them with what is happening in the Strathfield Council area to be excellent or good. It should be noted that Council is not the only source of news and information to the Strathfield community, which are also informed and influenced by media and personal interactions.

The communications landscape continues to change. A recent ACMA report stated that 98% of Australians had internet access at home. 95% use mobile phones to connect to the internet and 86% access multiple times a day. Census 2021 did not include questions about internet access as penetration

is almost universal. 95% of Australians went online for news and information and 87% bought goods or services online.

The Strathfield LGA has significant diversity in culture and language, age, abilities and interests. To engage with its diverse community, Strathfield Council uses a variety of communication channels. Council employs a broad mix of digital and print media to inform and engage with residents about local issues, events, programs, exhibitions, and major projects, understanding that the community seeks information from multiple sources. These methods include the Council website, weekly E-News digital newsletters (reaching over 31,000 subscribers), monthly print newsletters (distributed to over 19,000 households), leaflets with rates notices, posters, banners, and social media platforms.

The primary goal of these efforts is to keep residents informed and promote interest and active involvement in community programs, events and decision-making. As community needs change, communication methods are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure their relevance and effectiveness.

Statistics indicate that visitors to the Council website are declining, likely due to the availability of alternative sources of information, particularly social media. A new website will be launched in late 2024 aimed at improving the overall communication experience for residents. This site will offer new features designed to increase accessibility and provide more effective community interaction.

Council's digital security was enhanced and improved through software upgrades, digitising records, and planning a new website and intranet. Council's IT and cyber systems were audited by the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) in 2023-2024. Work has commenced on the preparation of an ICT strategy. New Audio-Visual equipment was also installed in the Town Hall and the Council Chambers was upgraded to facilitate live streaming of meetings.

A number of programs and initiatives were implemented focusing on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of delivering high quality Customer Services to the community. Council implemented a new customer request management system and a self-service mobile apps for residents. Council's Customer Experience Strategy will be finalised in 2024 and will help guide and enhance the delivery of quality customer services.



## Strategic Theme 2: Community Wellbeing

Community wellbeing is a strategic focus of the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan and covers the various aspects of wellbeing in our community. This includes supporting our culturally diverse community and encouraging socially cohesive and safe communities, providing access to public spaces and community facilities, and opportunities to participate in programs and activities that enhance healthy active lifestyles. Council plays an important role in facilitating opportunities for participation in learning, recreation, community programs and activities, in promoting healthy and active communities through provision of facilities and collaborating with partners in delivering programs and enhancing safety and wellbeing of the community by providing safe, clean, healthy and attractive environments and working with Police on community safety and crime prevention.

Goal 2.1: Strathfield LGA has culturally diverse, connected and social cohesive communities

- Strategy 2.1.1 Provide opportunities and programs to build community capacity and resilience
- Strategy 2.1.2 Deliver programs to meet identified community needs in partnership with key stakeholders, community and government agencies

The Strathfield LGA is highly diverse, with 59% of its population born overseas and 65% speaking a language other than English at home. The experiences of migrant communities are quite diverse with some living in Strathfield for many decades while others are new settlers. The community is also diverse in its age profile, abilities, education, households, socio-economic status and life experiences. The Strathfield community (78%) rates the acceptance of community diversity as excellent to good, a rating which increased from 75% in 2021 to 78% in 2023.

Community services are provided to the Strathfield LGA through a large number of government and non-government organisations. Provision of many services such as aged care and social security is delivered through the Federal Government, while other community-based services including health are primarily State based. Council plays a role in advocacy, partnership and service delivery in the local community, however much of Council's focus is the provision of local facilities and facilitating promotions, awareness, programs and events often via partnership targeted to meet local community needs. Examples include working with Sydney Area Health District to promote health initiatives such as falls prevention for seniors or breast screening and targeting information especially to those communities with low rates of participation.

Programs hosted by Council's Community Development team have significantly increased. Council provided a range of activities and programs to support culturally and linguistically diverse communities through delivery of key programs and events such as English conversation classes, promoting health education courses in multi-languages on Dementia, Hepatitis B and gambling. A community service centre is due to open in Homebush in late 2024 to provide advisory and referral services.

Council provided a range of social, recreational and cultural programs to meet the needs of children and teens include school holiday programs, with 17% of Strathfield LGA's population aged under 18 years. Programs offered multi-sport programs, school holiday programs and Council's weekly drop-in program at Strathfield Library to include children and youth. Council held a Youth Career's Expo in

2023 in collaboration with the Strathfield Collaborative Youth Group which featured workshops, digital storytelling, resume writing and car maintenance.

12% of the LGA population is aged over 60 years. Initiatives to support older residents included health and fitness programs including tai chi, fitter and stronger, line dancing, ballroom dancing, aqua aerobics and yoga. Collaborating with partners such as Sydney Local Health District for health education programs including dementia/Alzheimer's preventions and Stepping On programs for older people who have had a fall or at-risk of falling, programs such as Tech Savvy Seniors and Cyber Safe awareness.

Council has adopted a Disability Inclusion Plan and provides programs particularly through partnership for residents who require assistance due to a disability or their carers, who comprise 4.3% of the Strathfield population. Council has partnered with the Physical Disability Council of NSW to promote workshops that cover post-traumatic growth, NDIS Self-management and social morning teas, easy read formats of the 'Discover Your Council' booklet were provided for people with intellectual disability or limited literacy and promoted to community. Works were implemented to upgrade footpaths in the LGA with pram ramps.

Local volunteers play a significant role in the delivery of services and programs in the Strathfield area. Volunteers contribute to various Council programs and/or support a host of community, recreation and culturally based organisations. According to the 2021 Census, 9.6% of the local population are involved in volunteering activities and come from all walks of life including workers, students, professionals, young people, and retirees. Some of the Council programs supported by volunteers include Strathfield Library's Reading Buddies program, volunteer Justice of the Peace (JP) weekly service and Bushcare program. Council also provides support for local community organisations through subsidisation of Council facilities and access to grant funding programs for approved projects. Community, cultural and recreational organisations are integral to the social cohesion and community wellbeing of the Strathfield LGA.

#### Goal 2.2: Healthy and Active Communities

- Strategy 2.2.1 Manage open space, recreation and community facilities and programs to provide fair access and meet community, leisure and recreational needs
- Strategy 2.2.2 Promote healthy and active living programs

The majority of public open space and recreational facilities in the Strathfield LGA are owned or managed by Council. These facilities enable all members of our community, irrespective of age, to participate in activities that support physical and mental wellbeing. They include provision of sportsfields, playgrounds, hard courts, outdoor gyms and walking tracks for formal sport and informal recreation and leisure.

To meet increasing demand for access to sportsgrounds, Council adopted a Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy, to provide a transparent, equitable and consistent methodology for allocation of sporting grounds and facilities and to improve opportunities across the broader community for fairer access to facilities. Council schedules regular maintenance of open space, parks and reserves and sportsfields. This includes regular mowing, line marking, maintenance of wickets and sportsfields equipment, checks of lighting, irrigation and playgrounds.

In the 2023 community survey, the care and maintenance of parks and reserves received 76% (excellent to good ratings), 86% satisfaction with sportsgrounds (excellent-good ratings), 83% satisfaction with

playgrounds (excellent-good ratings), 83% satisfaction with playgrounds (excellent-good ratings) and 87% satisfaction with access to parks and open space.

Goal 2.3: Strathfield LGA is safe, resilient and accessible local areas

- Strategy 2.3.1 Collaborate and deliver public safety programs and promote community safety awareness
- Strategy 2.3.2 Promote and build community resilience, capacity and self-reliance

Feeling safe in Strathfield is highly important to local residents. Community safety encompasses several factors that contribute to the overall sense of feeling safe in the area. Council plays a key role in this by providing services, such as regulatory health inspections and ranger services, maintaining the quality and condition of assets like footpaths, and providing clean and well-maintained public spaces. However, many aspects of safety such as law and order are outside of Council's control.

According to Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOSCAR) reports of crime in the Strathfield LGA continue to be stable in the Strathfield LGA. Violent crime has been trending down over the past decade. There is rising reported incidents of domestic violence across Sydney, though in the Strathfield LGAs reported incidents have remained stable. Theft and fraud have slightly increased. Council works in collaboration with Police and community stakeholders to target and deliver community education and awareness campaigns on identified issues of importance to the local area including engagement with target stakeholders.

The Strathfield Community Safety Plan was reviewed and updated, with the new plan adopted for the 2024-2028 period. This plan outlines actions to enhance safety across the Strathfield LGA. In response to issues like graffiti vandalism, Council also introduced a new Graffiti Management Policy to address graffiti vandalism.

The 2023 Strathfield community survey indicated a decline in community feelings of safety in the LGA. 67% rated feeling safe in their streets as excellent or good, 68% rated satisfaction with feeling safe in their suburb while moving around (excellent-good ratings). The 84% satisfaction with feeling safe on local public transport (excellent-good ratings) was unaltered from 2021.

Resilience planning is identified in the CSP to develop strategies and actions that strengthen the community's ability to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of chronic stresses and acute shocks. Chronic stresses are slow moving disasters or challenges that weaken the community on a day-to-day basis or a cyclical basis such as, food and water shortages, climate change, lack of affordable housing and pandemics. Acute shocks are sudden events that threaten a city. Examples include heatwaves, floods, disease outbreaks and cyberattacks. Work will commence in 2024-2025 on preparing a Resilience Strategy for Strathfield LGA.

### Strategic Theme 3: Celebrating Culture and Place

This strategic theme is focused on creating vibrant and enticing public domains, especially in local town, village and commercial centres to provide access to services as well as opportunities for social connectivity. The theme also celebrates Strathfield as a place of learning, culture and creativity supported by events, cultural programs and acknowledgement of civic and community achievements, which promote a sense of civic pride and belonging.

Goal 3.1: Strathfield has enticing, vibrant and safe centres blending services and social connectivity

- Strategy 3.1.1 Plan and deliver vibrant attractive and safe town and village centres and commercial areas
- Strategy 3.1.2 Support programs to promote activity and sustain local business

Town and village centres in Strathfield are essential hubs for transport, shopping, services, and social interaction, making them important to local community liveability. In the 2023 Community Survey, 52% of residents (2023) considered that the local shops and service meet their needs well or very well, which indicates there is room for improvement.

The Strathfield Town Centre, shared by the Strathfield, Canada Bay, and Burwood LGAs, has long awaited a cohesive management plan. After years of inaction, Council initiated the preparation of a comprehensive Masterplan in 2023. This process began with community consultation and the development of an options report, aimed at shaping a shared vision and guiding principles for the Town Centre's future. By 2024, Stage 1 of the Strathfield Town Centre Masterplan had been completed, laying the foundation for further technical studies and detailed planning. In 2024-2025, the Council will also focus on developing strategies to enhance other town centres and improve public domain areas, ensuring these spaces are vibrant, clean, and meet the evolving needs of the community.

A number of new events were held in the Homebush, Homebush West and Strathfield Town Centres which provided opportunities for community participation but also to support and promote our local businesses. The Strathfield Festival was held at Strathfield Square in April 2023 and May 2024 over three days attracting a combined 60,000 people to the Square featuring cultural performances, live music, roaming entertainment, various cuisines from local businesses, art projections and lighting installations. The Strathfield Winter Warmer was held at Strathfield Square in July 2024 with winter markets, live music, local treats and roller skating. Homebush Vibes was held at Rochester Street Homebush in September 2023. The event attracted approximately 5000 people throughout the day to enjoy live music, roving entertainment, moon cakes, children's activities and local cuisines served by nearby businesses. The FIFA Women's World Cup live site involved 8 live screenings in the Strathfield Town Centre in 2023.

Council endorsed the major program of events annually, which is supplemented by many smaller and targeted events and programs in Council facilities such as Strathfield Library, community centres, town hall, parks and sportsgrounds. Regular events including the Strathfield Spring Fair returned in September 2022 and 2024 at Strathfield Park. Civic events including Australia Day and ANZAC Day were celebrated annually.

The annual Christmas Carols were held at Strathfield Park in early December 2021 to 2024. This popular event attracted about 4,000 people to listen and sing along to Carols to celebrate the festive season.

The popular Movies in the Park is held in Strathfield Park on various weekends during the summer season, aimed at children and young people. The films attract a solid crowd and are highly popular.

Council celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the Strathfield Town Hall on 9 October 2023. The Town Hall is an important part of the community life of the Strathfield area and has been used for the last 100 years for numerous functions including Council Meetings, Citizenship Ceremonies, weddings, parties and dances, public meetings, orchestral, singing and theatrical performances and civic functions. Following major restoration works, the Town Hall was opened with an official dinner and an exhibition, produced in collaboration with the Strathfield-Homebush District Historical Society.

Goal 3.2: Strathfield LGA is a place of creativity, culture and learning

- Strategy 3.2.1 Facilitate and support learning, community and cultural programs, events and activities
- Strategy 3.2.2 Foster and celebrate local identity

Census 2021 indicates that the Strathfield LGA has a highly educated population with 44% awarded with a bachelor or higher degree, which has increased 10% in a decade. Similarity retention of students to Year 12 has increased. Though Council is not responsible for education, the LGA is centrally located to many public and private schools and the Australian Catholic University. Education and training is the third highest industry of employment (2021 Census). Council provides public library, programs and services which support and promote education, creativity, culture and learning.

The Strathfield Library service was adversely affected by COVID measures including sustained lockdowns and limited opening hours. By 2024, the patronage of the service had returned to pre-COVID levels and recorded 250,000 visitations and 160,000 loans. The host of programs managed by the Library and Community Development team has significantly increased. Many are delivered in partnerships with community organisations. The Ironbark Gallery at Strathfield Library promotes opportunities to showcase arts, culture and historical exhibitions with rotating exhibitions. Exhibitions are supported by programs such as education programs, talks and performances which cover a wide range of topics of relevance to the local Strathfield community. Over 87% reported excellent-good community rating with the library service. 69% of Library members are residents of Strathfield LGA.

Council's Library Service and Community Development team provide a range of education, literacy and learning programs targeted to meet specific community needs such as English conversation classes for persons from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and programs such as Baby Bounce for infants 0 – 18 months to introduce babies to the wonderful world of songs and rhymes. Access and availability of programs is promoted through Council's many media channels but also through visitations by library staff to local schools, childcare centres and community meetings.

Many of our services and programs were delivered in partnerships including Justice of the Peace program, English Conversation Club with Metro Assist and ACU, Tax Help with ATO, Tech Savvy Seniors with State Library and Parenting Class, exhibitions and talks from partnerships with Strathfield School for Seniors and Strathfield-Homebush District Historical Society.

In recognition of its established Korean community, Strathfield Council established a Sister City relationship with Gapyeong County in South Korea in 2011 to promote cultural, economic, educational

and social exchanges between the two areas. This long-standing relationship was enhanced by reciprocal visits to Strathfield and Gaepyeong. In October 2022, a delegation from Council visited Gaepyeong. In May 2024, Council hosted delegates from Gaepyeong County, who attended a welcome ceremony, tour and ceremonial dinner.

Council organised Australia Day celebrations on 26 January each year which included the presentation of annual awards for Strathfield Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year. ANZAC Day services were held annually on ANZAC Day at Davey Square Memorial, Homebush.

Australian Citizenship ceremonies were returned to an in-person format in December 2021 with the easing of COVID restrictions. From 2021-2024, Council addressed the citizen ceremony backlogs and 2058 local residents were conferred with Australia citizenship at ceremonies conducted by Council and presided by the Mayor and other dignitaries, usually in the Strathfield Town Hall.

Council prepared and adopted its first Reconciliation Action Plan in 2024 and celebrates annually the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week in July to increase community awareness of the status and treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Events included dance performances, smoking ceremonies, didgeridoo performance, art exhibitions and interactive children's holiday activities, talks and guided walks along the Cooks River.

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### Strategic Theme 4: Liveable Neighbourhoods

This theme concerns ensuring well planned urban design, protection, and maintenance of the built and natural environment of the Strathfield LGA. Liveable Neighbourhoods involve high quality, well planned, sustainable, clean, and well maintained urban and natural environments that balance new development with the retention and reflection of established local character and healthy thriving and resilient natural environments. Development, changing lifestyles and increasing population also create higher levels of waste, resource usage and pollution, creating pressure on the local area, at a regional and local level, to maintain the high standards of amenity, character, and liveability of the Strathfield LGA.

#### *Goal 4.1: Quality, liveable and sustainable urban design and development*

- Strategy 4.1.1 Urban design and development that balances growth with quality living, sustainable and aesthetic outcomes
- Strategy 4.1.2 Deliver effective and efficient planning and development processes

In response to projected housing and population growth in the Strathfield LGA and NSW Government regional planning strategies, Council has prepared a number of key strategic studies, plans and progressed work on a new Masterplan for the Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy (PRCUTS). In December 2023, the NSW Government announced the Transit Orientated Development (TOD) program and identified Homebush as a Tier 1 TOD with a draft Masterplan released in July 2024.

Early Masterplan works identifies a yield of 8900 new dwellings or 22,500 new residents, which is a significant change in population and housing density in the Strathfield LGA. The NSW Government is the lead agency with Council actively participating in this process to ensure the best outcomes for the Strathfield LGA.

Council adopted a new Affordable Housing Tenancy Policy and implement an Affordable Housing Contribution Plan with the Homebush TOD Masterplan. This will establish the contribution rates for affordable housing in the Homebush TOD area and mechanisms for delivery.

The Medium Density Housing study involved investigating opportunities for additional medium density housing options to improve housing diversity and choice available across the community and assist housing affordability. The Medium Density Housing Strategy will be reported to Council in August 2024 in order to initiate the planning proposal process and commence the gateway determination process with NSW Government.

#### *Goal 4.2: Clean, attractive and well-maintained neighbourhoods and public domains*

- Strategy 4.2.1 Provide high quality, efficient and sustainable waste services and education to reduce landfill and improve recycling and reuse
- Strategy 4.2.2. Maintain high standards of public health, amenity and safety

Waste collection involves commercial and domestic waste. However, Council only provides domestic waste services and 42% of all waste in the Strathfield LGA is commercial. Waste diverted from landfill

has remained around 32% over 2021-2024, which falls well short of the target 80% diversion rates. This reflects the many ongoing challenges for waste management in the Strathfield LGA. In future, Council aims to transition to a zero-waste strategy by 2035, address current waste management challenges and identify opportunities for improvement. 73% of the community rated the quality of Council's waste service as excellent to good, which declined since 2021.

Based on feedback from community engagement, public domain maintenance is a high priority for the Strathfield community, which is a responsibility of Council in the areas under its control e.g. local roads, parks and the public domains in town centres. Council delivered a regular cleansing and maintenance programs in public domains throughout the Strathfield LGA. Town Centres are cleansed on a daily basis with a twice weekly graffiti inspection program. Council staff serviced parks on a fortnightly cycle (weather permitting) including visual inspections and reporting of needed repairs of defects or hazards. 65% of the Strathfield community rated the appearance and maintenance of public spaces as excellent to good, which had declined since 2021.

Major parks were serviced for litter and rubbish collection three times a week and on both days on the weekend. Staff also attend to customer requests within 24 hours of receipt when a safety concern is raised by residents. Quarterly inspections of Council playgrounds are undertaken by a contractor. Council also operates a regular street sweeping service across the Strathfield LGA. 76% of the Strathfield community rated the care and maintenance of parks and reserves as excellent to good, which had declined since 2021.

#### Goal 4.3: Healthy, thriving, sustainable and resilient environments

- Strategy 4.3.1 Conserve, restore and enhance Strathfield's biodiversity, ecological health, tree canopies and resiliency
- Strategy 4.3.2 Implement sustainable practices and efficiencies in resource use to support a healthy built environment

Key natural environment locations in the Strathfield LGA include Mason Park Wetlands, Coxs Creek Reserve and Greenacre Frog Ponds with primary biodiversity or wildlife corridors along the Cooks River/Coxs Creek in Strathfield and Strathfield South. Works to reduce weeds were undertaken in bushland reserves such as Coxs Creek Reserve and monitoring of *W. Backhousei* species condition at Mason Park Wetlands. Adult Green and Golden Bellfrogs (GGBF) and tag poles were recorded for the first time on a decade in reestablished breeding GGBF habitat at the Greenacre Frog Ponds. Council conducted monthly water monitoring to ascertain health of waterways and detect pollution incidences. Council collaborated with partners on education, events and projects to improve environmental sustainability such as National Tree Day, Bushcare and community planting days, regional programs to improve our region or catchment such as Cooks River Alliance and Parramatta River Catchment Group.

Strathfield LGA's urban forest is comprised of trees on public and private land areas. They contribute significantly to the liveability, natural environment and aesthetics of the Strathfield area. The urban forest is facing many challenges including urban densification, a changing climate, urban heat and canopy loss. In Strathfield LGA, tree canopies are under threat especially through removal of urban



trees on private lands, low levels of tree canopy in industrial and commercial areas and illegal tree works and vandalism of street and public trees.

Council commenced a program to collate detailed data on its street trees, which in 2024 is over 70% complete. From the data, a management inventory and program will be prepared for maintenance and replacement street and public tree planting. Council engaged contractors to undertake maintenance of street trees including road and building clearances, crown lifting, dead wooding, tree removals, formative pruning and stump grinding and removals. Council initiated new and replacement street tree plantings as well as additional plantings along the Cooks River and parks across the Strathfield LGA.

Emissions in the Strathfield LGA generally declined during COVID, however recent results indicate that emissions are returning to pre-COVID levels as movement, especially vehicles, has increased.

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### Strategic Theme 5: Responsible leadership

The theme of Responsible Leadership is concerned with leadership and accountable Council services directed by the priorities of an engaged and connected community. Responsible leadership requires the community having confidence in the Council to make decisions based on community priorities and values reflecting meaningful and informed community engagement. Effective management of Council's operations is underpinned by transparent, effective and accountable governance which is responsive to the needs of the community.

Goal 5.1: Council's leadership and decision making reflects community priorities and values

- Strategy 5.1.1. Strathfield community is well informed, engaged and represented in Council policy making and advocacy
- Strategy 5.1.2 Deliver ethical, effective and responsible leadership and transparent and accountable decision making

The Strathfield Community Strategic Plan is a whole of community plan. Council regularly advocated on behalf of the Strathfield community to relevant state and federal government agencies and to local members of Parliament on a wide range of issues affecting Strathfield LGA, examples include acquisition of land for recreational purpose, traffic management and planning issues. As an example, Council sought support from local members of parliament to lobby for land acquired for the Westconnex expansion by Transport for NSW to be allocated for open space. In 2024, subject to a deed of agreement, this land at Ismay Reserve has been dedicated for public recreation use.

Council has provided and improved opportunities for the community to participate in decision-making processes. Council adopted a Community Engagement Strategy, which sets out principles for engagement, stakeholder identification and an engagement assessment matrix based on IAP2 principles of inform, consult, involve, collaborate and empower. The CES is based on IAP2 principles and recognises that engagement must be tailored to particular circumstances, taking into account factors such as level of impacts, complexity, risk, significance, sensitivity, timing or opportunity. Strathfield's community is highly diverse and made up of a large number of stakeholders with various interests, opinions, interests and experience. Council engages the community through a range of methods, including online and face to face. Engagement can be about specific projects, or ongoing dialogue with key stakeholders, such as community groups, sporting groups, business and industry, State and Federal agencies, advisory committees and partners.

In November 2022, Council launched its online 'Have Your Say' site, which facilitates engagement on draft proposals, plans or policies. The site features a range of engagement tools such as surveys and online digital maps, supported by language translation. Initially the site focused on major projects but since 2023, all engagements are included on this site. Between November 2022 and June 2024, over 20,000 visits were recorded with over 3000 comments or submissions received.

Not all public exhibited proposals or plans receive comments or submissions, however based on numbers of views and downloads of related documents, it is evident that all engagements generate public interest, regardless of whether a comment is made. This was impossible to assess prior to implementing the online engagement site.

Council undertook a review of the Community Strategic Plan after the 2021 election and adopted 'Strathfield 2035'. The Plan sets out five key strategic themes of Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Celebrating Culture and Place, Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership to deliver on the Strathfield community's long-term vision. The Delivery Program 2022-2026, which sets out the Council priorities for the four-year period, Annual Operational Plans and Budgets, Resourcing Strategies and Annual Reports and Financial Statements and regular progress and quarterly financial reviews were all presented to Council and are published on the Council website.

A recent survey indicated that 86% of residents rated Council's overall performance at least favourably, with 54% rating Council's performance as excellent or good.

Goal 5.2: Council is effectively and responsibly managed and responds to community needs

- Strategy 5.2.1 Prepare and implement plans and strategies to deliver and resource efficient and accountable services, programs, and infrastructure
- Strategy 5.2.2 Promote organisational culture of safety, best practice, and continuous quality improvement
- Strategy 5.2.3 Delivery efficient and effective customer services to the community

To support sustainable operations, efficient and accountable services, Council has established new and robust financial, governance, and planning frameworks.

After the 2021 election, Council undertook a thorough review of its financial sustainability and found that its financial position was unsustainable at the current level of expenditure and income due to a range of issues including rate capping, inflation, cost shifting by NSW Government, long term under-expenditure in asset renewal and growing large asset backlogs. Council also was posting annual operating deficits and had cashflow issues. Without remedial action, it was forecast that Council would reach a negative cash position by 2027, continue to record increasing annual deficits, and have insufficient money to maintain the current service levels and asset renewals. Further Council would be severely underfunded for the expected growth and expansion of services.

By 2024, Council has made considerable progress on reviewing and instigating actions to secure its long-term organisational and financial sustainability and prioritising the needs of current and future communities. This was achieved by implementing a Special Rate Variation and change to a minimum rate structure (approved by IPART and commenced in 2023-2024), improving efficiencies of Council's organisation and increased funding of asset renewals to reduce backlogs and improve the safety and condition of Council's assets. The delivery of quality services and facilities and the effective and efficient management of community assets and resources are supported by establishing robust financial, governance and planning frameworks.

While the indicator measures would appear that Council's sustainability is declining, Council's Long Term Financial Plan projects that Council will return to sustainable position by 2027, if current measures continue to be implemented.

Council has implemented governance frameworks to improve accountability through audit, service review and development of a new Enterprise Risk Management program. These initiatives are overseen by the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC), an advisory committee that meets quarterly and provides Council with independent assurance and assistance on its compliance, risk management, financial management, governance, audit, fraud control service delivery and integrated performance and reporting responsibilities.

Council has also prepared methodology to undertake service reviews, which are monitored by the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC). Reviews of the street sweeping service, Civic Works section and the Golf Driving Range Operations were undertaken in 2023-2024 and further reviews are scheduled for the 2024-2025 year.

The delivery of efficient and effective customer services is a high priority and is supported by the new Customer Experience Strategy 2024, which recognises that customers perceive their entire interaction with Council as Customer Service. Council implemented a new Customer Request Management (CRM) system and IConcierge, a self-service mobile app for residents in 2024. These upgraded services provide streamlined public access to a range of services and information. The most recent community survey indicates that the satisfaction rating for Council's customer services has increased.

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### Quadruple Bottom Line Reporting

The IPR Framework provisions require that the Community Strategic Plan address social, environmental, economic and civic leadership in an integrated way. This is known as the Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL). QBL indicates whether the community is moving to or away from a sustainable future, when compared to baseline data.

This progress report relies on data from various sources, including government agencies such as ABS, Health, BOSCAR, and Transport for NSW. Council-specific data comes from records, audited financial statements and independently commissioned Community Surveys conducted in 2021 and 2023. The 2021 survey, carried out during the pandemic, showed unusually high satisfaction ratings, likely due to residents spending more time and remotely working in the Strathfield area. In contrast, many 2023 results had lower satisfaction ratings. The longer-term trend will be more apparent when the next survey is taken.

The status of measures concerning Councils financial reporting for the fiscal year 2022-2023 may indicate a trend away from sustainability. However, following the implementation of the financial improvement plan and revenue strategy in 2023-2024, the draft figures for these measures reflect significant improvement and a trends towards sustainability. Council has successfully contained the growth in operating deficits (improving the operating performance ratio compared to prior year) and has been able to make significant investments renewals and maintenance as a directly result of the financial sustainability strategy.

Outcome measure	Status
% Australian Citizens (Strathfield LGA)	Moving away from sustainability
% volunteers in LGA	Moving away from sustainability
Aboriginal heritage registered finds	Stable
Acceptance of community diversity (excellent-good rating)	Moving towards sustainability
Access to information about what's happening in LGA (excellent-good rating)	Stable
Access to parks and open space (excellent-good rating)	Moving towards sustainability
Appearance & maintenance of residential areas (excellent-good rating)	Moving away from sustainability
Appearance and maintenance of public spaces (excellent-good rating)	Moving away from sustainability
Asset Maintenance ratio (>100%)	Moving away from sustainability
Attractiveness of buildings, streetscape and surroundings in local area (excellent-good rating)	Moving away from sustainability
Building and infrastructure renewals ratio (>100%)	Moving away from sustainability
Care & maintenance of parks and reserves (excellent-good rating)	Moving away from sustainability
Care and protection of historic and heritage buildings and areas (excellent-good rating)	Moving away from sustainability
Cash expense cover ratio (> 3.00 months)	Stable

Outcome measure	Status
Community satisfaction on how well new development blends with neighbourhood character (excellent-good rating)	Stable
Community satisfaction with Council's efforts to give the community a say on issues that affect them (excellent-good rating)	Moving away from sustainability
Control of graffiti and vandalism in LGA (excellent-good rating)	Stable
Council satisfaction with waste services (excellent-good rating)	Moving away from sustainability
Council website visits (number of visits)	Moving away from sustainability
Council's customer services satisfaction rating (excellent-good rating)	Moving towards sustainability
Council's overall performance satisfaction rating (excellent-good rating)	Moving away from sustainability
Decrease in smoking rates in Sydney Local Health District (incl Strathfield LGA) (adult population)	Moving towards sustainability
Feeling safe in their street (excellent-good rating)	Moving away from sustainability
Feeling safe in their suburb (moving around) (excellent-good rating)	Moving away from sustainability
Feeling safe on local public transport (excellent-good rating)	Moving away from sustainability
Gross Regional Product (Strathfield LGA)	Moving away from sustainability
Increase of total waste materials diverted from landfill (tonnes)	Moving away from sustainability
Increase of waste diversion from landfill	Moving away from sustainability
Infrastructure backlog ratio (>2.00%)	Moving away from sustainability
Local shops and services meet needs (very well or well)	Stable
Maintenance of tree coverage and natural environment (excellent-good ratings)	Moving away from sustainability
Major crime offences in LGA (60 month trend for major offences)	Stable
No. of non-Aboriginal heritage items and heritage conservation areas	Stable
No of vehicle registrations in Strathfield LGA	Moving away from sustainability
Number of Council library borrowings/loans	Moving towards sustainability
Number of local businesses in LGA	Moving towards sustainability
Number of local jobs in LGA	Moving away from sustainability
Number of Strathfield library members	Moving towards sustainability
Number of residents hospitalised due to falls in the LGA	Moving away from sustainability
Number of Council library visitors	Moving towards sustainability
Operating performance ratio (>0%)	Moving away from sustainability
Overall access to transport services (excellent-good ratings)	Moving away from sustainability
Own source operating revenue ratio (>60%)	Stable
Quality of footpaths (excellent-good ratings)	Moving towards sustainability
Quality of kerbs, gutters & drainage (excellent-good ratings)	Moving towards sustainability
Quality of roads (excellent-good ratings)	Moving towards sustainability

Outcome measure	Status
Quality/condition of community centres (excellent-good ratings)	Moving away from sustainability
Quality/condition of footpaths (excellent-good ratings)	Moving towards sustainability
Quality/condition of library facility (excellent-good ratings)	Moving towards sustainability
Quality/condition of parks and open space access (excellent-good ratings)	Moving towards sustainability
Quality/condition of playgrounds (excellent-good ratings)	Moving away from sustainability
Quality/condition of roads (excellent-good ratings)	Moving towards sustainability
Quality/condition of sportsgrounds (excellent-good ratings)	Moving towards sustainability
Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage	Moving toward sustainability
Reduction of Council Greenhouse Gas emissions – total	Moving towards sustainability
Reduction of emissions in Strathfield LGA (tonnes CO2-e)	Moving towards sustainability
Reduction of energy consumption (Council operations)	Moving away from sustainability
Satisfaction with Council Library service	Stable
Total water consumption (Council)	Moving away from sustainability
Total water consumption in Strathfield LGA	Moving towards sustainability
Tree Canopy in Strathfield LGA and suburbs	Moving away from sustainability
Unrestricted current ratio (>1.50x)	Stable

Source: *Strathfield State of City Report 2024*

Draft

## Meeting the goals of the 2022-2026 Delivery Program

Council made good progress in the first year of our Delivery Program 2022-2026. This section of the Annual Report details our achievements.

A summary of Council's performance across the strategic directions and focus areas of the Delivery Program is provided on page xx. More details of key achievements, highlights and performance measures in each theme of program is provided throughout the remainder of this section.

The Operational Plan for 2023-2024 is the second annual instalment of Council's 4-year Delivery Program 2022-2026. The 151 actions set by Council in our Operational Plan represented Council's external and internal services, key projects and works programs. As at 30 June 2024, 106 of all actions for 2023-2024 were completed and 45 will be carried over to 2024-2025.

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## Connectivity Theme

*The Connectivity Theme concerns understanding how Strathfield connects and integrates with the broader Inner West and Sydney region is critical to providing transport that is easy and safe to use, planning infrastructure that is adequate for growth and improving information and communication technologies to connect to local community to the world.*

The Delivery Program Principal Activities 2022-2026 contribute to the overall achievement of the Connectivity Theme's goals and strategies of the Community Strategic Plan.

<b>Actions 2023-2024</b>	<b>Completed</b>	<b>Carry Over</b>
Collaborate with NSW Government and agencies to plan and deliver high quality and accessible infrastructure to support population growth and increasing density	40%	60%
Plan and deliver upgraded or new high quality and strategically located local infrastructure to support current and future population needs	50%	50%
Collaborate with neighbouring councils and State Government to improve access and connections to regional transport options		100%
Manage effective and safe local traffic and transport services and well-maintained infrastructure	100%	
Review and manage plans and initiatives to improve road safety and provide fair access to parking	100%	
Deliver effective, accurate, timely and informative communications that improves awareness and connections with local communities		100%
Design and implement technology-based solutions that support enhanced and improved public information access and service delivery	100%	

### Achievements

- We actively engaged and advocated to the NSW Government on the Homebush Transport Orientated Development (TOD) proposal for strong outcomes for the Masterplan and appropriate funding for supporting infrastructure.
- We commenced design of projects funded by NSW Government's Western Sydney Investment Grant (WSIG) funding in Airey Park, Hudson Park, Begnell Field, Strathfield Park and Cooke Park and prepared commencement of community consultation for July 2024.
- We completed 100% of all capital works programs for roads and footpaths. 90% of kerbs and gutters completed due to weather delays.
- We progressed the Strathfield wide transport and traffic study with scheduled completion in late 2024.
- We commenced the design phase of stage 1 of the Homebush Active Transport Network to link Homebush West to the Strathfield Town Centre.

- We upgraded the Audio-Visual system in the Town Hall and completed the Council Chambers upgrade prior to the first Council meeting in February 2024.
- We went live internally in January 2024 with iConcierge, the new customer management system, and scheduled public access implementation for mid-August 2024.
- We progressed the new website project with scheduled completion for late 2024.
- We publicly exhibited the amended Community Facilities Plan of Management and new Plans of Management for Hudson Park and Mason Park, which include Crown Land Reserves.

### Highlights 2023-2024

#### **Maintaining our local roads and footpaths**

Strathfield Council has 97kms of roads and 199km of footpaths. Road resurfacing and renewals of footpaths were undertaken on roads and footpaths in Strathfield and Strathfield South. A roundabout at Bridge Road and Loftus Crescent was upgraded to mitigate crashes and speeding. The full list of completed works is on page xx

#### **Improving road safety**

A range of programs aimed at improving road safety in the Strathfield LGA were completed and implemented in 2023-2024. Council monitored and reviewed on average five Heavy Vehicle approvals per week. Council advocated to improve maintenance of the Marlborough Road pedestrian tunnel and reduction of speed to 50km/hr. Council ran 11 Child Restraint Checking Days, 3 Graduated Licensing Scheme (GLS) workshops, 4 Stepping on Program Days, Pedestrian Safety in HPAA zones, Seniors Driving, Road Safety Audits and Opportunities Matrix focusing on engineering crash prevention in the LGA. Four speed radar units were installed and 'Every K counts please slow down in Strathfield' bin stickers were rolled out.

#### **Strathfield Connector Bus**

A full review of the Strathfield Connector Bus service was completed including community consultation. The feedback from the consultation indicated that the bus was not an efficient use of Council funds and Council resolved to maintain a reduced service of one route from Strathfield Station to Courallie Avenue for a two year period before ceasing it completely in 2026. Council will advocate to the State Government to improve public transport to cover all areas in the Strathfield LGA, especially those without services.

#### **Drainage**

The culvert running under Telopea Ave in Homebush West was recently replaced, like-for-like. The replacement ensures the culvert continues to work effectively and protect homes from flooding. Work began at the end of April 2024 and was completed in June 2024.

#### **Hudson Park improvements**

The development of Hudson Park, a former gold course, into a district park has been implemented over various stages to create a range of recreation opportunities. The popular Hudson Park Golf Driving Range has been upgraded with 25 individual hitting bays. To meet community demand, Council trialled additional operating hours, which was successful. The operating hours are now 6.30am to 1am each day (except Thursday 9am-1am). Council has been allocated funding under the WSIG

grants program which will be allocated to Stage 3 upgrades in Hudson Park as well as projects in sites such as Begnell Field, Strathfield Park, Cooke Park and Airey Park.

#### **Bridge Road Public Domain improvements**

Works to improve the public domain in Bridge Road in Homebush were completed in late November 2023. This involved the removal and disposal of existing concrete and asphalt paths and construction of a brand-new footpath. This project was fully funded by the NSW Government as part of the Parramatta Road Urban Amenity Improvement Plan (PRUAIP).

Council's collaboration is continuing with Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) with regards to the Parramatta Road Urban Amenity Improvement Plan. The works at Station Street and Bridge Road Homebush and artwork at Bridge Rd and Loftus Crescent were completed. The George Street bridge is yet to start and is scheduled for public opening in February 2025.

#### **Improving pedestrian and cycle connections**

Council continued to improve active transport availability with the completion of the design phase of Stage 1 of the Homebush Active Transport Network to link Homebush West to the Strathfield Town Centre with community engagement commencing in 2024-2025. Community engagement commenced The Powells Creek three pedestrian/cycle bridge project opened at Hamilton Street and Lorraine Street Homebush in 2023 and works are underway on the third bridge at George Street to be opened in February 2025.

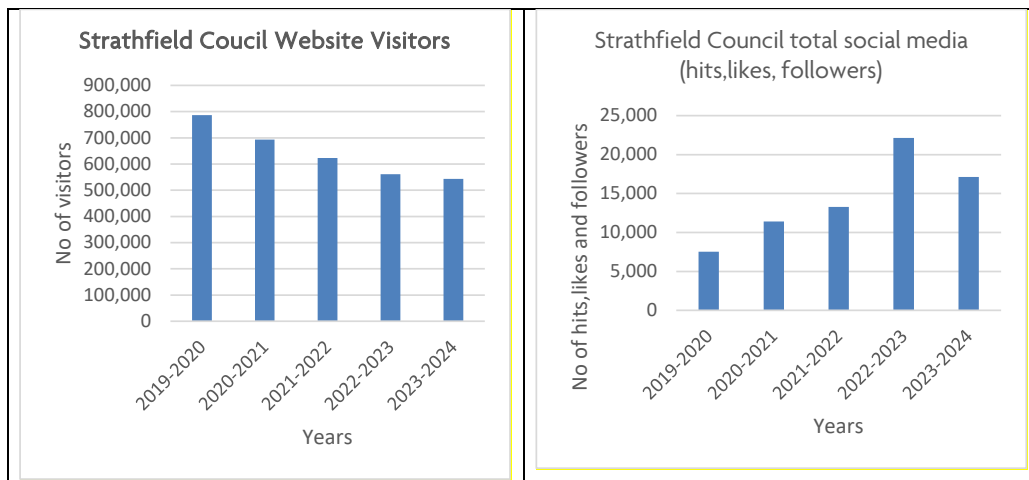
#### **Adoption of Plans of Management**

Council is required to adopt Plans of Management for public land that is classified as community land under the *Local Government Act 1993* and *Crown Lands Management Act 2016*. New Plans of Management for Mason Park and Hudson Park were adopted in 2024, following community engagement. Copies of Council's plans of management are published on Council's website.

#### **Communications**

Council utilises an increasingly wide range of digital and print communication methods to inform and engage with the community on issues, events, programs, exhibitions, major projects and proposals. Communication methods (includes modes of distribution) include websites, media releases, print and digital newsletters including e-News, posters and banners, social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube), flyers etc. Communication types are not static and experience changes in form and application. Therefore, how Council communicates is regularly reviewed to meet changing user requirements and experiences.

Information is available across multiple platforms, which has impacts on how information is accessed. Statistics indicate that visits to the Council website are declining, however information is also available from other sources such as social media. A review of the Council website was reviewed and a new website will be available in late 2024 with upgraded to improve user experience, accessibility compliance, information accessibility, online services and functional compatibility with smart devices.



### Information Technology

Council's digital security was enhanced and improved through software upgrades, digitising records, and planning a new website and intranet. Work has commenced on the preparation of an Information and Communications Technology Strategy (ICT) strategy. Upgrades to Council facilities were completed including new Audio-Visual equipment in the Town Hall and Council Chambers and acoustic panel installation at the Homebush West Community Centre.

### Performance Indicators

The table below details Council's achievement of key performance indicators and demonstrates the contribution to the Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL) in the Delivery Program 2022-2026

Measure	Baseline	Achieved	Change
Quality/Condition of Sportsgrounds (excellent-good ratings)	82% (2019)	86% (2023)	▲
Quality/Condition of Playgrounds (excellent-good ratings)	84% (2021)	83% (2023)	▼
Quality/Condition of Community Centres (excellent-good rating)	74% (2021)	71% (2023)	▼
Quality/Condition of Library facility (excellent-good rating)	88% (2021)	92% (2023)	▲
Quality/Condition of transport services (excellent-good rating)	85% (2019)	76% (2023)	▼
Quality/Condition of footpaths (excellent-good rating)	41% (2021)	51% (2023)	▲
Quality/Condition of kerbs, gutters & drainage (excellent-good rating)	35% (2021)	46% (2023)	▲
Quality/Condition of roads (excellent-good rating)	38% (2021)	51% (2023)	▲
Access to parks and open space (excellent-good rating)	83% (2018)	87% (2023)	▲
Access to information about what's happening in LGA (excellent-good rating)	n/a	46% (2023)	◀▶
Council website visits	693,525 (2021)	543,000 (2024)	▼

Legend ▲ improving ▼ declining ◀▶ stable

### Looking Ahead 2023-2024

- We have allocated over \$4 million in renewal works including footpaths, roads, kerbs and gutters, stormwater, bridge, building, traffic facilities and playground renewals in the 2024-25 budget
- We have allocated about \$1 million to new works including new street planting, streetscaping improvement and traffic management in the 2024 – 2025 budget
- We have allocated over \$5 million to major projects including Golf Driving Range Nets, Begnell Field drainage and design of parks upgrades in Strathfield Park, Hudson Park, Airey Park and Begnell Field under the WSIG grants program.
- We will continue our review and preparation of a new Development Contribution Plan.
- We will progress the Strathfield LGA wide transport and traffic study
- We will commence an Open Space, Recreation, Sporting and Community Facilities Study
- We will prepare and review Plans of Management for community land including updating of Cocks Creek Reserve Plan of Management.
- We will deliver programs and community based campaigns to improve awareness of Road Safety
- We will review and upgrade the Council's website to improve public access to online information
- We will provide online access to a range of online Council services through the public release of the iConcierge Application.
- We will prepare an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) plan
- We will prepare a Council Communications Strategy

Draft

## Community Wellbeing Theme

*The Community Wellbeing theme concerns the wellbeing of the local community is supported and enhanced by providing safe, clean, healthy and attractive environments, access to public spaces and community facilities, and opportunities to participate in programs and activities.*

The Delivery Program Principal Activities 2022-2026 contribute to the overall achievement of the Community Wellbeing Theme's goals and strategies of the Community Strategic Plan.

<b>Actions 2023-2024</b>	<b>Completed</b>	<b>Carry Over</b>
Broaden access and availability of community facilities and programs and support local community groups and networks.	75%	25%
Facilitate programs that provide support and connections for culturally and linguistically diverse communities, particularly new settlers.	25%	75%
Facilitate and partners with key stakeholders to support aged and disability	83%	17%
Facilitate programs that support children, youth and their families	100%	
Provide recognition and support for community organisations and volunteer programs	100%	
Manage and optimise use of parks, sportsgrounds and recreational facilities to provide fair access and meet the needs of our diverse community.	100%	
Collaborate and provide opportunities to improve community participation in healthy living programs and activities	100%	
Enhance Strathfield's reputation as a safe community by developing partnerships and building community awareness and capacity	83%	17%
Maintain safe public environments and manage reductions of hazards	75%	25%

### Achievements

- We granted over \$58,000 to 26 community organisations for a diverse range of initiatives that support local resident involvement in community-based activities.
- We worked collaboratively with police on community safety awareness including holding a crime prevention pop-up stalls in February 2024 at Strathfield Square and Coffee with a Cop in April 2024 at Homebush.
- We worked with partners to deliver wide range of community programs for seniors including fitness, health and falls prevention
- We held Multicultural Advisory Committee meetings and prepared a survey on access to information and services for our CALD community.
- We worked with partners to deliver wide range of community programs for seniors including fitness, health and falls prevention including the Stepping On Program held at Strathfield Community Centre in partnership with Sydney Health.

- We facilitated well attended school holiday programs including sports, arts and movies which were fully subscribed.
- We held 10 weekly youth drop-in service for children and youth at Strathfield Library during school terms with activities including table tennis and board games
- We completed 100% of agreements for sportsgrounds hire and commenced work on Summer 2024-2025 agreements.
- We serviced our major parks for litter and rubbish removal three times per week.
- We undertook tree inspections for almost 6500 trees and tree maintenance works including crown lifting, deadwooding, tree removals and stump grinding on 3000 trees to date.
- We partnered with the Strathfield SES to upgrade their building at the Council Depot.

### Highlights 2023-2024

#### Programs for children and teens

17% of Strathfield's population is aged under 18 years. Council provides a range of social, recreational and cultural programs for meet the needs of this group, which includes:

- The Strathfield Collaborative Youth Group met fortnightly and was involved in organising the Youth Festival events in March 2024 and school holiday activities. The Youth Festival included a soccer and basketball competition at Strathfield Park including lunch and prizes for best sports attitude.
- The Digital Media Youth Club was hosted by Strathfield Council and Shopfront Arts Co-Op and held topics including Making a Podcast, Painting with Light, Cartoonify Yourself, Making a GIF, Creating a Vlog and content creation.
- Regular school holiday programs which included multisport programs, skateboarding, soccer, art classes, movies for children with popcorn were held regularly in the Library Ironbark Room.
- Supporting the Junior Australian Sports program which ran over 8 weeks in October to December 2023 covering soccer, cricket, basketball, hockey, touch football, AFL, netball and volleyball.
- Operating a weekly Children and Youth Drop-In program at Strathfield Library during school terms. The program provided games and opportunities for socialising and was well attended.
- Providing a multi-sport program offered for children aged 4 to 12 years in partnership with Australian International Sports Organisation as well as monthly PICO coding classes for children aged 8 to 12 years.
- A Youth Survey was held in late 2023 for children and young people aged from 12 years to 24 years.

#### Support for Seniors

12% of Strathfield's population is aged 60 years or over. Initiatives to support this group during 2023-2024 included:

- Promoting awareness of technology to seniors through the Tech Savvy Seniors program and cyber security safety campaigns. Over 300 seniors attended 38 Tech Savvy Seniors sessions.
- Promotion of health and fitness programs for older people including tai chi, fitter and stronger, line dancing, ballroom dancing, aqua aerobics and yoga.

- Celebrating Seniors Week in March 2024 with a range of activities including Elvis Returns concert, Introduction to Croquet, Give Golf a Go, performance by the Strathfield Symphony Orchestra and Morning Tea with the Mayor.
- Collaborating with partners such as Sydney Local Health District for health education programs including Stepping On programs for older people who have had a fall or at-risk of falling.

**Inclusiveness**

4.3% of the Strathfield population report they need help in their day-to-day lives due to disability. We have adopted a Disability Inclusion Plan and actions taken by Council are set out in the statutory reporting section of this report. Some of the key actions delivered include:

- Worked in partnership with CABL and provided a community counter at the Library every second and fourth Tuesdays to spread awareness and information about disability, accessing NDIS, information about support services in the community and available employment opportunities.
- Installation of Hearing Loops at Strathfield Council Chambers and Strathfield Town Hall.
- Translation of the 'Discover Your Council' booklet into an Easy Read format for people with intellectual disability or limited literacy and promoted to community. This booklet is available on Councils' website at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/participate/discover-your-council/>
- Council's Traffic Team ensured facilities for new works were full Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant.

**Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities**

Strathfield LGA has a large multicultural community with 59% of its population born overseas and 65% speaking a language other than English at home. Some of the key programs and events delivered include:

- Worked in partnership with Burwood Council and the Multicultural Network to deliver a monthly community information session involving government agencies and non-government organisations and participation of language translators. The monthly session is held in different locations across the LGAs.
- The 'Discover Your Council' booklet was updated with translated versions in English, Chinese simplified, Korean, Nepali, Arabic, Tamil and Easy Read. These are available on Council's website.
- Celebrated Lunar New Year at the Strathfield Library with Chinese dance performance and calligraphy offered to the community with Korean and Chinese calligraphers.
- Supported the Multicultural Advisory Committee and prepared a survey on access to information and services for our CALD community.
- Met and established engagement with local CALD organisations

**Community, recreation and sporting facilities**

Council provides a wide range of community and recreational facilities to enable all members of our community, irrespective of age, to participate in activities that support physical and mental wellbeing. This includes provision of sportsfields, playgrounds, courts, outdoor gyms and walking tracks for formal sport and informal recreation and leisure across the Strathfield LGA. 95% of all scheduled maintenance of maintenance of open space, parks and reserves, sportsfields and verges was completed. This included mowing, line marking, maintenance of wickets and sportsfields equipment, checks of lighting, irrigation



and playgrounds. In 2023-2024, Council completed upgrades to Tavistock Reserve in Homebush West and Boden Reserve Playground in Strathfield.

### Community Safety

Council provided a range of programs to protect and support the health and safety of the local community including day/night ranger and parking patrols, swimming pool inspections, monitoring of pollution and animal controls, removal of abandoned vehicles and graffiti vandalism improved the safety in the Strathfield Council area. Council works collaboratively with the Auburn and Burwood Police on crime prevention strategies which included:

- Adopted a Community Graffiti Management Policy
- Worked with Auburn Police Command and local high schools to promote 'Coffee with a Cop program', an education program for youth including information on electronic fraud, abuse, violence, vandalism, theft, robbery and several other safety matters.
- Crime Prevention stall held in Strathfield Square in February 2024
- Participated in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence activities by providing self-defence classes for women and providing violence awareness information.

### Performance Indicators

The table below details Council's achievement of key performance indicators and demonstrates the contribution to the Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL) in the Delivery Program 2022-2026

Measure	Baseline	Achieved	Change
Appearance & maintenance of residential areas (excellent-good rating)	73% (2021)	63% (2023)	▼
Appearance and maintenance of public spaces (excellent-good rating)	71% (2021)	65% (2023)	▼
Care & maintenance of parks and reserves (excellent-good rating)	84% (2021)	76% (2023)	▼
% volunteers in LGA community (ABS Census)	15.1% (2016)	9.6% (2021)	▼
Acceptance of community diversity (excellent-good rating)	75% (2019)	78% (2023)	▲
Feeling safe in their street (excellent-good rating)	71% (2019)	67% (2023)	▼
Feeling safe in their suburb (moving around) (excellent-good rating)	74% (2019)	68% (2023)	▼
Feeling safe on local public transport (excellent-good rating)	85% (2019)	84% (2023)	▼
Major crime offences in LGA (across 60 month trend)	Stable (2022)	Stable (2022)	◄►
Control of graffiti and vandalism in LGA (excellent-good rating)	64% (2019)	64% (2023)	◄►

Legend ▲ improving ▼ declining ◄► stable

### Looking Ahead 2023-2024

- We will finalise preparation of the Community Wellbeing Strategy
- We will open the Community Service Centre in Burlington Road Homebush to provide support and resources for migrants, seniors and domestic violence in the Strathfield LGA
- We will continue to collaborate with Police and community stakeholders to improve community safety through targeted delivery of community education and awareness campaigns, undertake safety audits, review our Strathfield Community Safety Plan, prepare our Graffiti Management Policy and deliver Cyber Safe Strathfield community information programs to raise community awareness of scams and cyber-attacks.
- We will undertake to maintain our public areas to a high standard through pro-active programs for street tree maintenance, continuing our day and night area patrols, managing complaints regarding anti-social behaviours
- We will provide support to our senior's community through working with partners to deliver and facilitate a wide range of seniors programs, activities and events for health, wellbeing, social interaction and community safety.
- We will facilitate a range of programs for children and young people through delivery of programs such as school holidays, library based children's programs, youth and children's drop-in services
- We will continue to review pedestrian access and mobility and implement accessibility improvements for people with disabilities or who are less mobile and partner with disability and carer providers to promote disability inclusion and access
- We will support healthy lifestyles by maintaining our parks, amenities, playgrounds and recreational facilities to high standards and providing fair access to our sportsgrounds and community facilities
- We will provide programs for volunteer involvement and recognise our community volunteers and the valuable work they contribute.

## Celebrating Culture and Place Theme

*The Celebrating Culture and Place theme concerns providing opportunities for prosperity through innovative business development, improving regulatory systems and promoting a sense of civic pride and economic benefits.*

The Delivery Program Principal Activities 2022-2026 contribute to the overall achievement of the Celebrating Culture and Place Theme's goals and strategies of the Community Strategic Plan.

<b>Actions 2023-2024</b>	<b>Completed</b>	<b>Carry over</b>
In collaboration, plan, deliver and promote vibrant attractive and safe town and village centres and commercial areas		100%
Promote a range of activities and experiences to attract local community and visitors to the Strathfield area	100%	
Implement programs to educate, improve and monitor business regulation compliance	100%	
Provide access to library and information services to support and promote community learning, literacy, knowledge and social cohesion	100%	
Explore and reflect on shared culture, history and heritage of Strathfield's communities	66%	33%
Promote and deliver events that connect communities and celebrate achievements	100%	

### Achievements

- Strathfield Council hosted delegates from our Sister City, Gapyeong County in South Korea. 9 delegates visited Strathfield on Monday 20 May 2024. A welcome ceremony was held in the Strathfield Town Hall, the delegates were taken on a tour program of the Strathfield LGA and a Welcome Ceremonial Dinner in the evening.
- We welcomed nearly 250,000 visits to the Library, over 160,000 borrowings and 87,000 wifi sessions. Numbers of patrons using the extended hours service increased to 28,000.
- We ran over 210 programs in Strathfield Library in 2023-2024 with over 3,700 people attending including activities for preschool, primary school and adults with bilingual programs.
- We celebrated Australia Day 2024 with over 3000 people in attendance. The day featured performances by Walangari Karntawarra and Diramu Aboriginal Dance and Didgeridoo and presented local citizenship awards were presented on Australia Day 2024 to Bridget Sakr (Citizen of Year) & Roukaya Ayoub (Young Citizen) from Strathfield Girls High School. Over 3000 people attended.
- We celebrated the Strathfield Festival at Strathfield Square on 2-4 May 2024 with over 25,000 people attending to enjoy live music, roving entertainment, and local cuisines served by nearby businesses.
- We conferred Australian citizenship to 596 local residents at eight citizenship ceremonies held by Council.
- ANZAC Day Memorial Service was held on ANZAC Day 25 April 2024 at Davey Square Memorial.

- We celebrated National Reconciliation Week in May 2024 with a talk on Aboriginal History by Dr Paul Irish in Strathfield Library
- We partnered with multiple organisations and facilitated five major exhibitions at the Library's Ironbark Gallery including displays and talks on history and art historical exhibitions showcasing our local community.

### Highlights 2023-2024

#### Cave Road Centre

A design to improve parking at Cave Road centre was approved to increase parking spaces for 10 to 21 including a designated parking space, footpath extensions and upgrading the road centre line marking for improved delineation. This new design will promote a safer environment by reducing the congestion on nearby roads and will increase accessibility for those visiting with shops and the nearby park. Ultimately, expansion of parking spaces aims to enhance the overall experience of visitors and support the local community.

#### Events

Council endorses an annual major program of events, which is supplemented by many smaller and targeted events and programs in Council facilities such as Strathfield Library, community centres, town hall, parks and sportsgrounds. The full list of events supported by Council is listed on page xx. The major events were well attended and include:

- A live site was set up in Strathfield Square to watch the FIFA Women's World Cup. Eight live screenings were held in July and August 2023 with about 400 people in attendance.
- Strathfield Christmas Carols were held at Strathfield Park on 2 December 2023.
- Australia Day celebrations at Strathfield Square on 26 January 2024 attracting an audience of about 3,000 people.
- Homebush Vibes was held at Rochester Street Homebush on 16 September 2023 attracting 5000 people to enjoy live music, dancing, roving entertainment, children's activities and local cuisines served by nearby businesses.
- Movies in Park summer season featured seven movie screenings with about 400 people at each session.
- Mayoral Community Christmas and Volunteer Appreciation High Tea was held on 24 November 2023 with representatives from local community organisations and community volunteers participating in the event at the Strathfield Town Hall.
- International Women's Day morning tea at Homebush West Community Centre on 8 March 2024 with over 100 participants.
- Strathfield Festival was held at Strathfield Square in May 2024 and attracted over 25,000 people to the Square over the three days.

#### Citizenship and civic celebration

596 local residents were conferred as Australian citizens at eight ceremonies held by Strathfield Council in 2023-24.

**Exhibitions**

Council provides opportunities to showcase arts, culture and historical exhibitions in its Ironbark Gallery. Exhibitions are supported by programs such as education programs, talks and performances with cover a wide range of topics of relevance to the local Strathfield community. Exhibitions included:

- NAIDOC Week with Walangari Karntawarra (4 July 2023 - 27 August 2023)
- Somewhere in Between: Marina Mavritsky (31 August 2023 - 20 October 2023)
- History of Strathfield Town Hall (Opened 1 November 2023 - 10 December 2023) presented by Strathfield Council and Strathfield-Homebush District Historical Society
- Cooks River: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow (14 December 2023 - February 2024) presented by Strathfield Council and Strathfield-Homebush District Historical Society
- Beaches, Boats & Bays: Jillian Corcoran (16 February – 21 April 2024)
- Safe from the rising tide?: Andrew Tomkins (23 April – 21 July 2024).

**Celebrating NAIDOC week**

NAIDOC Week was celebrated in July and August 2023 at Strathfield Library. The official opening event was held on 3 July 2023 featuring an Aboriginal Dance and Didgeridoo performance and smoking ceremony. An art exhibition by Walangari Karntawarra was showcased from 4 July to 27 August 2023 including NAIDOC Week. The exhibition featured Dreamtime Stories or Jukruppa known in his language. His artwork depicts animals and elements that are native to his language including a snake, Honey Ant, Witchery grub, Centipede, Caterpillar, Water, Fire, Emu, and Kangaroo.

**Library and information services**

Strathfield Library and Information Hub provides a welcoming space and range of programs and services for all age and interest groups in our community. 87% of the community rated the Strathfield Library service as excellent or good in the 2023 Community Survey. In 2023-2024, patronage of the library service exceeded pre-COVID levels. Increasing patronage was also due to the extended hours library access initiative, which involved 29,000 visits to the library after hours.

In 2023-2024, Strathfield Library had 27,419 members which increased from 24,440 in 2022-2023. 67% were members were residents of the Strathfield LGA. In 2023-2024, the service had:

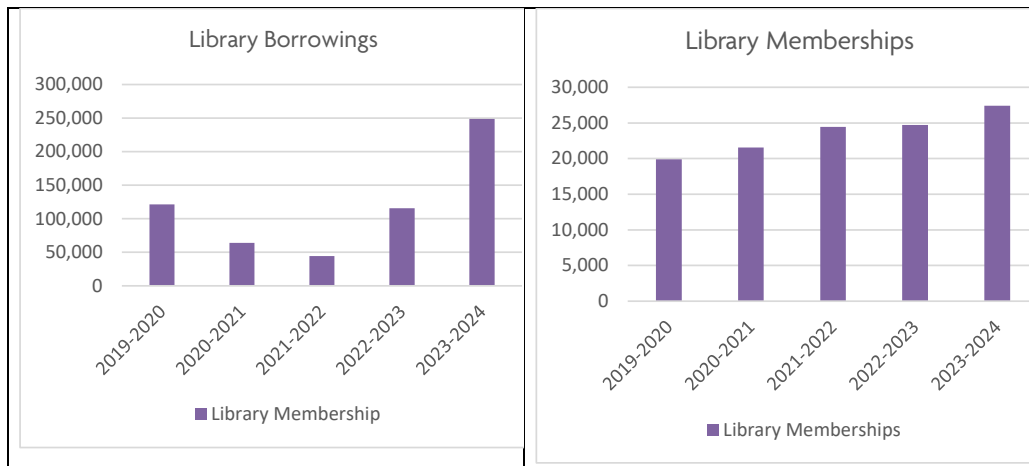
- 248,855 visitors, an increase of 46% from 2022-2023
- 185 Home Library service visits providing resources to housebound residents.
- Loaned 160,278 items, an increase of 38% from 2022.
- Increased its computer sessions at the Library by over 50% since 2022-2023
- 67% of Library members are residents of Strathfield LGA.

**Promoting education, literacy and learning**

Council's Library Service and Community Development provide a range of education, literacy and learning programs targeted to meet specific community needs such as English conversation classes for persons from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds or programs such as Baby Bounce for infants 0 – 18 months to introduce babies to the wonderful world of songs and rhymes. We hosted 399 programs with over 5100 people attending our programs at Strathfield Library. Access and availability

of programs is promoted through Council's many media channels but also through visitations by library staff to local schools, childcare centres and community meetings.

Many of our services and programs were delivered in partnerships including Justice of the Peace program, English Conversation Club with Metro Assist and ACU, Tax Help with ATO, Tech Savvy Seniors with State Library and Parenting Class, exhibitions and talks from partnerships with Strathfield School for Seniors and Strathfield-Homebush District Historical Society.



### Performance Indicators

The table below details Council's achievement of key performance indicators and demonstrates the contribution to the Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL) in the Delivery Program 2022-2026

Measure	Baseline	Achieved	Change
% Australian citizens (Strathfield LGA)	66.1% (2016)	65.4% (2021)	▼
Citizenship conferees (annual)	340 (2021)	596 (2024)	▲
Bachelor or higher degree (Strathfield LGA)	32% (2011)	44% (2021)	▲
Local shops and services meet needs (very well-well ratings)	n/a	52% (2023)	◀▶
Number of borrowings/loans of Council library	94,150 (2021)	160,278 (2024)	▲
Number of members of Strathfield library	21,544 (2021)	27,419 (2024)	▲
Number of visitors to Council library	64,008 (2021)	248,855 (2024)	▲
Satisfaction with Council Library service (excellent-good rating)	87% (2021)	87% (2023)	◀▶
Gross Regional Product	\$4.045B (2021)	\$3.87B (2023)	▼
No of local jobs	24571 (2021)	23951 (2023)	▼
No of local businesses	6445 (2021)	6934 (2023)	▲

Legend ▲ improving ▼ declining ◀▶ stable

### Looking Ahead 2024-2025

- We will prepare the Strathfield Town Centre Master Plan following completion of stage 1 community engagement and option development in 2023-2024.
- We will review and prepare an annual program of major events that caters for a wide range of interests and provides opportunities for community participation.
- We will work with our local businesses to achieve high standards of public health compliance and promote and manage outdoor dining in our town centres
- We will provide high quality and wide range of library and information services to our community which is accessible and available to persons of all ages and abilities. We will provide access to print and digital resources, promote digital literacy programs to improve awareness and skills and explore ways to improve community access to library services
- We will partner and present exhibitions and learning programs through our Ironbark Gallery that provide education and reflections on culture, art, heritage and environment particularly those connected with our local communities
- We will acknowledge our First Nation peoples through the implementation of our Reconciliation Action Plan and celebration of NAIDOC week
- We will prepare oral history project on undocumented histories of culturally and linguistically diverse groups and their experiences in Strathfield LGA with study of the Korean community commencing in 2024-2025
- We will welcome new Australian citizens and hold regular citizenship ceremonies and celebrate the achievements of our community and important civic events
- We will continue our commitment to cultural and learning exchanges through our Sister City relationship with Gapyeong County in South Korea

## Liveable Neighbourhoods Theme

*The Liveable Neighbourhoods theme concerns supporting high quality, well planned and sustainable urban and natural environments that balance well designed and innovative development with existing local character whilst protecting and enhancing the natural environments.*

The Delivery Program Principal Activities 2022-2026 contribute to the overall achievement of the Liveable Neighbourhoods Theme's goals and strategies of the Community Strategic Plan.

<b>Actions 2023-2024</b>	<b>Completed</b>	<b>Carry over</b>
Prepare, review and implement planning controls that respect local character, heritage and deliver quality liveability, aesthetics and sustainable development in the Strathfield LGA		100%
Ensure effective and efficient planning and development processes and outcomes that reflect community values	100%	
Deliver efficient, effective and responsive waste services and education to improve resource recovery and reduce illegal dumping	80%	20%
Deliver compliance inspection, monitoring and education programs to maintain high standards of public health and community safety	75%	25%
Deliver street and public domain cleansing programs and community education to improve public amenity and clean streets and waterways	100%	
Protect, monitor and expand urban forest and tree canopies across the Strathfield LGA	50%	50%
Engage community, protect and improve biodiversity, ecological health and resiliency of Strathfield's natural environment and waterways (refer: LSPS P13)	66%	33%
Collaborate and engage with NSW Government agencies, other Councils, schools and general community to participate in environmental and stormwater education and programs	100%	
Monitor, educate and implement programs for sustainable renewable energy, reduction of emissions and water, and promote transport efficiencies in Council operations and in Strathfield LGA.	50%	50%

### Achievements

- We prepared the Strathfield Medium Density Housing study and strategy which was adopted by Council in August 2024.
- We completed community engagement, prepared an options report for the Strathfield Town Centre Master Plan and created a community vision. This will guide the preparation of the Strathfield Town Centre Master Plan, which has secured grant funding for its development.
- The NSW Government announced the Transit Orientated Development (TOD) program and identified Homebush as a Tier 1 TOD. Council is actively participating in the process to deliver a new Masterplan, lead by the NSW Government, for the Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy (PRCUTS) area by the end of 2024.



- We completed flood mapping and are working with Burwood Council and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water to determine criteria for property tagging in the catchment area.
- We continued our street tree data collection program of the estimated 12,000 street trees and have achieved around 70% of the data collection.
- We determined 107 development applications.
- We determined a total of 148 tree management applications in 2023-2024.
- We serviced our parks on a fortnightly basis (weather permitting) including visual inspections and serviced for litter and rubbish 3 times per week and both days on weekends.
- We cleansed all town centres on a daily basis and undertook a twice weekly graffiti inspection program.

### Highlights 2023-2024

#### Planning and Development Assessment

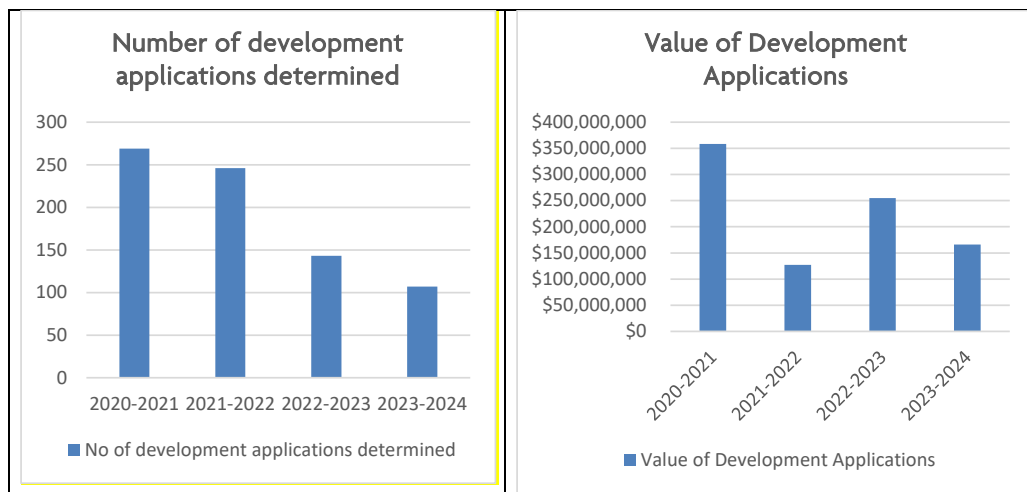
There has been significant focus on forward strategy planning that will be instrumental in shaping the positive growth and evolution of Strathfield LGA for the next decade. Council also commenced review of the infrastructure contributions plan to align with existing legislative requirements and support the financial sustainable delivery of new infrastructure into the future.

Through long term advocacy, Strathfield Council has been successful in securing support from the NSW Government for the delivery of the Homebush Masterplan. Delivered through the Transport Orientated Development Program, this Masterplan is slated for adoption by the end of 2024. Early Masterplan works identifies a yield of 8900 new dwellings or 22,500 new residents. This is a significant growth horizon for Strathfield and signals a shift from being a low growth LGA to a high growth environment. Council has made representations to the NSW Government to improve the draft plan which was exhibited in mid-2024 in order to deliver a successful community and place for Homebush.

The Medium Density Housing Strategy is concerned with improving the diversity of housing available within existing low density residential communities. In the response to the desire from community to be able to 'right size' housing in response to changing housing need, the strategy seeks introduce dual occupancy dwellings, two storey townhouses and two storey manor houses into the low density areas. Subject to a review of existing Development Control Plan controls to manage built form outcomes and place outcomes. The strategy has been subject to extensive public consultation, but a further period of public exhibition will continue post gateway determination. It is anticipated that the strategy will be adopted and changes to the Strathfield Local Environment Plan will be brought into effect in early 2025.

Council has undertaken extensive and wide consultation on community views and attitudes on the Strathfield Town Centre. This has included pop up stalls, online survey, community meetings and business meetings. The message from the community was clear that the Town Centre needs to be better! Analysis of the constraints and opportunities for the Town Centre has also been undertaken, which combined with the community feedback means the Council is in a strong position to understand how the centre operates and community attitudes. This has been used to create a Community Vision which will be a foundational statement used to inform the preparation of the Masterplan. In addition

Council has been successful in securing \$750,000 from the Federal Government Housing Support Program to deliver the Masterplan. Work will continue through 2024 with completed Masterplan being brought forward for adoption by July 2025.



### Heritage

Strathfield LGA has 232 heritage items and 17 heritage conservation areas on the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan. 227 are built items and 5 are landscape items. To date, one isolated Aboriginal find and two artefact scatters have been identified in the Strathfield LGA and located within public reserves. In 2023, Council completed major heritage conservation works to restore the historic Strathfield Town Hall including restoration of the slate roof and hall interiors.

In 2024, the Development Control Plan Part P: Heritage was reviewed, with focus on accommodation of evolving modern technologies for better sustainable and energy efficient dwellings. To support heritage conservation, Council provides a free heritage advisory service to owners of properties under statutory heritage listing in the Strathfield LGA.

Council defended a number of adverse development application proposals and actions to protect and conserve important heritage items and conservation areas in the Strathfield LGA. Council has been successful in securing significant amendments to a number major heritage proposal to improve the outcomes for the community.

### Waste Management

Management of waste is required to effectively prevent risks to public health, environmental contamination and the loss of valuable resources. Council does not manage industrial and commercial waste, which in 2022-2023 generated 42% of all waste in the Strathfield LGA. Council's services provide a domestic weekly garbage, fortnightly recycling and green waste collection to residential single dwelling houses (SUDs); a weekly garbage and fortnightly recycling services to multi-unit dwellings (MUDs) and three annual clean-up collections per household in the LGA. The key waste results from 2023-2024 were:

- 10,844.22 tonnes of general waste (red) bins was collected
- 2198 tonnes of recycling (yellow) bins were collected
- 2764.89 tonnes of green waste bins were collected
- 7,977 household clean-up services were collected measuring 919.08 tonnes of waste.
- 31.4% of waste, measuring 4962.97 tonnes, was diverted from landfill, which is unchanged from the previous year, but falling well short of the target of 80% diversion.
- 582 separate illegal dumping incidents were recorded in 2023-2024, a decrease from the prior year of 1022 incidents.
- The Return and Earn vending machine at the Strathfield Town Centre, collected 597.20 tonnes of recyclable materials in 2023-2024.



There are many ongoing challenges for waste management in the Strathfield LGA, particularly the differences in waste management practices from residential houses compared to multi-unit dwellings. Audits of residential waste bins revealed significantly lower waste diversion rates from landfill of Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) and higher levels of waste contamination rates. In response, Council has focused on education and enforcement programs to MUDs to improve these rates.

To promote and educate improvement in community waste practices, Council promoted events to increase recycling including E-waste, Chemical Clean Out Drop Off events and an increase of drop off points for collection of light globes, batteries, x-rays, printer cartridges, mobile phones and CDs/DVDs recycling. Council supported the collection of unlimited free household items collection by The Bower Reuse and Recycling Centre. Council held the 'Get the Site Right' awareness and education program in October 2023 to encourage developers, builders and home renovators to implement best-practice erosion and sediment controls to prevent sediment runoff from being washed or blown-off their sites into stormwater drains and out to local creeks and rivers.

### Pollution and public health inspections

Council inspected 212 medium and high-risk food businesses in 2023-2024. 68% of food businesses received a 4 or 5 star 'Scores on Doors' rating, while 12% of food businesses failed their inspection. There was a 376% increase in mobile and temporary food registrations since last year. Complaints about food safety increased by 77% in the last year with a total of 56 complaints received. Complaints included

hygiene and handling, foodborne illness, labelling and advertising, food quality and deterioration. Council undertook annual inspections of skin penetration and public swimming pools. A total of 16 skin premises and 4 public swimming pools were inspected. Actions were initiated for non-compliances.

Exposure to contaminated sites may affect the health of people, animals or plants. Contamination makes the land unsuitable for most uses. Land contaminated by potentially harmful substances are registered as contaminated sites. Land contamination can be caused by a variety of land uses. Strathfield LGA has six registered contaminated sites with only one under preliminary investigation – the former Ford landfill in Homebush West. Old petroleum stations and other historic landfills also present a risk for certain land uses.

### Water Monitoring

Council conducts monthly water quality to monitor the health of the two tributary river systems within the LGA which can be affected by an influx of leaf litter and additional debris. Sites monitored include Cocks Creek, Cocks Creek Reserve, Cooks River, Powell Creek, Bressington Park and Hudson Park. The parameters for water monitoring are: PH, Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen, Salinity, Oxidation Reduction Potential (ORP), Turbidity and notes the general condition of the area (litter, wildlife observations, water condition, flow position). Testing results show variations at all locations depending on the conditions at the time of obtaining samples. Regular monitoring allows Council to identify current water quality, recognise and address problems.

### Tree Programs

Council is focused on improving the tree canopy in the Strathfield LGA, which includes trees located on public and private properties. Council has continued to replace street and public tree planting with 150 new street trees planted in 2024. Council has commenced collating a data inventory for all street trees in the LGA. We continued our street tree data collection program of the estimated 12,000 street trees and have achieved around 70% of the data collection, which is expected to be completed in 2024-2025. The data collected guides the street tree maintenance works. Council has engaged contractors to undertake maintenance of street trees including road and building clearances, dead wooding, tree removals, formative pruning and stump removals.

In collaboration with Cooks River Alliance and the Aboriginal Heritage Office (AHO), Council held school workshops and organised tours along the Cooks River. The Cooks River Exhibition was held in December 2023 to January 2024 at Strathfield Library, supported by many activities promoting Council's work with Sydney Water, the Green and Golden Bell Frog Conservation Efforts and the Cooks River.

Council has an ongoing collaboration with the Responsible Cafes Program which aims to promote and raise awareness about sustainability, reduce single-use plastic across the LGA and assist with reaching Australia's goal for Circular Economy. 14 coffee shops located at Strathfield, Homebush and Homebush West are registered to the Responsible Café program within the Strathfield LGA.

### Maintaining the public domain

Council's Civic Space team have refocused on the cleaning program and visit all town centres at least once per day. The team also undertake a twice weekly graffiti inspection management program. Council Environmental Services team has a Leaf Litter and Stormwater component in the targeted Council

Waste Education campaign. So far they have undertaken community outreach on promoting this initiative via the monthly Community Newsletter, quarterly rates notice and eNews. In addition, there is updated information in 2024 waste calendar in line with street sweeping calendar and the negative impacts leaf litter has on Council's stormwater system. Council has engaged a new street sweeper Contractor at the end of 2023 to implement three weekly boundary to boundary street sweeping.

#### **Mason Park Wetlands Bush Regeneration Project**

The Mason Park Wetlands Bush Regeneration Project is funded through an enforceable undertaking by Sydney Water to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). It aims to address various ecological concerns within the wetlands. Key tasks include mangrove management, thinning Swamp Oaks, and removing proliferating mangrove seedlings. Additionally, the project seeks to combat the spread of priority weed species and enhance sight lines for migrating shorebirds entering Mason Park wetlands. The project commenced in April 2024 and expected to conclude in September 2024.

#### **Green and Golden Bell Frog Open Day**

Open Days were held in January and March 2024 at the Greenacre Frog Ponds site hosted by Council, in collaboration with the Frog and Tadpole Study Group (FATS). These days showcased Green and Golden Bell Frog (GGBF) conservation efforts and was opened to the public for the first time since its establishment in 2021. The events aimed to raise awareness about the endangered GGBF and garnered a positive response, including enthusiastic residents eager to learn more about the species and contribute to its protection. Parents, accompanied by their children, added to the vibrant turnout, showcasing a community keen on environmental engagement. The event featured captive adult frogs and tadpoles on display, offering residents an up-close look at the conservation project. Knowledgeable guides from FATS, were present to address questions and provide insights into the GGBF conservation efforts.

#### **Cooks River**

The Federal Government awarded \$10 million to the Cooks River Alliance, which Council is a member, to restore and rejuvenate the Cooks River, focusing on enhancing the riverbank, cleaning up and restoring waterways and implementing activities like planting native species and building small-scale wetlands to improve water quality. In March and April -24, the Wurridjal Festival was held to celebrate the Wurridjal (mullet) in the Cooks River. Events held in Strathfield included Ocean Action Pod 16 March 2024 - raised awareness of waste management and impact on waterways, Green and Golden Bell Frog Open Day 30 March 2024 – opportunity to learn about GGBF habitat and see frogs, guided walk along the Cooks River (Ford Park and Maria Reserve) 4 April 2024 – guided walk with Aboriginal Heritage Office where participants learnt about the Cooks River's Aboriginal heritage sites and how to protect and enhance the Aboriginal sites for future generations and the Compost Revolution Workshop 7 April 2024 – how to compost and have a worm farm.

The Cooks River Catchment Coastal Management Program (CMP) is being developed and it will provide a strategic whole of system management approach with the overall goal of enhancing the health, ecological function and amenity of the Cooks River and broader catchment. Work completed this year included Stage 2 of the Cooks River Catchment CMP, which involved completing technical studies to fill knowledge gaps, was completed. One of these technical studies was a Biodiversity Assessment which looked at the condition and extent of wetlands, and identified management actions to improve the health and habitat of the these areas, including Yarrawee wetland. Planning for Stage 3 of the Cooks

River Catchment CMP, which will involve identifying management actions to improve the health of the Cooks River, commenced. Early work as part of this stage included identifying existing management plans that have identified actions to improve the health of the catchment. Plans reviewed included Freshwater Park Plan of Management.

### Weed strategies

Since 2012, Council has actively participated in the Weeds Action Program, multitargeted program to reduce weeds. In 2023-2024, 168 high-risk sites and 25 private property inspections were completed. the Sydney Flower Markets Education Session and the launch of the handbook targeting the Cut Flower and Foliage Industry. A total of 3000 educational materials were distributed to landholders and the community. Most notably, the discovery of Frogbit, a prohibited matter, in the above-ground pond at the Council's Community Garden provided a valuable learning opportunity for the Council Parks team, who assisted in its proper disposal.

### Performance Indicators

The table below details Council's achievement of key performance indicators and demonstrates the contribution to the Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL) in the Delivery Program 2022-2026

Measure	Baseline	Achieved	Change
Aboriginal heritage registered finds in LGA	3 (2019)	3 (2023)	◀▶
Attractiveness of buildings, streetscape and surroundings in local area (excellent-good rating)	56% (2020)	49% (2023)	▼
Care and protection of historic and heritage buildings and areas (excellent-good rating)	64% (2020)	63% (2023)	▼
Community satisfaction on how well new development blends with neighbourhood character (excellent-good rating)	40% (2020)	40% (2023)	◀▶
Maintenance of tree coverage and natural environment (excellent-good rating)	75% (2021)	74% (2023)	▼
Number of non-Aboriginal heritage items and heritage conservation areas.	232 heritage items and 17 areas (2017)	232 heritage items and 17 areas (2023)	◀▶
Quality of Council waste services (excellent-good ratings)	79% (2021)	73% (2023)	▼
Increase of waste diversion from landfill	36% (2021)	31.4% (2024)	▼
Increase of total waste materials diverted from landfill (tonnes)	5851 tonnes (2020)	49623 tonnes (2024)	▼
Tree Canopy in Strathfield LGA and suburbs	LGA 16.8%	LGA 16.7%	▼

Legend ▲ improving ▼ declining ◀▶ stable

### Emission reporting

Measure	Baseline	Achieved	Change
Total Greenhouse Gas emissions (Council)	2424t CO <sub>2</sub> -e (2023)	2007t CO <sub>2</sub> -e (2024)	▲
Total Electricity emissions (Council)	1799 CO <sub>2</sub> -e (2023)	1467 CO <sub>2</sub> -e (2024)	▲

Measure	Baseline	Achieved	Change
Total Diesel emissions (Council)	550 CO <sub>2</sub> -e (2023)	465.38 CO <sub>2</sub> -e (2024)	▲
Total Gas emissions (Council)	12 CO <sub>2</sub> -e (2023)	11.11 CO <sub>2</sub> -e (2024)	▲
Total Petrol emissions (Council)	65 CO <sub>2</sub> -e (2023)	63.87 CO <sub>2</sub> -e (2024)	▲
Reduction of emissions in Strathfield LGA (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e)	509,473 (2020)	485,141 (2022)	▲
Reduction of energy consumption (Council operations)	10,070 GJ (2018)	8,386 GJ (2023)	▲
Total water consumption (Council)	76,984 (2017)	34,479 (2024)	▲
Total water consumption in Strathfield LGA	5,337,706 kL (2020)	4,489,551 kL (2022)	▲

Legend ▲ improving ▼ declining ◀▶ stable

### Looking ahead 2023-2024

- We will continue preparing a masterplan for the Homebush Precinct of the Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy and review of our Local Environment Plan (LEP).
- We will continue to develop and review Council's flood risk management studies including completion of the Saleyards Creek floodplain management study
- We will provide heritage advisory services to support owners of heritage properties in the Strathfield LGA.
- We will provide public notification and assessment of development applications and planning proposals and provide support for planning panels.
- We will deliver a range of waste services to residential and multi-unit properties including on-call waste collection services.
- We will prepare a Waste Management Strategy and deliver community education programs aimed at reducing littering and dumping and improving recycling and reuse.
- We will provide community education and administer fire safety, swimming pool safety, awnings, building compliance and public health protection and compliance
- We will deliver cleansing and maintenance programs in public domains including town centres and operate a regular street sweeping service across the Strathfield LGA. Investigate and monitor pollution events and take action on compliance breaches
- Investigate complaints and/or breaches of permits including standing plants, skip bins, shipping containers, sediment and erosion control etc.
- We will commence preparation of an Urban Forest Strategy including Street and Park Tree Masterplan (Strathfield Greening Strategy) which identifies quality open space and thriving green corridors to ameliorate impact of growth across LGA, reduce urban heat and improve the quality of Strathfield's urban landscape, parks and open spaces and administer tree application process and investigate breaches and complaints
- We will collaborate with partners on education, events and projects to improve environmental sustainability such as National Tree Day, Bushcare and community planting days, regional programs to improve our region or catchment such as Cooks River Alliance and Parramatta River Catchment Group, developing a Backyard Habitat program

- We will undertake actions to monitor the health of our local environment including completing annual survey on Green and Golden Frog status and population, conducting monthly water monitoring to ascertain health of waterways and detect pollution incidences and measuring W. Backhousei species condition and seeking funding to instal a sluice gate to improve tidal flushing at Mason Park Wetlands.
- We are committed to reducing Council's emissions and use of resources. We will identify opportunities for stormwater harvesting or recycling alternatives to potable water use for key Council open spaces or buildings and identify viable environmental infrastructure upgrades such as energy and water systems
- We will prepare an Environmental Education Programme
- We will maintain and promote the availability of our Electrical Vehicle Charging Stations and review Council's vehicle fleet for conversion to energy efficient alternatives.

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## Responsible Leadership Theme

*The Responsible Leadership theme concerns achieving the goals of the plan by making improvements to infrastructure, delivering and facilitating better services by responsible management of community assets and consistent delivery of efficient and effective services.*

The Delivery Program Principal Activities 2022-2026 contribute to the overall achievement of the Responsible Leadership Theme's goals and strategies of the Community Strategic Plan.

<b>Actions 2023-2024</b>	<b>Completed</b>	<b>Carry over</b>
Engage and provide opportunities for the community to participate in decision making processes.	66%	33%
Facilitate Council and Committee meetings and ensure compliance with statutory and policy obligations	50%	50%
Provide support to Councillors to enable effective and representative decision making based on community priorities	50%	50%
Prepare and implement Integrated Planning and Reporting framework and provide reports on Council performance	100%	
Maintain Council's financial sustainability and provide accountable, transparent and value for money services	75%	25%
Ensure Council is properly resourced to meet challenges of implementing the Delivery Program	66%	33%
Respond to customer requests, complaints and access to information to a high standard of customer service	83%	17%

### Achievement

- We held 10 ordinary Council meetings over 2023-2024 and prepared for the 2024 Council election including planning for induction and training programs for the new Council term.
- We implemented the Operational Plan and Budget 2023-2024 from 1 July 2023, endorsed the Annual Report 2022-2023 in November 2023 and presented two 6 month Delivery Program reports in April and July 2024.
- We held six Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) Meetings from July 2023 to May 2024.
- We made representations to State and Federal Members of Parliament and government departments and agencies on issues of community priority including transport and traffic management, planning and public land and open space.
- We reviewed and adopted new and amended policies including Mandatory Data Breach Policy, Public Interest Disclosure Policy, Code of Meeting Practice and Councillors Fees and Expenses Policy.
- We implemented policies and processes relating to changes to the Protected Interest Disclosures legislation, provided training and communications to all staff and lodged our annual report to the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

- We determined 24 formal access applications within the statutory timeframe and processed 147 informal access applications.
- We completed 7 internal audits in 2024 which included development application approvals, fire safety, compliance certification, records, management, procurement, fraud and corruption, plant and fleet management and assurance mapping updates.
- We worked in collaboration and managed partnerships with other tiers of government, neighbouring councils, regional organisations including Southern Sydney Region of Councils (SSROC) and Local Government NSW (LGNSW) and local community organisations.
- We progressed our asset condition program with 70% data collection and evaluation of open space buildings data completed and improvements to stormwater GIS database improved and consolidation of the stormwater asset database.
- We prioritised and addressed issues concerning Council's long term financial sustainability issues through adopting new programs and measures including improved efficiencies, expenditure savings and increasing Council revenue.

### Highlights 2023-2024

#### Councillors

Councillors are directly elected by the community and as the governing body of the Council, they are responsible for setting and monitoring the strategic and policy direction of the Council on behalf of and for the benefit of the Strathfield community. To support Councillors in their roles, they are provided with fees, expenses and facilities, ongoing development and learning programs, regular workshops, briefings and information updates. Attendance by Councillors at Council meetings is reported on page xx. Further information on Councillors fees, expenses, training and development, interstate and overseas trips is available in the section of the report on statutory reporting.

#### Integrated Planning and Reporting

After extensive community consultation, Council endorsed the new Community Strategic Plan 'Strathfield 2035', Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2023-2024 in June 2022 for commencement on 1 July 2022. The Delivery Program and Operational Plan was revised and reexhibited to include amendments and a proposal for a Special Rate Variation which was adopted by Council in February 2023. The Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2023-2024 was revised, publicly exhibited and adopted on 27 June 2023 for commencement on 1 July 2023. You can read about Integrated Planning and Reporting System on pages xx.

#### Community Engagement

Council continued to work with our community to understand the broad range of issues important to them. Engaging with our community and listening to different perspectives helps us make better informed and more sustainable decisions. A critical part of our day-to-day business, it also helps us achieve our organisational vision and mission as well as fulfil our values of teamwork, customer focus, innovation and safety. You can read about our Community Engagement activities for 2023-2024 on pages xx.

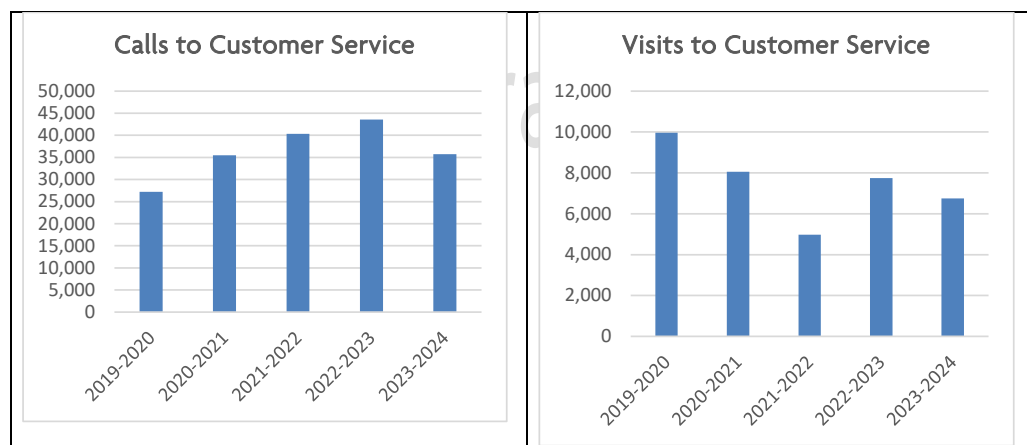
### Improving Council's Financial Sustainability

Council undertook a review of its operations and finances, which identified significant funding gaps, ongoing deficits and increasing asset backlogs. To address these issues and improve Council's long term financial sustainability, a range of measures were adopted in 2023-2024 to increase Council's revenue, improve, prioritise and fund its asset infrastructure management to reduce backlogs, improve organisational efficiencies.

### Customer Services

Council's Customer Services provides multiple touch points for customers including in-person counter functions at 65 Homebush Road Strathfield, a call centre, and a telephone after-hours 24/7 service. Over 2023-2024, 35,745 calls were made to Strathfield Council's Customer Service with an average grade of service of 88% (answered within first 20 seconds).

A new Customer Experience Strategy was prepared to guide future focus areas and action items to further enhance the delivery of quality customer service. A number of programs and initiatives were implemented to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of delivering excellent customer service to the community. With the establishment of the new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system and introduction of self-service mobile apps for residents, customer access to a wide range of services will be improved.



### Performance Indicators

The table below details Council's achievement of key performance indicators and demonstrates the contribution to the Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL) in the Delivery Program 2022-2026

Measure	Baseline	Achieved	Change
Council's customer services satisfaction rating (excellent-good rating)	51% (2018)	59% (2023)	▲
Community satisfaction with Council's efforts to give the community a say on issues that affect them (excellent-good rating)	55% (2021)	45% (2023)	▼

Measure	Baseline	Achieved	Change
Council's overall performance satisfaction rating (excellent-good rating)	61% (2018)	54% (2023)	▼

Legend ▲ improving ▼ declining ◀▶ stable

### Looking Ahead 2023-2024

- We will prepare for the 2024 Council election and prepare and implement a new Councillor induction program for the newly elected Councillors and Mayor.
- We will review our Community Strategic Plan, prepare a new Delivery Program and Operational Plan and budget for 2025-2026 and review our resourcing strategies and provide performance reports including State of the City and Annual Reports and Financial Statements as required by the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) framework
- We will support our Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee and use recommendations to improve the efficiency and accountability of Council's operations.
- We will undertake service reviews of our Building Maintenance and Waste Services.
- We will review, implement and monitor an effective and compliant Enterprise wide Risk Management Program to effectively manage and minimise Council's risk exposure, review our insurance program and ensure that Council has an effective compliance Internal Audit Program including an internal audit plan
- We will review our Community Engagement Strategy
- We will notify and engage with the community on proposals, strategies, plans and policies in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Strategy.
- We will provide support for Council and Committee meetings, ensure the public has live access to council meetings, and publish business papers and minutes of meetings.
- We will provide ongoing support for Councillors and provide access to learning and development programs and regular workshops.
- We will focus on improving our financial sustainability including the implementing the new Council rating structure, managing rates and sundry debtors, preparation of plans and reports such as Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP), Annual Budget, Quarterly Budget reviews, investments reports, annual audited financial statements and other statutory report requirements.
- We will commence preparation of a Land and Property Strategy and undertake review of leases and licences
- We will undertake asset conditions audits and review of relevant Asset Management Plans
- We will prepare and implement Council's Workforce Plan including EEO Management Plan and Work, Health and Safety programs to ensure Council has an agile and capable workforce which is resourced and supported to deliver effective programs and services
- We will provide public access to information through GIPAA, comply with record keeping requirements, review our Privacy Management Plan and public disclosure policy and reporting
- We will provide efficient and effective Customer Services and manage an effective complaint management process

# Statutory Reporting 2023-2024

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## Applications to Access Information

*Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 s.125(1)*

*Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018, cl.8, Schedule 2*

The following applications to access information under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* were received:

Number of applications received	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
GIPAA formal access requests	9	21	18	23	23
GIPAA informal access requests	221	231	161	136	147

Council lodged a *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* Annual Report for 2023-2024 and reviewed Agency Information Guide with the Information and Privacy Commissioner on 11 December 2023.



Scan here for a copy of our Agency Information Guide

Table A: The number of formal applications by type of applicant and outcome

	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Info. not held	Info. already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm or deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn	TOTAL
Media	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Members of Parliament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Private sector business	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not for profit organisations or community groups	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Members of the public (application by legal representative)	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Members of	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Info. not held	Info. already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm or deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn	TOTAL
the public (other)									
TOTAL	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table B: Number of applications and outcomes

	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Info. not held	Info. already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm or deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn	Total
Personal Information application	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Access applications (other than personal information applications)	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Access application that are partly personal information application and partly other.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table C: Invalid applications

Reason for invalidity	No. of applications
Application does not comply with formal requirements (section 41 of the Act)	-

Application is for excluded information of the agency (section 43 of the Act)	-
Application contravenes restraint order (section 110 of the Act)	-
Total number of invalid applications received	-
Invalid applications that subsequently became valid applications	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	-

**Table D: Conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure: Matters listed in Schedule 1 of the Act.**

<b>Reason for invalidity</b>	<b>No. of applications</b>
Overriding secrecy laws	-
Cabinet information	-
Executive Council information	-
Contempt	-
Legal professional privilege	-
Excluded information	-
Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety	-
Transport safety	-
Adoption	-
Care and protection of children	-
Ministerial code of conduct	-
Aboriginal and environmental heritage	-
Information about complaints to Judicial Commission	-
Information about authorised transactions under <i>Electricity Network Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act 2015</i>	-
Information about authorised transactions under <i>Land and Property Information NSW (Authorised Transactions) Act 2016</i>	-

**Table E: Other public interest considerations against disclosure: matters listed in table in section 14 of the Act**

<b>Reason for invalidity</b>	<b>No. of applications</b>
Responsible and effective government	-
Law enforcement and security	-
Individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice	-
Business interests of agencies and other persons	-
Environment, culture, economy and general matters	-
Secrecy provisions	-
Exempt documents under interstate Freedom of Information legislation	-

**Table F: Timeliness of processing applications:**

<b>Timeliness</b>	<b>No. of applications</b>
Decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus any extensions)	22



<b>Timeliness</b>	<b>No. of applications</b>
Decided after 35 days (by agreement with applicant)	1
Not decided within timeframe (deemed refusal)	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	23

**Table G: Number of applications reviewed under Part 5 of the Act (by type of review and outcome)**

<b>Type of review</b>	<b>Decision varied</b>	<b>Decision upheld</b>	<b>Total</b>
Internal review	-	-	-
Review by Information Commissioner	-	-	-
Internal review following recommendation under section 93 of Act	-	-	-
Review by NCAT	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	-	-

**Table H: Applications for review under Part 5 of the Act (by type of applicant)**

	<b>Number of applications for review</b>
Application by access applicants	-
Applications by persons by whom information the subject of application relates	-

**Table I: Applications transferred to other agencies under Division 2 of Part 4 of the Act (by type of transfer)**

<b>Type of transfer</b>	<b>Number of applications transferred</b>
Agency-initiated transfers	-
Applicant-initiated transfers	-

## Councillors

### Councillors Fees, Expenses and Facilities

*Local Government Act 1993 s.428 (f), Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 cl.217 (a) (a1) (I-viii) and Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy*

To support Councillors in performing their role, Councillors receive fees, facilities and reimbursement of expenses. Fees for Councillors and the Mayor are determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal annually.

Councillor's facilities and expenses including monetary limits are set out in Council's Councillors Expenses and Facilities Policy. The following fees were paid in 2023-2024:

Mayoral Allowance (excluding Councillor fees & Superannuation)	\$47,390
Councillors Fees	\$152,110
Superannuation contributions	\$17,165
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$216,665</b>

The following costs were incurred during 2023-2024 for the payment of expenses and provision of facilities to Councillors (excluding fees):

Type of expense	Requirement	Total Cost (\$)
Dedicated office equipment including laptop computers, mobile devices and any installation costs	LG (General) Reg. 2021 cl.217 (1)( a1) (i)	\$1,023.63
Telephone calls (including landline and mobile calls)	LG (General) Reg. 2021 cl.217(1) (a1) (ii)	\$0
Councillors Conference and Seminar Expenses	LG (General) Reg. 2021 cl.217(1) (a1) (iii)	\$4,937.23
Councillor Training and Skill Development	LG (General) Reg. 2021 cl.217(1) (a1) (iv)	\$9,780.00
Total costs of interstate visits including cost of transport, cost of accommodation and other out-of-pocket expenses	LG (General) Reg. 2021 cl.217(1) (a1) (v)	\$0
Total cost of overseas visits including cost of transport, cost of accommodation and other out-of-pocket travelling expenses	LG (General) Reg. 2021 cl.217 (1) (a1) (vi)	\$0
Spouse or partner expenses	LG (General) Reg. 2021 cl.217(1) (a1) (vii)	\$0
Childcare expenses	LG (General) Reg. 2021 cl.217(1) (a1) (viii)	\$0
Other Expenses and Provision of Facilities - Printer /photocopier, business cards	LG (General) Reg. 2021 cl.217(1) (a1)	\$1026
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,766.86</b>

### Councillor Induction training and professional development

*Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 cl.186*

#### 2023-2024 Ongoing Professional Development Programs attended

No councillor attended professional development programs

#### 2023-2024 Seminars, Circulars or other Activities delivered as part of Ongoing Professional Development

Company	Description	Date work was completed	Cost (incl. GST)	Councillors involved
Sinc Solutions	Completion of training for Deputy Mayor	27 September 2023	\$2,750	Cr Reddy
LG NSW	Taxation considerations for councillors	25 March 2024	\$210	Cr Hall
Sinc Solutions	Chair training for Deputy Mayor	22 May 2024	\$2,750	Cr Reddy
Sinc Solutions	Delivering Code of Meeting Practice to Deputy Mayor	17 June 2024	\$2,200	Cr Reddy
LG NSW	Candidate briefing session	19 June 2024	\$4,675	All potential candidates
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$12,585</b>	

### Councillor Interstate Visits

*Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 cl.217 (1) (a) (v)*

There were no interstate visits in 2023-2024.

### Overseas Visits

*Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 cl.217 (1) (a)*

There were no overseas visits in 2023-2024.

### Councillor Conduct and Complaint Handling

There were no Councillor Conduct Complaints received in 2023-2024.

Our Code of Conduct is designed to encompass the provisions outlined in the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in New South Wales (NSW). It establishes a set of fundamental ethical standards to govern the behaviour of council officials. This regulatory framework serves several essential functions:

- Clarifying Expected Standards: It provides council officials with a clear understanding of the conduct standards that are anticipated from them.
- Statutory Duty Fulfillment: It assists council officials in fulfilling their statutory obligation to act honestly and exercise due care and diligence in their roles.
- Enhancing Public Confidence: It encourages council officials to act in a manner that promotes public trust and confidence in local government.

Non-compliance with these standards by a councillor constitutes misconduct as defined by the Local Government Act of 1993. This legislation empowers the imposition of various penalties for misconduct, including suspension or disqualification from civic office. Our General Manager is responsible for addressing complaints related to councillor conduct in line with the Code of Conduct. Complaints may pertain to various matters, including but not limited to:

- Disclosure of Confidential Information: Breach of confidentiality.
- Improper Use of Office: Using the position of councillor for personal gain or to the detriment of the local government or other parties.
- Misuse of Local Government Resources: Inappropriate use of resources under council jurisdiction.
- Unauthorised Involvement in Administrative Matters: Interference in administrative matters without proper authorization.
- Improper Conduct towards Council Officials: Making offensive or objectionable statements about council officials or attempting to improperly direct or influence them.
- Gifts and Notifiable Transactions: Receipt of notifiable or prohibited gifts.

Complaints are dealt with per Council's Code of Conduct procedures, which may require formal coaching, training, feedback through to formal investigation depending on the matters presented.

## Disability Inclusion

### Disability Inclusion Plan

*Disability Inclusion Act 2014 s.13 (1)*

The Strathfield Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2020-2024 identifies actions and timeframes aligning with the five themes of the Community Strategic Plan. The following actions were taken in the 2023-2024 year to implement actions in the plan.

Action item	Response
<b>Installation of hearing loops</b>	Council installed hearing aid assistance facilities in the Council Chambers and Town Hall. The hearing aid system is an infra-red transmitter. Anyone with hard of hearing will need to be given a specific hearing aid headset to use. The overall project costs for the whole Audio Visual sound system in Council Chambers is around \$120K and the same amount for the Strathfield Town Hall.
<b>Access improvements to facilities</b>	Ensuring the provision of complying access ramps to building during renovation, and/or in new buildings. The lift in Council's Town Hall is earmarked for replacement next financial year. Council is constructing complying kerb ramps to provide continuous access to all footpath users on the streets.
<b>Sporting facilities upgraded</b>	There have not been any recent upgrades but there are some that have been proposed in the next 2 to 3 year, which are being managed by the capital works team. Plans to be reviewed during planning stage.
<b>Footpaths are audited and upgraded</b>	In 2023-24 there were a total of 109 footpaths (fully or partly) reconstructed under the Footpath Renewal Program with total budget allocation of \$4.55M. Final expenditure came well under budget.
<b>Promotion of Council events include information on accessibility</b>	Information regarding accessibility is provided on the event website.
<b>Accessible toilets are provided at Council events</b>	All event locations have accessible toilets.
<b>Review, prioritise and install signage and tactile surface indicators at key installations</b>	Work is in progress.
<b>Consultation with internal key stakeholders to ensure Universal Design and inclusive principles</b>	Development applications are monitored to ensure that they provide appropriate facilities to support people with disabilities. This includes provision of accessible parking and other amenities within residential and commercial developments.
<b>Improvements and upgrades for parking, bus stops and shelters</b>	New disabled parking spots were installed at Cave Road, Anselm Street and Barker Road. The Local Traffic Committee approved several disabled parking spots for future implementation.

Action item	Response
Disability Parking Bays are monitored to ensure appropriate use	There were a total of 3 offences in 2023/20224 for people parking in disability parking spaces.
Parks, playgrounds and walkways are audited and upgraded for accessibility	Ongoing and recommendations made as and when playgrounds require upgrading.

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## Financial

### Financial Contributions and grants

*Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 cl.217 (1) (a5)*

Total amount contributed or granted under s.356 *Local Government Act 1993* (financially assisting others) by Council was \$58,638 which comprised of:

Name of program	Amount (\$)
Community Grants	\$39,638
Creative Cultural Grants	\$19,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$58,638.00</b>

### Community Grants

Council's Community Grants are advertised on an annual basis and are open for local community, recreation, sporting and environment groups to submit projects to Council for consideration for grant funding assistance. The following grants were awarded in 2023-2024:

Community Grants Recipients	Purpose	Grant Amount Awarded (\$)
Canterbury Bankstown Chamber of Commerce	CEO for a Day	\$1,000
CASS Care Ltd	Healthy living seminars for seniors	\$4,050
Climate Action Burwood-Canada Bay Group	CALD renewable energy flyers	\$1,000
Foodlab Sydney Ltd	Community garden	\$5,000
Football Canterbury	Female coach mentor program	\$1,000
Good Neighbours Australia Inc.	Creative Kids Crafternoon	\$1,000
Holy Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church Homebush	Church Repair	\$2,200
Homebush Probus Club	Purchase of technological equipment	\$1,000
Homebush Public School P&C	Protective sporting pads – school	\$2,200
Strathfield Rotary Club	Peter Smith scholarship	\$2,000
SAISH Inc	Indian sub-continental festivals	\$3,000
St Anthony's Family Care	Equipment for accessible learning	\$2,450
St Merkorious Charity	Mobile ice cream/coffee truck	\$2,500
Strathfield Committee of Children's Medical Research Institute	Stage hire for fundraising event	\$438
Strathfield Football Club	Female football festival	\$3,900
Strathfield School for Seniors	Table tennis for seniors	\$1,000
Strathfield West Seniors Club	Physical fitness and social wellbeing for seniors	\$1,000
Sydney The Lord's Church	Intergenerational social inclusion program	\$2,000

Community Grants Recipients	Purpose	Grant Amount Awarded (\$)
The Shepherd Centre	Early intervention program	\$2,900
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$39,638</b>

Creative Cultural Grant Recipients	Purpose	Grant Amount Awarded (\$)
Australian Culture & Commerce Association Inc.	Tai Chi resources	\$1,000
Australian Malaysian Singaporean Association Inc.	Malaysian Singaporean Market Festival	\$2,500
Burwood Strathfield Lions Club	Dance Concert Fundraising Event	\$1,000
Friends of Symphonia Jubilate Inc.	10 year Anniversary Special Concert	\$3,500
K-Cultural Education N Training Centre Inc.	Year end dance festival in Strathfield	\$2,500
Korea Australia Traditional Art and Culture Association Incorporated	Craft Hanbok-wearing workshop	\$2,000
Korean Community Welfare Association	Leather Art Class for Seniors	\$1,000
Special Children Services Centre	Music therapy and instrument classes for children with special needs	\$1,500
Telugu Association Inc.	Telugu Cultural Resources	\$1,500
Trisula Arts	Tandavam-Indian Classic Dance Performance	\$1,500
Vanni Hope	Cultural and Fundraising Event	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$19,000</b>

### Rates and Charges Abandonment

*Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 cl.132*

Rates and annual charges totalling **\$6,751.05** were abandoned during 2023-2024.

### Stormwater Charge

*(Local Government Regulation clause 217 (1) (e))*

The Stormwater Management Service Charge is made in accordance with the *Local Government Amendment (Stormwater) Act 2005* and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*. A “stormwater management service” is defined as a service to manage the quantity or quality, or both, of stormwater that flows off land, and includes a service to manage the re-use of stormwater for any purpose. Council has established a Stormwater Management Service Charge and in 2023-2024 levied the charge at:

- \$25.00 for land categorised as residential



- \$12.50 per residential strata lot, including residential flats, community title, tenants-in-common residential units.
- \$25 for land categorised as business, plus an additional \$25 for each 350 square metres or part of 350 square metres by which the area of the parcel of land exceeds 350 square metres.
- \$12.50 for business strata lots.
- No charge for persons eligible for pensioner rate rebates.

Annual income from the Stormwater Management Charge in 2023-2024 totalled \$313,000 with the amount of \$586,000 carried over from the previous period as works were deferred from previous years.

A total of \$310,000 was expended on capital works, repair and maintenance. These works included stormwater infrastructure renewal work.

At 30 June 2024, Council has restricted an amount of \$589,000 as Stormwater Management Reserve.

### Work on Private Land

*Local Government Act 1993 s. 67 & 67(2) (b) Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 cl. (1) (a4))*

Council did not carry out work on private land in 2023-2024.

### Special Rate Variation

*Instrument under section 508A of the Local Government Act 1993 - Special Variation for Strathfield Municipal Council for 2023-24 to 2026-27*

During the 2023–2024 financial year, Council implemented the first year of its IPART-approved Special Rate Variation (SRV), which introduced a 35.1% increase in ordinary rates. This adjustment resulted in an additional \$6.25 million in rates revenue. It is important to note that this increase coincided with a \$245 reduction in the Domestic Waste Management Charge (DWMC) for residential ratepayers, delivering annual savings of \$4 million to households. Of the \$6.25 million raised through the SRV, \$4 million was effectively reallocated from the Domestic Waste Charge to general revenue.

In line with its strategic financial planning, Council also commenced its planned borrowing program, drawing down \$7 million to accelerate infrastructure renewal projects and address the backlog, particularly for roads and footpaths. This approach allowed for immediate improvements without delays, ensuring critical infrastructure needs were met.

The additional income from the SRV, combined with the borrowing program, enabled Council to maintain current service levels while delivering the capital works outlined in its Long-Term Financial Plan. Over the year, Council invested \$13.5 million in asset renewals across key asset categories, including roads, footpaths, bridges, buildings, stormwater systems, and open space and recreational assets, supporting sustainable service delivery and enhancing community infrastructure.

Council's financial management for the year ended 30 June 2024 reflects a strong adherence to its budget and LTFP forecast, with actual operating results closely aligned to the original unaudited budget forecasts. A key factor to note is the difficulty in forecasting losses on the disposal of assets, as these figures are tied to the residual value of assets that are near the end of their useful lives and being replaced under the council's asset renewal program. These losses are not actual monetary losses from the sale of assets but rather accounting adjustments that reflect the difference between the remaining book value of the asset and its replacement or disposal value. Given the variability in the timing and valuation of asset renewals, accurately predicting these losses in advance is challenging and subject to factors beyond the council's control. However, when excluding these accounting adjustments, Council's Operating Deficit Before Capital Income amounted to \$5.851M which is better than the budget forecast deficit of \$6.008M.

**Operating Revenue:**

- Council achieved \$73.999M in total income from continuing operations, exceeding the budgeted \$60.935M. Excluding grants and contributions for capital purposes, the core operating revenue categories, including rates and annual charges (\$36.920M vs. \$36.948M budgeted) and user charges and fees (\$5.290M vs. \$5.022M budgeted), demonstrate strong forecasting and management, with only minor variances.

**Grants and Contributions for Capital Purposes:**

- Council received \$22.943M in grants and contributions for capital purposes, significantly exceeding the budgeted \$9.762M. While such grants are contingent on external factors and challenging to predict with precision, Council's ability to secure these additional funds underscores its effectiveness in attracting external funding for capital works.

**Operating Expenses:**

- Total expenses from continuing operations were \$58.581M, slightly above the budgeted \$57.261M. When excluding losses from disposal of assets, Council's costs were lower than budget, with materials and services (\$19.777M vs. \$20.607M budgeted) and employee benefits and on-costs (\$25.805M vs. \$25.524M budgeted) both being lower than original forecasts.

**Net Loss from Disposal of Assets:**

- A net loss of \$1.674M from the disposal of assets was recorded. As previously noted, this does not represent an actual financial loss but rather an accounting adjustment tied to the renewal of assets. This accounting treatment highlights the council's ongoing commitment to its asset renewal program.

Council also reduced its operating deficit before capital income to \$7.52M, a marked improvement from \$9.63M in the prior year. This reduction reflects early success in controlling costs and enhancing operational efficiency. Despite inflationary pressures, materials and services costs declined to \$19.78M, reflecting effective cost management. Additionally, interest income increasing to \$2.3M, largely driven by rising interest rates and optimised cash investment strategies. Incremental growth in user fees and charges also reflect improved revenue from community facilities and services. This improvement on financial performance and close alignment to budget forecasts underscores Council's commitment to sound financial discipline.

## Contracts and Legal

### Legal Proceedings

*Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 cl.217 (1) (a3)*

On the information available to Council, from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, \$822,701.24 of expenses were incurred in relation to legal proceedings. This was comprised of:

Legal Costs	Amount incurred
Legal Costs - Other	86,975.38
Legal Costs - Planning and Development	668,006.47
Legal Costs - Debt recovery	67,719.39
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>822,701.24</b>

The outcomes of actions against or commenced by Council are set out in the tables below:

#### Actions against Council

Matter	Outcome
Fairmont Homes v Strathfield Council Appeal against penalty notice issued for non-compliance with development consent	Matter withdrawn
Develop Pty Ltd v Strathfield Council Appeal against penalty notice issued for non-compliance with development consent	Guilty Plea, Conviction recorded and fine of \$1,100 imposed
Rajesh Kumar Dhupar v Strathfield Council Appeal against penalty notice issued for not having animal under control as required by the <i>Companion Animals Act</i>	Ongoing
E & C Development v Strathfield Council Appeal against penalty notice issued for non-compliance with development consent	Ongoing
Empirical Developments v Strathfield Council Appeal against penalty notice issued for non-compliance with development consent and pollution of waters	Development without consent offence – conviction entered and fine of \$1,400 imposed Pollute waters offence - conviction entered and fine of \$1,400 imposed
Glen Luna CCC Pty Ltd ATF The Glen Luna CCC Trust v Strathfield Council Appeal against a deemed refusal of a development application	Ongoing
The Trustee for J.J. Discretionary Trust v Strathfield Council Appeal against a deemed refusal of a development application	Ongoing
Llandilo Property Trust v Strathfield Council	Proceedings withdrawn

Matter	Outcome
Appeal against a deemed refusal of a development application	
Sheriff Selim v Strathfield Council	Awaiting judgment
Appeal against an actual refusal of a development application	
Site Demolition Pty Ltd v Strathfield Council	Matter withdrawn
Appeal against penalty notice issued for non-compliance with development consent	
Qin Huang Wang v Strathfield Council 15 Homebush Rd, Strathfield	Ongoing
Appeal against a deemed refusal of a development application	
Jianzhong Wang v Strathfield Council 38 Rochester St, Strathfield	Ongoing
Appeal against a deemed refusal of a development application	
Willis Woo v Strathfield Council 12 South St, Strathfield	Ongoing
Appeal against an actual refusal of a development application	

#### Actions commenced by Council

Matter	Outcome
<i>Strathfield Municipal Council v Aussie Skips Recycling Pty Ltd</i> 84-108 Madeline St, Strathfield South Class 4 proceedings (prosecution)	Consent orders entered by the Court
<i>Strathfield Municipal Council v Malass</i> 27 Boden Ave, Strathfield Class 4 proceedings (prosecution)	Declarations made in accordance with summons. Respondents ordered to cease use of the unlawful development by 4 February 2025 with demolition of unlawful development by 4 April 2025

#### Contracts

*Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 cl.217 (1) (a2)*

The table below shows the contracts that were awarded between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024 with a contract value of greater than \$150,000:

Contractor	Nature of Service	Contract value (\$)
D & M Excavations and Asphaltting Pty Ltd	Road Work Upgrades and Heavy Patching Works at Everitt Place, Newton Road, and South Street - Strathfield.	\$291,414.75
Hill Pda Consulting	Consultation services for development of Strathfield Council Land And Property Strategy	\$164,802.00
Ally Property Services Pty Ltd T/A Ally Civil	Construction of Traffic Calming Devices at Cave Rd Strathfield.	\$238,391.85
Highend Civil Pty Ltd	Road Work Upgrades and to undertake the Kerb & Gutter Reconstruction Works At Chisholm St, The Crescent And Cleveland St at Strathfield.	\$220,764.72
ANR Engineering Pty Ltd	Kerb & Gutter Reconstruction Works at Arthur St, Newton Rd, Pomona St, Tavistock Rd, Victoria St and Yarrowee Rd at Strathfield.	\$215,487.25
State Civil Pty Ltd	Road Work Upgrades and Heavy Patching Works at Highfields Cres, Coronation Pde, & 2 Sections Of Bede Street - Strathfield.	\$273,907.70
Ally Property Services Pty Ltd T/A Ally Civil	Reconstruction Of Footpaths at Punchbowl Road at Strathfield.	\$185,435.80
Rockpave Civil Pty Ltd	Road Work Upgrades and Heavy Patching Works at Heavy Patching Works at Bareena St and Pemberton St - Strathfield.	\$331,191.52
Downer Edi Works Pty Ltd	Road Work Upgrades and Road Work Upgrades and Rehabilitation of Road Pavement of Pilcher Street, Strathfield South - Strathfield.	\$681,249.80
State Civil Pty Ltd	Road Work Upgrades and Heavy Patching Works at Shortland Avenue & Broughton Road - Strathfield.	\$205,211.60
Cunneen & Company Pty Ltd	Supply And Installation of Gateway Signage At Centenary Drive, Coronation Parade And Underwood Road For Strathfield Council.	\$225,500.12
Ozpave (Aust) Pty Ltd	Road Work Upgrades and Heavy Patching Works At Heavy Patching Works At Council Depot - Strathfield.	\$187,308.00
Highend Civil Pty Ltd	Road Work Upgrades and Heavy Patching Works at Heavy Patching Works At Dean Street, Strathfield South - Strathfield.	\$264,348.70
Ozpave (Aust) Pty Ltd	Road Work Upgrades and Heavy Patching Works At Heavy Patching Works At Mitchell Road, Richmond Road, Naughton Street And Park Road - Strathfield.	\$483,005.97

Contractor	Nature of Service	Contract value (\$)
Co Ordinated Construction Pty Ltd	Reconstruction Of Footpaths at Various Locations on Liverpool Road At Strathfield.	\$243,564.09
Sold Out National Event Management	Planning, Management, Infrastructure for Strathfield Community Engagement Events.	\$679,963.18
Rockpave Civil Pty Ltd	Road Work Upgrades and Heavy Patching Works At Long Street, High Street And Mintaro Ave - Cross Street - Strathfield.	\$157,426.50
Ozpave (Aust) Pty Ltd	Road Work Upgrades and Heavy Patching Works At Dickson Street, Hydebrae Street, Tiptree Avenue And Merley Road - Llandilo Avenue - Strathfield.	\$175,021.55
MSA Civil & Communications	Road Work Upgrades and Heavy Patching Works At Dickson Street, Hydebrae Street, Tiptree Avenue And Merley Road - Llandilo Avenue - Strathfield.	\$278,162.34
Rosmech Sales & Service Ltd	Support And Delivery of One Dual Control Road Sweeper - Rosmesh R6 Regen Mounted Hino FG 1628 For Street Sweeping Services At Strathfield LGA.	\$506,122.10
State Civil Pty Ltd	Road Work Upgrades and Heavy Patching Works At Redmyre Road, Noble Avenue, Ada Avenue, Wallis Avenue And Macarthur Avenue - Strathfield.	\$305,896.54
Stateline Asphalt Pty Ltd	Road Work Upgrades and Associated Works At Mackenzie Street, Mitchell Road Strathfield & Wentworth Street Greenacre.	\$228,052.00
Rockpave Civil Pty Ltd	Reconstruction Of Footpaths at Mintaro Ave, McEncroe St, Pemberton St, Juno Parade, Sylvanus St, Shortland Ave and Howard St.	\$231,588.83
Hays Specialist Recruitment Pty Ltd	HR – Perm, Temp Placements & Services for Strathfield Council.	\$611,152.91
TPG Network Pty Ltd	Recurring Charges for Internet, Support Services and Phone Services	\$304,840.80
Environmental Wastewater Catchment Services PL T/A Enviro Sweep	Strathfield Council Street Sweeping and Cleaning Services.	\$1,054,921.00
Ozpave (Aust) Pty Ltd	Road Work Upgrades and Associated Works at Flemington Road, Francis Street & Howard Street.	\$166,237.50
ANR Engineering Pty Ltd	Reconstruction Of Footpaths at Multiple Sections on Drew St & Ford Street.	\$162,150.00
Ally Property Services Pty Ltd T/A Ally Civil	Telopea Avenue Culvert Replacement, Homebush West.	\$299,832.50

Contractor	Nature of Service	Contract value (\$)
Bucher Municipal Pty Ltd	Supply And Delivery of 2 Garbage Trucks for Strathfield Council.	\$1,076,460.00
Planet Civil Pty Ltd	Reconstruction Of Footpaths at Multiple Sections on Arthur Street	\$180,092.99
Civil Streetscapes Pty Ltd	Reconstruction Of Footpaths at The Boulevard And Underwood Road.	\$274,183.54
Maddocks	Legal Services for Strathfield Council.	\$447,015.83
Data 3 Limited	Azure, Office 365, Data Storage and Various Technology Services.	\$530,033.06
Conybeare Morrison International T/A CM+	Homebush Active Travel Network - Cycleway and Walking Track Concept in Strathfield.	\$276,936.00
Morrison Low Consultants	Strathfield Business Improvement Services.	\$171,034.86
Reino International Pty Ltd T/A Duncan Solutions Pty Ltd	Supply, Installation & Maintenance of Parking Meters in Strathfield LGA.	\$226,374.45

### External Bodies Exercising Council Functions

*Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 cl.217 (1) (a) (6)*

Council did not delegate functions to any external bodies in 2023-2024

### Companies in which Council held a controlling interest

*Local Government Act 1993 s428 (2) (p)*

Council did not hold a controlling interest in any companies during 2023-2024.

### Controlling interest in a Corporation, Partnership, Trust, Joint Ventures, Syndicates of other bodies

*Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 c. 217 (1) (a8)*

Strathfield Council has not participated or hold any interest in corporations, partnerships, trust, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies (whether or no incorporated). For the purposes of public transparency, Strathfield Council is a member of the following organisations:

- Cooks River Alliance (CRA)
- Resilient Sydney
- Southern Sydney Region of Councils (SSROC)
- Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG)
- Statewide Mutual
- Library Consortium Management System
- Aboriginal Heritage Office

## Modern Slavery

*Local Government Act s.428 (4) (c) & (d) & Modern Slavery Act 2018*

Strathfield Council is committed to combatting modern slavery in all its operations and supply chains. Modern slavery encompasses severe forms of exploitation including forced labour, human trafficking and servitude. There were no issues raised by the Anti-Slavery Commissioner during the year in relation to the operations of Council.

During this reporting period, Strathfield Council has implemented the following measures to reduce the risk of procurement activities resulting in or contributing to human rights violations:

- The Procurement Policy adopted on 28 May 2024 includes a clause committing Council to take reasonable steps to ensure that goods and services procured by and for Council are not the product of modern slavery.
- Standard contracts and tendering documents have been updated to include modern slavery clauses. Modern slavery questionnaires are also sent to selected suppliers as part of the on-boarding process.
- Regular collaboration with other councils in sharing best practices and resources to enhance our collective efforts in assessing and managing the risk of modern slavery. This includes an external risk assessment of Council's ICT and cleaning suppliers.
- Participation in NSW Government procurement schemes, including those provided by LGP, SSROC and Procurement Australia ensure adherence to high ethical standards.
- The Anti-Slavery Commissioner's eLearning training has been completed by the Capital Works team and is in the process of being rolled out for all staff involved in procurement.
- Modern slavery risk assessment and management.

Strathfield Council understands that combatting modern slavery is an ongoing process and remains committed to continuous improvement.

## Service Reviews

*Local Government Act s.428 (3) & (4)(b)*

Council undertook two service reviews in 2023-2024 which included the Street Sweeping Service and the Civil Works Team. Service Reviews are monitored by the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC). The Street Sweeping service was reviewed in the context of cost and the service delivery model. Council has committed to restructuring this service to capture significant financial benefits without altering the existing level of service to the community. The Civil Works team was reviewed on the basis of team structure and internal capabilities. Cost savings were found in Council's annual budget through the removal of persistently unfilled positions. There has been no change to the level of service.

To ensure that our services are efficiently and effectively delivered within a framework of accountability, Council has reviewed and improved its service review methodology which will commence in the 2024-2025 financial year. In reviewing our services, Council will engage with the community and other stakeholders as required to determine service levels and appropriate performance measures. The reviews examine costs, methods, quality, and the efficiency of service



delivery through the collection and analysis of service data that enable informed decision making. Council is committed to reviewing at least two services annually.

## Planning

### Planning agreements compliance and effects

*Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 s.54P(1)*

The following agreements were in effect during 2023-2024

Parties	Date of Execution	Land to which the VPA relates	Description of Planning Agreement
Strathfield Council and Bridge Road Developments Pty Ltd	6 March 2024	3-5 Bridge Road Homebush West (Lot 198 DP 1284363)	Dedication of land along the northern boundary to Council for the purposes of public road and road widening. The developer is to construct a footpath, kerb and road on the land to be dedicated to Council as a Public Road.
Strathfield Council and JQZ4 Pty Ltd	21 March 2024	15-17 Columbia Lane, Homebush (Lot 1 DP 126011)	Construction, fit out and transferor dedication of 8 affordable housing units to Strathfield Council in perpetuity to increase the public housing in the Strathfield LGA.

### Planning Developer Contributions and Levies

*Environment Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021, cl 218A(1), 218(A)(2)(a),(b),(c),(d),(e),(f),(g), 218(3)(a),(b)*

A total of \$10.519m contributions and levies was received in 2023-2024 and a total of \$0.092m was spent during financial year 2023-2024. The following table shows the movement of developer contributions during the financial year 2023-24:

Opening balance at 1 July 2023	Cash	Non-cash Land	Non-cash Other	Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2024 (Cash)	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2024 (Non-Cash)

	Opening balance at 1 July 2023	Cash	Non- cash Land	Non- cash Other	Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2024 (Cash)	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2024 (Non- Cash)
Parking	426,000	-	-	-	16,683	-8,918	-	433,766	-
Community facilities	-537,000	1,085,451	-	-	21,938	-	-	570,389	-
Roads and traffic facilities	749,000	314,859	-	-	39,243	-82,788	-	1,020,314	-
Major open space	1,531,000	4,784,515	-	-	252,621	-	-	6,568,136	-
Local open space	4,799,000	2,872,440	-	-	306,858	-	-	7,978,298	-
Administration	341,000	102,508	-	-	13,740	-100,000	-	357,249	-
	<b>7,309,000</b>	<b>9,159,773</b>	-	-	<b>651,083</b>	<b>-191,706</b>	-	<b>16,928,150</b>	-
S7.12 levies – under a plan	8,797,000	1,359,951	-	-	406,278	-	-	10,563,229	-
S7.11 not under plans	890,000	-	-	-	35,600	-	-	925,600	-
	<b>16,996,000</b>	<b>10,519,724</b>	-	-	<b>1,092,961</b>	<b>-191,706</b>	-	<b>28,416,979</b>	-
VPA's	-	680,602	-	5,600,000	6,806	-	-	687,408	5,600,000

The following table details for projects for which contributions and levies have been used:

Contribution Plan	Project Description	Kind of public amenity or service	Sum of contribution expended during FY2023/24
7.11	Henley Road, Homebush West pedestrian crossing - S7.11 Funding	Roads and traffic facilities	\$481
7.11	Traffic priorities identified through Traffic Committee - S7.11 Funding	Roads and traffic facilities	\$82,307
7.11	Cave Rd - Angle Parking (Council S94 Funded)-Contractors	Parking	\$8,918

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## Staff reporting

### Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity 2023-2024

*Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 cl.217(1)(a9)*

Strathfield Council have identified the need for an EEO Management Plan. A new Anti-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity (EEO) Policy was implemented in January 2024. The policy outlines Council's Commitment to EEO that includes:

- A workplace free from discrimination and harassment
- An organisational culture which supports mutual respect and equality in the workplace;
- A workplace which values and supports diversity and equity at all levels
- A workplace that fosters and values an inclusive and culturally sensitive work environment
- Ensuring that any person who makes a complaint will be protected against victimisation or harassment.

Council greatly values diversity and inclusion within the workplace and leaders are aware of the importance in providing equal opportunities to all. A new Recruitment and Selection Policy and Procedure was also developed and implemented in February 2024, outlining the principles and processes that Strathfield Council will use when undertaking recruitment and selection activities.

### Staff employment

*Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 cl.217 (1) (d) (i-iv)*

The 'relevant day' set by the Office of Local Government for reporting on staff employment was 14 February 2024.

On this day, Council employed 187 people as permanent full-time staff, 118 people as permanent part-time and 51 people on a casual basis. The total headcount was 249 staff.

The number of employed persons who were senior staff was three and the number of other persons engaged with Council under a contract or other arrangement for the purposes of labour was four, as well as we had one apprentice.

### Senior Staff Remuneration

*Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 cl.217 (1)(b)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v) & (c)*

#### General Manager

The total remuneration package for the General Manager for the financial year ending 30 June 2024 was \$387,858 comprised of \$330,827 in base salary, \$29,581 motor vehicle benefit and \$27,450 in superannuation contributions.

#### Senior Staff

Annual Report 2023-2024 – final draft

page 148

Council has classified the following positions as Senior Staff, as defined by the *Local Government Act 1993*.

- Director, Corporate and Community
- Director, Engineering and Operations
- Director, Planning and Environment

The total combined remuneration packages for Council's senior staff members for the financial year ending 30 June 2024 was \$875,275 which includes \$777,612 in base salary, \$16,319 in motor vehicle benefits and \$81,344 in superannuation contributions.

Draft

## Public Health and Regulatory Activities

### Companion Animals Act and Regulation Activities

*Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 cl.217 (1) (f)*

A total of 49 companion animals (dogs and cats) were impounded with 1 animals rehomed. There were 4 dog attacks investigated and actioned.

Pound data returns			
Council seize activity	Cats	Dogs	Total
Seized	-	-	-
Returned to owner	-	15	15
Transferred to Council's facility	15	34	49
Animals in and arriving at Council's facility			
Animals in Council's facility	-	-	-
From seizures	15	34	49
Dumped/lost/roaming	6	5	11
Surrendered by owners	-	1	1
Animals leaving Council's facility			
Released to owners	-	-	15
Euthanised – illness/temperament	12	7	19
Euthanised – dangerous	-	-	-
Sold	-	-	22
Released to an organisation to re-home	-	-	1
Died at Council facility / DoA	-	-	0
Stolen from Council facility	-	-	0
Escaped from Council facility	-	-	0
Data relating to dog attacks			
Status	Incidents entered	Attacking dogs	Victims human – Victims animal –
Commenced	-	-	-
Finalised	4	4	2
Under investigation	-	-	-
Total	4	4	2
Data relating to Dangerous/Restricted/Nuisance Animals			
Status	Cats	Dogs	Total
Dangerous	-	5	5
Menacing	-	-	-
Restricted	-	-	-
Nuisance	-	2	2

***Funding for managing and controlling companion animals***

All pound data returns and data concerning dog attacks were lodged with the Office of Local Government in accordance with the Guidelines on the Exercise of Function under the Companion Animals Act. A total of \$69,522.62 (ex GST) was expended on Council's companion animal management programs and activities.

***Strategies for alternatives to euthanasia for unclaimed animals***

Strathfield Council's pound is funded by Council and operated through the Enfield Veterinary Hospital, which supports a rehoming strategy for stray and lost animals as an alternative to euthanasia. 1 dog were rehomed in 2023-2024. In 2023-2024, 15 cats and 34 dogs were pounded by Council. A total of 15 were returned to their owners which were all dogs.

***Dog attacks***

Information lodged as part of Council's Companion Animal Register is supplied yearly to the Office of Local Government. There were 4 reported dog attacks in 2023-2024.

***Community Education programs***

Council supports education about responsibilities for companion animals through information on microchipping and registration available at Council's Customer Service and website. Information on responsibilities for companion animals was translated into frequently used community languages: Korean and Chinese. This information is available on Council's website and Customer Service Centre.

***Off-Leash areas***

Council provides three off-leash areas for dogs at Elliott Reserve Belfield, Ismay Reserve (Allen Street) Homebush and Bressington Park Homebush. Ismay Reserve and Bressington Park off-leash areas are fully gated and Elliott Reserve is gated at Elliott Street and Punchbowl Road.

**Private Swimming Pool Inspections**

*Swimming Pools Act 1992, s.22F(2) and Swimming Pool Regulation 2018, cl.23*

Requirement	Number (2023)	Number
Number of inspections of tourist or visitor accommodation	4	0
Number of inspections of premises on which there are more than 2 dwellings	0	0
Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of a certificate of compliance under section 22D of the <i>Swimming Pool Act 1992</i>	68	14
Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of a certificate of non-compliance under clause 21 of the <i>Swimming Pool Regulation 2018</i>	53	17

### Capital works 2023-2024

<b>Parks and Buildings</b>	
<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Begnell Field Drainage and Irrigation Works (WSIG funded)	Design in progress
Begnell Field Upgrade (WSIG funded)	Design in progress
Airey Park Stage 1 upgrade (WSIG funded)	Design in progress
Hudson Park Stage 1 upgrade (WSIG funded)	Design in progress
Hudson Park Driving Range Nets and Posts upgrade (WSIG funded)	Works to commence 21/10/2024
Strathfield Park Stage 1 upgrade (WSIG funded)	Design in progress
Strathfield Park rotunda (WSIG funded)	Design in progress
Administrative building review roof frame and solar panels	Completed
Hudson Park West/East Tunnel	In progress
Council administrative precinct refurbishment (staff accommodation design)	In progress
Town Hall Repair Works	Completed

### Roads Program

<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Ada Ave Strathfield – Bareena St to Myrna Rd	Completed
Ada Ave Strathfield – South Street to Firth Ave – heavy patching	Completed
Albert Road – near Elva Street – heavy patching	Completed
Bareena St – Ada Ave to Yarrowee – heavy patching	Completed
Barker Road outside Australian Catholic University heavy patching works	Completed
Bede St – Liverpool Road to Anselm St – mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Bede St Strathfield South – Liverpool Rd to St Annes Sq – mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Bellfrog St – at the cul-de-sac – heavy patching	Completed
Birnam Grove – opposite houses 11 to 17 – heavy patching	Completed
Broughton Road Strathfield – Rochester St to Meredith St	Completed.
Coronation Pde Strathfield South – Plymouth St to Hill St – mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Cross St – Mintaro Ave to Long St - - mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Cross St Strathfield – Long St to High St – mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Dean St – Everitt Place to Edward St/Maria St	Completed
Dean St Strathfield South – Hillcrest Ave to Everitt Place	Completed
Dickson St – Merley Road to Beresford Rd	Completed



Description	Status
Ada Ave Strathfield – Bareena St to Myrna Rd	Completed
Ada Ave Strathfield – South Street to Firth Ave – heavy patching	Completed
Albert Road – near Elva Street – heavy patching	Completed
Bareena St – Ada Ave to Yarrowee – heavy patching	Completed
Barker Road outside Australian Catholic University heavy patching works	Completed
Bede St – Liverpool Road to Anselm St – mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Bede St Strathfield South – Liverpool Rd to St Annes Sq – mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Bellfrog St – at the cul-de-sac – heavy patching	Completed
Birnam Grove – opposite houses 11 to 17 – heavy patching	Completed
Dickson Street Strathfield – Hydebrae St to Merley Rd	Completed
Everitt Place - mill & fill	Completed
Excelsior St Strathfield South – Water St to Chisholm St – Heavy Patching	Completed
Flemington Rd – Park Rd to Parramatta Rd - mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Francis St – Shortland Ave to Hydebrae St - mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Gelling Ave – fronting house 10 – heavy patching	Completed
Highfield Crescent Strathfield – High St to the end – mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Homebush Road Strathfield – from Albyn Road to Victoria Street – heavy patching	Completed
Howard Street – Karuah St to Barker Rd - mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Llandilo Ave Strathfield – Tiptree Ave to Cotswold Rd – mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
MacArthur Ave – High Street to Noble Ave – heavy patching	Completed
Macarthur St – intersection with Noble Ave	Completed
Macathur Ave – Mintaro Ave to High St - mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Mackenzie St – Boyce Ave to Shortland Ave - mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Madeline St – at the intersection with Hope St – heavy patching	Completed
Melville Ave – Ada Ave to Newton Rd – heavy patching	Completed
Mitchell Rd – Arthur St to Shortland Ave – mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Naughton Street – Roberts Rd to Wentworth St - mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Newotn Rd – Wallis Ave to Firth Ave – speed cushions, concrete and mill and fill.	Completed

Description	Status
Ada Ave Strathfield – Bareena St to Myrna Rd	Completed
Ada Ave Strathfield – South Street to Firth Ave – heavy patching	Completed
Albert Road – near Elva Street – heavy patching	Completed
Bareena St – Ada Ave to Yarrowee – heavy patching	Completed
Barker Road outside Australian Catholic University heavy patching works	Completed
Bede St – Liverpool Road to Anselm St – mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Bede St Strathfield South – Liverpool Rd to St Annes Sq – mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Bellfrog St – at the cul-de-sac – heavy patching	Completed
Birnam Grove – opposite houses 11 to 17 – heavy patching	Completed
Newton Rd – Bareena St to Wilson St – mill & fill	Completed
Noble Ave – High Street to MacArthur Street – heavy patching	Completed
Oxford Road Strathfield from Homebush Road to Heydon Ave – heavy patching	Completed
Park Rd – canal to Bedford Rd - mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Pemberton St and Newton Rd intersection – heavy patching	Completed
Pilcher St Strathfield South – heavy patching	Completed
Redmyre Road Strathfield – Homebush Road to Chalmers Road – heavy patching	Completed
Richmond Rd – Arthur St to Tavistock Rd – mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Short Street west – Park Rd to the end - mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
South Street – Ada Ave to Strathlora St – kerbs and gutters and mill & fill	Completed
Strathfield Ave – Nicol Pde to The Boulevarde	Completed
The Crescent – Bridge Rd to Mackenzie St to Bates St - mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Wallis Ave Strathfield – High Street Intersection - heavy patching	Completed
Wentworth St – Norfolk Rd to Ford St - mill & fill and localised heavy patching	Completed
Wentworth St Strathfield South – from Naughton Street to Mayvic St – heavy patching	Completed

#### Drainage Program

Description	Status
Elliott Reserve – Victory Ave drainage improvement	In progress
Shortland Ave Strathfield – Pemberton St to Mitchell Rd	In progress
Shortland Rd – The Boulevarde to Nichol Pde	Completed
Teloopa Ave bridge	Completed

Torrington Road from The Boulevarde to Nichol Parade drainage improvements	In progress
Water Street from James St to Excelsior Ave Drainage improvements	In progress

**Traffic**

Description	Section
Cave Road Traffic Calming Devices	Completed
Reconstruction of existing Wombat Crossing on High Street east of Homebush Road in concrete	Completed

**Kerbs and Gutter Program**

Description	Status
Arthur St – Hornsey Rd to Centenary Drive – Kerb & Gutter replacement	Completed
Burlington Rd – Homebush Rd to Rochester St – Kerb & Gutter replacement	Completed
Chisholm St – Chatfield Ave to Cutbush Ave – Kerb & Gutter replacement	Completed
Chisholm St – Excelsior Ave to Chatfield Ave – Kerb & Gutter replacement	Completed
Mitchell Rd – Shortland Ave to Karuah St – Kerb & Gutter replacement	Completed
Newton Rd – Firth Ave to South St – Kerb & Gutter replacement	Completed
Pomona St – Drone St to Juno Pde – Kerb & Gutter replacement	Completed
Tavistock Rd – Hornsey Rd to Centenary Drive – Kerb & Gutter replacement	Completed
The Crescent – Eastbourne Rd to Hornsey Rd – Kerb & Gutter replacement	Completed
The Crescent – Richmond Rd to Eastbourne Rd – Kerb & Gutter replacement	Completed
Victoria St – Homebush Rd to Summit Place – Kerb & Gutter replacement	Completed
Yarrowee Rd – Myrna Rd to Bareena St – Kerb & Gutter replacement	Completed

**Footpath Program**

Description	Status
Cutbush Avenue from Chisholm St to the end	Completed
Davidson Street from Liverpool Road to Marlene Crescent	Completed
Davidson Street from Marlene Crescent to the end	Completed
Dean Street from Barton St to Brooklyn St	Completed
Dean Street from Brooklyn St to Dunlop St	Completed
Dean St from Frances Ave to Manning Ave	Completed
Dean St from Homebush Road to Barton St	Completed
Dean St from Manning Ave to Holmwood Ave	Completed
Drew St from Matthews St to Webber St	Completed
Ford St from Roberts Road to Wentworth Road	Completed
Hampstead Road from Exeter Rd to Kessell Ave	Completed
Hampstead Rod from Tavistock Rd to Arthur St	Completed
High St from Cross St to Eve St	Completed

Description	Status
Homebush Rd from Mintaro Ave to Long St	Completed
Homebush Rd from The Crescent to Burlington Rd	Completed
Stage 1 Bridge Road to Bates Street (PRUAIP)	In design
Section 2, 4 & 5 Active Transport Route Shared path	In design
Abbotsford Rd – Homebush Rd to Melrose St	Completed
Amaroo Ave – Noble Ave to Liverpool Rd	Completed
Arthur St – Richmond Rd to Railway Lands	Completed
Arthur St – Francis St to Fraser St	Completed
Arthur St – Hornsey Rd to Eastbourne Rd	Completed
Howard St – Myall Crescent to Shortland Ave	Completed
Woodward Ave – The Boulevarde to Parsons Ave	Completed
Mitchell Rd – Shortland Ave to Karuah St	Completed
Thomas St – Cameron St to Hunter St	Completed
Tiptree Ave – Llandilo Ave to the end.	Completed
Torrington Rd – Nichol Pde to Parsons Ave	Completed
Underwood Rd – Bellona Ave to Coleman Ave	Completed
The Boulevarde – Albyn Rd to Woodward Ave	Completed
The Boulevarde – Hunter St to Cameron St	Completed
The Boulevarde – Llandilo Ave to Malvern Cres	Completed
The Boulevarde – Woodward Ave to Torrington Rd	Completed
The Boulevarde – Wakeford Rd to Llandilo Ave	Completed
The Boulevarde – Cameron St to Mount Street	Completed
The Boulevarde – Mount St to Highgate St	Completed
The Boulevarde – Highgate Stg to Wakeford Rd	Completed
Cotswold Rd – Highgate St to Fairholm St	Completed
Coronation Parade footpath – from end to Cooks River Cycleway	Completed
Arthur St – Hampstead Rd to Mitchell Rd	Completed
Barker Rd – Howard St to Pemberton Rd	Completed
Barker Rd – Pemberton Rd to Newton Rd	Completed
Beresford Rd – Homebush Rd to Broughton Rd	Completed
Brooklyn St – Liverpool Rd to Dean St	Completed
Carrington Ave – Nichol Pde to Vernon St	Completed
Chisholm St – Chatsfield Ave to Cutbush Ave	Completed
Cleveland St – Madeline St to Cosgrove Rd	Completed
Cotswold Rd – Wakeford Rd to Highgate St	Completed
Stewart Pl – Albert Rd to Ardittos Lane	Completed
Strathfield Ave – The Boulevarde to Nichol Pde	Completed
Summit Place – Victoria St to End	Completed

Description	Status
Sylvanus St – Drone St to Juno Pde	Completed
Howard St – Myall Crescent to The Close	Completed
Underwood Rd – Coleman Ave to Cartwright Ave	Completed
Verley Drive – Wentworth Rd South to the end	Completed
Vernon St – Brunswick Ave to Alviston St	Completed
Wakeford Rd – Kingsland Rd to Cotswold Rd	Completed
Therry St E – Mooney St to St Annes Square	Completed
Vernon St – Carrington Ave to Brunswick Ave	Completed
Verona St – Rickard Rd to Wallis Ave	Completed
Wallis Ave – Ada Ave to Strathlora St	Completed
Wallis Ave – High St to Liverpool Rd	Completed
Hope Street – Madeline St to Cosgrove Rod	Completed
Howard St – Myall Cres to The Close	Completed
Juno Pde – Pomona Rd to Sylvanus St	Completed
Kingsland Rd – Highgate St to Mount St	Completed
Kingsland Rd – Albyn Rd to Agnes St	Completed
Liverpool Rd – Coronation Pde to Plymouth St	Completed
Liverpool Rd – Cross St to Eve St	Completed
Liverpool Rd – High St to Hill St	Completed
Liverpool Rd – Hill St to Cross St	Completed
Liverpool Rd – Roberts Rd to Davidson St	Completed
Liverpool Rd – Wallis Ave to Prentice Lane	Completed
Liverpool Rd – Barton St to Brooklyn St	Completed
Liverpool Rd – Hedges Ave to Braidwood St	Completed
Mackenzie St – Boyce Ave to Shortland Ave	Completed
Madeline St – Cleveland St to Pilcher St	Completed
Matthews St – Drew St to Juno Parade	Completed
Mayvic St – Roberts Rd to Wentworth St	Completed
McEncroe St – Anselm St to River St	Completed
Mintaro Ave – Macarthur Ave to Amaroo Ave	Completed
Mintaro Ave – Homebush Rd to Noble Ave	Completed
Newton Rd – Marion St to Boden Ave	Completed
Oxford Rd – Todman Pl to Barker Rd	Completed
Parramatta Rd – Courallie Ave to Telopea Ave	Completed
Patricia St – Blanche St to Punchbowl Rd	Completed
Pemberton Rd – Newton Rd to the end	Completed
Punchbowl Rd – Robinson St to Patricia St	Completed
Pilcher St – Madeline St to Cosgrove Rd	Completed

Description	Status
Pilgrim Ave – Albert Rd to the end	Completed
Pomona St – Drone St to Juno Parade	Completed
Potts St – Parramatta Rd to the end	Completed
Punchbowl Rd – Cecily St to Cosgrove Rd	Completed
Punchbowl Rd – Water St to Chisholm St	Completed
Punchbowl Rd – Cosgrove Rd to Juno Pde	Completed
Redmyre Rd – Margaret St to Vernon St	Completed
Repon Pl – Clareville Cl to the end	Completed
Richmond Rd – Tavistock Rd to Marlborough Rd	Completed
River St – McEncroe St to the end	Completed
Roberts Rd – Naughton St to Ford St	Completed
Shortland Ave – Howard St to Pemberton St	Completed
South St – Barker Rd to Newton Rd	Completed
St Annes Square – Therry St W to Bede St	Completed
Wakeford Rd – Kingsland Rd to Cotswold Rd	Completed
Wallis Ave – Glenarvon St to Augusta St	Completed
Wallis Ave – Verona St to High St	Completed
Water St – William St to James St	Completed
Water St – Sunlea Cres to Chatfield Ave	Completed
Wentworth Rd – Belllona Ave to the end	Completed
Wentworth St – Juno Pde to Drone St	Completed
The Crescent – from the end to Richmond Rd	Completed

#### Public Domain

Location	Description
3 Bridges – Lighting works (artwork) at Hamilton St and Lorraine St Bridges	Completed
Gateway Signage	In progress
Graffiti Management Plan – murals/art work	Completed
Homebush Railway Station Forecourt Domain Improvement	In progress
Installation of artwork at intersection of Bridge Road and Loftus Crescent Homebush	Completed
Installation of street light and flood lights at pedestrian crossing on Oxford Road	Installation yet to start
Installation of street light and flood lights at pedestrian crossing outside 6 Hillcrest Ave Strathfield South	Installation yet to start
Installation of street light and flood lights at pedestrian crossing in front of 174 Homebush Road Strathfield	Installation yet to start
Installation of street light and flood lights at pedestrian crossing at Hampstead Road Homebush near The Crescent	Installation yet to start

Location	Description
Installation of street light and flood lights at pedestrian crossing on Oxford Road	Installation yet to start
Lighting upgrades at intersection of Bridge Rd & The Crescent Homebush West	In design
Parramatta Road (public artwork)	EOI in progress
Station St Domain improvement (PRUAIP)	Completed

Draft

## Glossary

Action(s): A resourced program or project set out in the annual Operational Plan.

ARIC: Audit and Risk Improvement Committee

Assets: Includes roads, footpaths, drainage, bridges, traffic facilities, cycleways, buildings and parks

Capital works program: Council's adopted program for the provision of capital projects.

Community Strategic Plan (CSP): Identifies the long-term aspirations of the Strathfield community for the next 10 years and beyond. It is the community's plan. The CSP recognises that outcomes involve a range of stakeholders including Council, individuals, community organisations, not-for-profit sector, businesses, governments and agencies.

Delivery program: The Delivery Program sets out clear priorities and ongoing principal activities Council will undertake within our responsibilities and capacity, towards achieving the community outcomes in the Community Strategic Plan.

ICT: Information and Communications Technology

Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (IP&R): The IP&R framework for Local Government was introduced in 2009 as an amendment to the Local Government Act 1993. It provides an integrated approach to community, financial, asset and resource planning. The IP&R framework consists of a hierarchy of documents including the Community Strategic Plan, Community Engagement Strategy, Resource Strategy, Delivery Program, and an Operational Plan, which are reviewed periodically. The framework is supported by reporting such as the Annual Report.

LGA: Local Government Area

Operational plan: Council's annual plan which outlines specific actions, tasks or projects to be undertaken. It includes our annual budget. Performance measures or performance indicators: The assessment methods used to determine the effectiveness of the service and activities detailed in the Delivery Program.

Resource strategy: The Resource Strategy sets out the organisational capacity and resources of Council to manage assets and deliver services over the life of the plans. This strategy includes Workforce plan, Asset management plan and Long-term financial plan.

Stakeholders: Individuals, groups and organisations who have an interest in our operations.

Strategies: Strategies are the responses outlining how we will achieve the community outcomes in the Community Strategic Plan. Each community outcome must be accompanied by a list of strategies that respond and will be implemented to achieve each community outcome.



# Strathfield Municipal Council

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2024

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# Strathfield Municipal Council

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2024

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## Strathfield Municipal Council

### General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Contents	Page
<b>Understanding Council's Financial Statements</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Statement by Councillors and Management</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Primary Financial Statements:</b>	
Income Statement	5
Statement of Comprehensive Income	6
Statement of Financial Position	7
Statement of Changes in Equity	8
Statement of Cash Flows	9
<b>Contents for the notes to the Financial Statements</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Independent Auditor's Reports:</b>	
On the Financial Statements (Sect 417 [2])	61
On the Financial Statements (Sect 417 [3])	62

#### Overview

Strathfield Municipal Council is constituted under the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) and has its principal place of business at:

65 Homebush Rd  
Strathfield NSW 2135

Council's guiding principles are detailed in Chapter 3 of the LGA and includes:

- principles applying to the exercise of functions generally by council,
- principles to be applied when making decisions,
- principles of community participation,
- principles of sound financial management, and
- principles for strategic planning relating to the development of an integrated planning and reporting framework.

A description of the nature of Council's operations and its principal activities are provided in Note B1-2.

Through the use of the internet, we have ensured that our reporting is timely, complete and available at minimum cost. All press releases, financial statements and other information are publicly available on our website: [www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au](http://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au).

## Strathfield Municipal Council

### General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Understanding Council's Financial Statements

#### Introduction

Each year NSW local governments are required to present audited financial statements ("the financial statements") to their council and community.

#### What you will find in the Statements

The financial statements set out the financial performance, financial position and cash flows of Council for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

The format of the financial statements is standard across all NSW Councils and complies with both the accounting and reporting requirements of Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB's) and requirements as set down by the Office of Local Government (OLG).

#### About the Statement by Councillors and Management

The financial statements must be certified by senior staff as 'presenting fairly' the Council's financial results for the year and are required to be adopted by Council – ensuring both responsibility for and ownership of the financial statements.

#### About the Primary Financial Statements

The financial statements incorporate five "primary" financial statements:

##### 1. The Income Statement

Summarises Council's financial performance for the year, listing all income and expenses. This statement also displays Council's original adopted budget to provide a comparison between the financial performance that was projected for the year and what actually occurred.

##### 2. The Statement of Comprehensive Income

Primarily records changes in the fair value of Council's Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

##### 3. The Statement of Financial Position

Shows a snapshot of Council's financial position, that is, the value of its assets, liabilities and "net wealth" (or, net assets), as at the balance date (i.e. 30 June).

##### 4. The Statement of Changes in Equity

The overall change for the year of Council's "net wealth".

##### 5. The Statement of Cash Flows

Shows where Council's cash came from and where it was spent. This statement also displays Council's original adopted budgeted cashflows to provide a comparison between what was projected for the year and what actually occurred.

#### About the Notes to the Financial Statements

The Notes to the Financial Statements provide greater level of detail and additional information on the five primary financial statements.

#### About the Auditor's Reports

Council's financial statements are required to be audited by the Audit Office of NSW.

In NSW the auditor provides 2 audit reports:

1. an opinion on whether the financial statements present fairly the Council's financial performance and position, and
2. their observations on the conduct of the audit, including commentary on the Council's financial performance and financial position.

#### Who uses the Financial Statements?

The financial statements are publicly available documents and must be presented at a Council meeting between seven days and five weeks after the date of the audit report.

The public can make submissions to Council up to seven days subsequent to the public presentation of the financial statements.

Council is required to forward an audited set of financial statements to the Office of Local Government.

## Strathfield Municipal Council

### General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to Section 413 (2c) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW)

The attached general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:




- the *Local Government Act 1993* and the regulations made thereunder,
- the Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board
- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 22 October 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**John-Paul Bakadi**  
Mayor  
22 October 2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Benjamin Cai**  
Deputy Mayor  
22 October 2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Michael Mamo**  
General Manager  
22 October 2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Rodney Sanjivi**  
Responsible Accounting Officer  
22 October 2024

Strathfield Municipal Council | Income Statement | for the year ended 30 June 2024

## Strathfield Municipal Council

## Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2024

<i>Original unaudited budget</i>			<i>Actual</i>	<i>Actual</i>
<b>2024</b>	<b>\$ '000</b>	Notes	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Income from continuing operations</b>			
36,948	Rates and annual charges	B2-1	<b>36,920</b>	33,581
5,022	User charges and fees	B2-2	<b>5,290</b>	4,712
2,924	Other revenue	B2-3	<b>2,673</b>	3,010
2,921	Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	B2-4	<b>2,850</b>	3,122
9,762	Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	B2-4	<b>22,943</b>	13,524
1,714	Interest and investment income	B2-5	<b>2,304</b>	1,274
1,019	Other income	B2-6	<b>1,019</b>	1,078
625	Net gain from the disposal of assets	B4-1	<b>—</b>	—
<b>60,935</b>	<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>		<b>73,999</b>	60,301
	<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>			
25,524	Employee benefits and on-costs	B3-1	<b>25,805</b>	23,664
20,607	Materials and services	B3-2	<b>19,777</b>	20,258
179	Borrowing costs	B3-3	<b>—</b>	—
9,551	Depreciation and amortisation	B3-4	<b>9,971</b>	9,282
1,400	Other expenses	B3-5	<b>1,354</b>	1,294
—	Net loss from the disposal of assets	B4-1	<b>1,674</b>	1,905
<b>57,261</b>	<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>		<b>58,581</b>	56,403
<b>3,674</b>	<b>Operating result from continuing operations</b>		<b>15,418</b>	3,898
<b>3,674</b>	<b>Net operating result attributable to Council</b>		<b>15,418</b>	3,898
	<b>Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes</b>			
<b>(6,088)</b>			<b>(7,525)</b>	(9,626)

The above Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Statement of Comprehensive Income | for the year ended 30 June 2024

**Strathfield Municipal Council****Statement of Comprehensive Income**

for the year ended 30 June 2024

<b>\$ '000</b>	Notes	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Net operating result for the year – from Income Statement</b>		<b>15,418</b>	<b>3,898</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income:</b>			
Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to the operating result			
Gain / (loss) on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-6	<b>14,893</b>	<b>(28,078)</b>
<b>Total items which will not be reclassified subsequently to the operating result</b>		<b>14,893</b>	<b>(28,078)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>14,893</b>	<b>(28,078)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to Council</b>		<b>30,311</b>	<b>(24,180)</b>

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Statement of Financial Position | as at 30 June 2024

**Strathfield Municipal Council**

**Statement of Financial Position**

as at 30 June 2024

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	C1-1	18,544	8,581
Investments	C1-2	28,000	23,000
Receivables	C1-4	5,193	3,232
Inventories	C1-5	73	65
Other assets		578	390
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>52,388</b>	<b>35,268</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Investments	C1-2	16,000	20,000
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)	C1-6	504,411	481,730
Intangible assets	C1-7	1,347	1,870
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>521,758</b>	<b>503,600</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>574,146</b>	<b>538,868</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables	C3-1	16,846	16,427
Contract liabilities	C3-2	5,716	8,732
Borrowings	C3-3	548	—
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	4,196	3,785
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>27,306</b>	<b>28,944</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Borrowings	C3-3	6,452	—
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	611	458
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>7,063</b>	<b>458</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>34,369</b>	<b>29,402</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>539,777</b>	<b>509,466</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated surplus		233,484	218,066
IPPE revaluation reserve	C4-1	306,293	291,400
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>539,777</b>	<b>509,466</b>
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>539,777</b>	<b>509,466</b>

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



Strathfield Municipal Council | Statement of Changes in Equity | for the year ended 30 June 2024

## Strathfield Municipal Council

Statement of Changes in Equity  
for the year ended 30 June 2024

\$ '000	Notes	2024			2023		
		Accumulated surplus	IPPE revaluation reserve	Total equity	Accumulated surplus	IPPE revaluation reserve	Total equity
Opening balance at 1 July		218,066	291,400	509,466	214,168	319,478	533,646
Opening balance		218,066	291,400	509,466	214,168	319,478	533,646
Net operating result for the year		15,418	–	15,418	3,898	–	3,898
Net operating result for the period		15,418	–	15,418	3,898	–	3,898
Other comprehensive income							
Gain / (loss) on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-6	–	14,893	14,893	–	(28,078)	(28,078)
Other comprehensive income		–	14,893	14,893	–	(28,078)	(28,078)
Total comprehensive income		15,418	14,893	30,311	3,898	(28,078)	(24,180)
Closing balance at 30 June		233,484	306,293	539,777	218,066	291,400	509,466

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Statement of Cash Flows | for the year ended 30 June 2024

## Strathfield Municipal Council

## Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2024

<i>Original unaudited budget</i>			<i>Actual</i>	<i>Actual</i>
<b>2024</b>	<b>\$ '000</b>	Notes	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>				
<b>Receipts:</b>				
36,948	Rates and annual charges		<b>36,224</b>	33,309
5,022	User charges and fees		<b>5,287</b>	5,906
1,714	Interest received		<b>1,486</b>	1,007
12,683	Grants and contributions		<b>17,242</b>	19,011
—	Bonds, deposits and retentions received		<b>763</b>	1,561
3,943	Other income		<b>6,658</b>	7,146
<b>Payments:</b>				
(25,524)	Payments to employees		<b>(24,951)</b>	(24,349)
(20,607)	Payments for materials and services		<b>(23,361)</b>	(22,923)
(179)	Borrowing costs		<b>—</b>	—
(1,400)	Other expenses		<b>(2,075)</b>	(1,197)
<b>12,600</b>	<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	F1-1	<b>17,273</b>	19,471
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>				
<b>Receipts:</b>				
625	Proceeds from sale of IPPE		<b>577</b>	581
<b>Payments:</b>				
—	Acquisition of term deposits		<b>(1,000)</b>	(6,000)
(18,427)	Payments for IPPE		<b>(13,887)</b>	(12,151)
<b>(17,802)</b>	<b>Net cash flows from investing activities</b>		<b>(14,310)</b>	(17,570)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>				
<b>Payments:</b>				
(103)	Repayment of borrowings		<b>—</b>	—
7,000	Proceeds from borrowings		<b>7,000</b>	—
<b>6,897</b>	<b>Net cash flows from financing activities</b>		<b>7,000</b>	—
<b>1,695</b>	<b>Net change in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>9,963</b>	1,901
8,581	Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		<b>8,581</b>	6,680
<b>10,276</b>	<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>	C1-1	<b>18,544</b>	8,581
46,000	plus: Investments on hand at end of year	C1-2	<b>44,000</b>	43,000
<b>56,276</b>	<b>Total cash, cash equivalents and investments</b>		<b>62,544</b>	51,581

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Strathfield Municipal Council

### Contents for the notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

<b>A About Council and these financial statements</b>	<b>12</b>
A1-1 Basis of preparation	12
<b>B Financial Performance</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>B1 Functions or activities</b>	<b>14</b>
B1-1 Functions or activities – income, expenses and assets	14
B1-2 Components of functions or activities	15
<b>B2 Sources of income</b>	<b>16</b>
B2-1 Rates and annual charges	16
B2-2 User charges and fees	17
B2-3 Other revenue	18
B2-4 Grants and contributions	19
B2-5 Interest and investment income	22
B2-6 Other income	22
<b>B3 Costs of providing services</b>	<b>23</b>
B3-1 Employee benefits and on-costs	23
B3-2 Materials and services	24
B3-3 Borrowing costs	24
B3-4 Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	25
B3-5 Other expenses	26
<b>B4 Gains or losses</b>	<b>27</b>
B4-1 Gain or loss from the disposal, replacement and de-recognition of assets	27
<b>B5 Performance against budget</b>	<b>28</b>
B5-1 Material budget variations	28
<b>C Financial position</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>C1 Assets we manage</b>	<b>30</b>
C1-1 Cash and cash equivalents	30
C1-2 Financial investments	30
C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments	32
C1-4 Receivables	33
C1-5 Inventories	34
C1-6 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	35
C1-7 Intangible assets	38
<b>C2 Leasing activities</b>	<b>39</b>
C2-1 Council as a lessee	39
C2-2 Council as a lessor	40
<b>C3 Liabilities of Council</b>	<b>41</b>
C3-1 Payables	41
C3-2 Contract Liabilities	42
C3-3 Borrowings	42
C3-4 Employee benefit provisions	44
<b>C4 Reserves</b>	<b>44</b>
C4-1 Nature and purpose of reserves	44

## Strathfield Municipal Council

## Contents for the notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

<b>D Risks and accounting uncertainties</b>	<b>45</b>
D1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held	45
D2-1 Fair value measurement	48
D3-1 Contingencies	51
<b>E People and relationships</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>E1 Related party disclosures</b>	<b>54</b>
E1-1 Key management personnel (KMP)	54
E1-2 Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses	54
<b>E2 Other relationships</b>	<b>55</b>
E2-1 Audit fees	55
<b>F Other matters</b>	<b>56</b>
F1-1 Statement of Cash Flows information	56
F2-1 Commitments	56
F3-1 Events occurring after the reporting date	56
<b>F4 Statement of developer contributions</b>	<b>57</b>
F4-1 Summary of developer contributions	57
F4-2 Developer contributions by plan	58
F4-3 Contributions not under plans	58
F4-4 S7.4 planning agreements	58
<b>F5 Statement of performance measures</b>	<b>59</b>
F5-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results	59
<b>G Additional Council disclosures (unaudited)</b>	<b>60</b>
G1-1 Council information and contact details	60

## A About Council and these financial statements

### A1-1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements were authorised for issue by Council on 22 October 2024. Council has the power to amend and reissue these financial statements in cases where critical information is received from public submissions or where the OLG directs Council to amend the financial statements.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. Accounting policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations, the *Local Government Act 1993 (Act)* and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (Regulation)*, and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting. Council is a not-for-profit entity.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

#### **Historical cost convention**

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain classes of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

#### **Significant accounting estimates and judgements**

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Council's accounting policies.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact on the Council and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

#### **Critical accounting estimates and assumptions**

Council makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future.

The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year include:

- (i) Fair values of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment – refer Note C1-6 and Note D2-1.
- (ii) Employee benefit provisions – refer Note C3-4.

#### **Significant judgements in applying the Council's accounting policies**

- (i) Impairment of receivables - refer to Note C1-4
- (ii) Impairment of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment - refer Note C1-6
- (iii) Determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific and whether the contract is within the scope of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* and / or AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* – refer to Notes B2-2 – B2-4.

### **Monies and other assets received by Council**

#### **The Consolidated Fund**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 409(1) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW), all money and property received by Council is held in the Council's Consolidated Fund unless it is required to be held in the Council's Trust Fund.

Council's consolidated fund is the General Fund. The Consolidated Fund has been included in the financial statements of the Council.

#### **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

## A1-1 Basis of preparation (continued)

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities that are recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

### Volunteer services

Council has various opportunities for volunteers to be involved in various programs. These volunteer services are not recognised in these financial statements on the basis that the service would not be purchased or provided for by Council, if it had not been donated / volunteered.

### New accounting standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2024 reporting period. Council has not applied any pronouncements before its operative date in the annual reporting period beginning 1 July 2023.

As at the date of authorisation of these financial statements Council does not consider that any of these new (and still to be applied) standards and interpretations are likely to have a material impact on the Council's future financial statements, financial position, financial performance or cash flows.

### New accounting standards adopted during the year

During the year Council adopted all accounting standards and interpretations (as issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board) which were mandatorily effective from the first time at 30 June 2024. None of these standards had a significant impact on the reported financial position and performance of Council.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

**B Financial Performance****B1 Functions or activities****B1-1 Functions or activities – income, expenses and assets**

Income, expenses and assets have been directly attributed to the following functions or activities. Details of those functions or activities are provided in Note B1-2.

\$ '000	<i>Income</i>		<i>Expenses</i>		<i>Operating result</i>		<i>Grants and contributions</i>		<i>Carrying amount of assets</i>	
	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>
<b>Functions or activities</b>										
1. Connectivity	733	3,163	1,077	3,796	(344)	(633)	5,200	4,220	201,507	205,531
2. Community Wellbeing	331	1,391	4,305	5,576	(3,974)	(4,185)	2,220	2,727	54,146	59,667
3. Celebrating Culture and Place	374	264	1,739	1,765	(1,365)	(1,501)	346	273	–	–
4. Liveable Neighbourhoods	28,728	32,511	26,542	20,025	2,186	12,486	18,027	9,426	194,349	187,539
5. Responsible Leadership	43,833	22,972	24,918	25,241	18,915	(2,269)	–	–	124,144	86,131
<b>Total functions and activities</b>	<b>73,999</b>	<b>60,301</b>	<b>58,581</b>	<b>56,403</b>	<b>15,418</b>	<b>3,898</b>	<b>25,793</b>	<b>16,646</b>	<b>574,146</b>	<b>538,868</b>

## B1-2 Components of functions or activities

Details relating to the Council's functions or activities as reported in B1-1 are as follows:

Council's Community Strategic Plan (CSP) provides long-term direction for the Strathfield Council's Local Government Area (LGA) and is Council's overarching plan in the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) framework.

The CSP provides guidance for the alignment of Council's resources to meet community priorities, responds to state and regional plans and in planning and delivering services in the LGA.

Therefore, all the functions and activities of Council can be categorised under the themes listed below as per Council's CSP:

### 1. Connectivity

This theme reflects on the centrality and connectivity of the Strathfield LGA to Greater Sydney and beyond through infrastructure, transport and communications. The high levels of connectivity are significant attractors for residents, businesses, students and visitors to the Strathfield LGA. The theme is concerned with planning for and the delivery of regional, state and local infrastructure to meet the needs of increasing populations, ensuring regional and local transport networks are integrated, connected and safe, and that service delivery and information access is optimised through integration of communications and digital technology.

### 2. Community Wellbeing

This theme concerns supporting Strathfield's culturally diverse and socially cohesive, connected and safe communities with access to public spaces and community facilities, and opportunities to participate in programs and activities. Council plays an important role in facilitating opportunities for participation in learning, recreation, community programs and activities that enhance healthy active lifestyles. Council will enhance the safety and wellbeing of the community by providing safe, clean, healthy and attractive environments and working with Police on community safety and crime prevention.

### 3. Celebrating Culture and Place

This theme relates to creating vibrant and enticing public domains, especially our town, village and commercial centres, which blend access to services with opportunities for social connectivity. The theme also celebrates Strathfield as a place of learning, culture and creativity supported by events, cultural programs and acknowledgement of civic and community achievements which promote a sense of civic pride and belonging.

### 4. Liveable Neighbourhoods

This theme concerns ensuring well planned urban design, protection and maintenance of the built and natural environment of the Strathfield LGA. Liveable Neighbourhoods involve high quality, well planned, sustainable, clean and well maintained urban and natural environments that balance new development with the retention and reflection of established local character and healthy thriving and resilient natural environments. Development, changing lifestyles and increasing population also create higher levels of waste, resource usage and pollution, creating pressure on the local area, at a regional and local level, to maintain the high standards of amenity, character and liveability of the Strathfield LGA.

### 5. Responsible Leadership

The theme of Responsible Leadership is concerned with leadership and accountable Council services directed by the priorities of an engaged and connected community. Responsible leadership requires the community having confidence in the Council to make decisions based on community priorities and values reflecting meaningful and informed community engagement. Effective management of Council's operations is underpinned by transparent, effective and accountable governance which is responsive to the needs of the community.



## B2 Sources of income

### B2-1 Rates and annual charges

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Ordinary rates</b>		
Residential	18,876	14,030
Business	8,338	5,864
Less: pensioner rebates (mandatory)	(94)	(86)
Less: pensioner rebates (Council policy)	(103)	(94)
Less: rates levied on council properties	(88)	(68)
<b>Rates levied to ratepayers</b>	<b>26,929</b>	<b>19,646</b>
Pensioner rate subsidies received	94	83
<b>Total ordinary rates</b>	<b>27,023</b>	<b>19,729</b>
<b>Annual charges (pursuant to s496, 496A, 496B, 501 &amp; 611)</b>		
Domestic waste management services	9,522	13,457
Stormwater management services	313	309
Section 611 charges	109	142
Less: pensioner rebates (mandatory)	(44)	(54)
Less: pensioner rebates (Council policy)	(47)	(54)
<b>Annual charges levied</b>	<b>9,853</b>	<b>13,800</b>
Pensioner annual charges subsidies received:		
– Domestic waste management	44	52
<b>Total annual charges</b>	<b>9,897</b>	<b>13,852</b>
<b>Total rates and annual charges</b>	<b>36,920</b>	<b>33,581</b>

Council has used 2022 year valuations provided by the NSW Valuer General in calculating its rates.

#### Material accounting policy information

Rates and annual charges are recognised as revenue at the beginning of the rating period to which they relate. Prepaid rates are recognised as a financial liability until the beginning of the rating period.

Pensioner rebates relate to reductions in rates and certain annual charges for eligible pensioners' place of residence in the local government council area.

Pensioner rate subsidies are received from the NSW Government to provide a contribution towards the pensioner rebates and are recognised within the underlying revenue item based on their substance.

## B2-2 User charges and fees

\$ '000	Timing	2024	2023
<b>Specific user charges (per s502 - specific 'actual use' charges)</b>			
Domestic waste management services		56	49
Waste management services (non-domestic)		81	56
<b>Total specific user charges</b>		<b>137</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Other user charges and fees</b>			
<b>(i) Fees and charges – statutory and regulatory functions (per s608)</b>			
Planning and building regulation		877	604
Section 10.7 certificates (EP&A Act)		147	122
Section 603 certificates		103	80
Health act		201	157
<b>Total fees and charges – statutory/regulatory</b>		<b>1,328</b>	<b>963</b>
<b>(ii) Fees and charges – other (incl. general user charges (per s608))</b>			
Credit card service fee		49	48
Library and art gallery		26	39
Park rents		681	654
Festivals and events		15	24
Restoration charges		118	53
Hoarding income		51	21
Hudson park golf course and driving range		1,983	1,801
Other property rentals		19	45
Parking fees		64	63
Privately funded works and anchor work permits		–	24
Road opening permits		19	8
Work zone parking and standing plant permits		622	593
Residential Parking Scheme		2	–
Public halls		144	75
Other		1	1
Road closure		31	195
<b>Total fees and charges – other</b>		<b>3,825</b>	<b>3,644</b>
<b>Total other user charges and fees</b>		<b>5,153</b>	<b>4,607</b>
<b>Total user charges and fees</b>		<b>5,290</b>	<b>4,712</b>
<b>Timing of revenue recognition for user charges and fees</b>			
User charges and fees recognised over time (1)		–	–
User charges and fees recognised at a point in time (2)		5,290	4,712
<b>Total user charges and fees</b>		<b>5,290</b>	<b>4,712</b>

### Material accounting policy information

Revenue arising from user charges and fees is recognised when or as the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the goods / services being provided.

The performance obligation relates to the specific services which are provided to the customers and generally the payment terms are within 30 days of provision of the service, or in some cases the customer is required to pay on arrival or a deposit in advance. There is no material obligation for Council in relation to refunds or returns.

Licences granted by Council are all either short-term or low value and all revenue from licences is recognised at the time that the licence is granted rather than over the term of the licence.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

**B2-3 Other revenue**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<i>Timing</i>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Ex gratia rates		<b>95</b>	180
Fines – parking		<b>2,004</b>	2,301
Legal fees recovery – rates and charges (extra charges)		<b>4</b>	35
Legal fees recovery – other		<b>24</b>	93
Diesel rebate		<b>1</b>	41
Insurance claims recoveries		<b>262</b>	169
Sale of abandoned vehicles		<b>42</b>	18
Carbon tax rebate		<b>97</b>	16
Insurance incentives/rebates		<b>65</b>	64
Other		<b>18</b>	6
Other corporate income		<b>4</b>	4
Recycling income (non-domestic)		<b>57</b>	83
<b>Total other revenue</b>		<b>2,673</b>	<b>3,010</b>

**Timing of revenue recognition for other revenue**

Other revenue recognised over time (1)	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
Other revenue recognised at a point in time (2)	<b>2,673</b>	3,010
<b>Total other revenue</b>	<b>2,673</b>	<b>3,010</b>

**Material accounting policy information for other revenue**

Where the revenue is earned for the provision of specified goods / services under an enforceable contract, revenue is recognised when or as the obligations are satisfied.

Statutory fees and fines are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received or when the penalty has been applied, whichever occurs first.

Other revenue is recorded when the payment is due, the value of the payment is notified, or the payment is received, whichever occurs first.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

**B2-4 Grants and contributions**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<i>Timing</i>	<b>Operating 2024</b>	<b>Operating 2023</b>	<b>Capital 2024</b>	<b>Capital 2023</b>
<b>General purpose grants and non-developer contributions (untied)</b>					
<b>General purpose (untied)</b>					
<b>Current year allocation</b>					
Financial assistance – general component		17	334	–	–
Financial assistance – local roads component		5	102	–	–
<b>Payment in advance - future year allocation</b>					
Financial assistance – general component		1,106	1,229	–	–
Financial assistance – local roads component		331	376	–	–
<b>Amount recognised as income during current year</b>		<b>1,459</b>	<b>2,041</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)</b>					
<b>Cash contributions</b>					
Community centres		–	–	508	494
Environmental programs		141	226	–	60
Heritage and cultural		13	–	–	–
Library – per capita		252	192	–	–
Road Safety		57	94	–	–
Parks and open space		–	–	888	2,648
Festivals and events		334	273	–	–
Street lighting		140	271	–	–
Planning		–	25	–	–
Other transport (bridges, footpaths, cycleways)		–	–	4,305	2,693
Other Council's Long Service Leave contributions		454	–	–	–
Transport (Block Grants)		–	–	190	295
Transport (roads to recovery)		–	–	196	179
Other grants		–	–	55	–
<b>Total special purpose grants and non-developer contributions – cash</b>		<b>1,391</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>6,142</b>	<b>6,369</b>
<b>Total special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)</b>		<b>1,391</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>6,142</b>	<b>6,369</b>
<b>Total grants and non-developer contributions</b>		<b>2,850</b>	<b>3,122</b>	<b>6,142</b>	<b>6,369</b>
<b>Comprising:</b>					
– Commonwealth funding		1,459	2,041	386	494
– State funding		936	1,081	5,756	5,815
– Other funding		455	–	–	60
		<b>2,850</b>	<b>3,122</b>	<b>6,142</b>	<b>6,369</b>

## B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

## Developer contributions

<b>\$ '000</b>	Notes	<b>Operating 2024</b>	<b>Operating 2023</b>	<b>Capital 2024</b>	<b>Capital 2023</b>
<b>Developer contributions:</b>					
<b>(s7.4 &amp; s7.11 - EP&amp;A Act, s64 of the LGA):</b>					
	F4				
<b>Cash contributions</b>					
S 7.4 – contributions using planning agreements		–	–	681	–
S 7.11 – contributions towards amenities/services		–	–	9,160	5,607
S 7.12 – fixed development consent levies		–	–	1,360	1,548
<b>Total developer contributions – cash</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>11,201</b>	<b>7,155</b>
<b>Non-cash contributions</b>					
S 7.4 – contributions using planning agreements		–	–	5,600	–
<b>Total developer contributions non-cash</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total developer contributions</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>16,801</b>	<b>7,155</b>
<b>Total contributions</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>16,801</b>	<b>7,155</b>
<b>Total grants and contributions</b>		<b>2,850</b>	<b>3,122</b>	<b>22,943</b>	<b>13,524</b>
<b>Timing of revenue recognition for grants and contributions</b>					
Grants and contributions recognised over time (1)		–	499	6,362	6,369
Grants and contributions recognised at a point in time (2)		2,850	2,623	16,581	7,155
<b>Total grants and contributions</b>		<b>2,850</b>	<b>3,122</b>	<b>22,943</b>	<b>13,524</b>

## B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

### Unspent grants and contributions

Certain grants and contributions are obtained by Council on the condition they be spent in a specified manner or in a future period but which are not yet spent in accordance with those conditions are as follows:

\$ '000	Operating 2024	Operating 2023	Capital 2024	Capital 2023
<b>Unspent grants and contributions</b>				
Unspent funds at 1 July	327	321	8,027	5,668
<b>Add:</b> Funds recognised as revenue in the reporting year but not yet spent in accordance with the conditions	144	327	5,258	8,027
<b>Less:</b> Funds received in prior year but revenue recognised and funds spent in current year	(327)	(321)	(8,027)	(5,668)
<b>Unspent funds at 30 June</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>5,258</b>	<b>8,027</b>
<b>Contributions</b>				
Unspent funds at 1 July	–	–	16,996	10,730
<b>Add:</b> contributions recognised as revenue in the reporting year but not yet spent in accordance with the conditions	–	–	11,614	7,470
<b>Less:</b> contributions recognised as revenue in previous years that have been spent during the reporting year	–	–	(192)	(1,204)
<b>Unspent contributions at 30 June</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>28,418</b>	<b>16,996</b>

### Material accounting policy information

#### Grants and contributions – enforceable agreement with sufficiently specific performance obligations

Grant and contribution revenue from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised as or when control of each performance obligations is transferred.

The performance obligations vary according to the agreement but include completion of milestone reports. Payment terms vary depending on the terms of the grant, cash is received upfront for some grants and on the achievement of certain payment milestones for others.

Performance obligations may be satisfied either at a point-in-time or over-time and this is reflected in the revenue recognition pattern. Point-in-time recognition occurs when the beneficiary obtains control of the goods / services at a single time such as the completion of a project or when a report / outcome is provided, whereas over-time recognition is where the control of the services is ongoing throughout the project.

Where control is transferred over-time, generally the input methods being either costs or time incurred are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefit.

#### Capital grants

Capital grants received by Council under an enforceable contract for the acquisition or construction of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment to sufficiently identified specifications which will be under Council's control on completion are recognised as revenue as and when the obligation to construct or purchase is completed.

For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred since this is deemed to be the most appropriate measure of progress towards the completion of the construction project.

For acquisitions of assets (i.e. purchases), the revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the Council.

#### Developer contributions

Council has obligations to provide facilities from contribution revenues levied on developers under the provisions of sections 7.4, 7.11 and 7.12 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

## B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

While Council generally incorporates these amounts as part of a Development Consents Order, such developer contributions are only recognised as income upon receipt by Council, due to the possibility that individual development consents may not be acted upon by the applicant and, accordingly, would not be payable to Council.

Developer contributions may only be expended for the purposes for which the contributions were required, but Council may apply contributions according to the priorities established in work schedules for the contribution plan.

### Other grants and contributions

Assets, including cash, received from other grants and contributions are recognised at fair value when the asset is received. Council considers whether there are any related liability or equity items associated with the asset which are recognised in accordance with the relevant accounting standard.

Once the assets and liabilities have been recognised, then income is recognised for any remaining asset value at the time that the asset is received.

## B2-5 Interest and investment income

\$ '000	2024	2023
<b>Interest on financial assets measured at amortised cost</b>		
– Overdue rates and annual charges (incl. special purpose rates)	150	88
– Cash and investments	2,154	1,186
<b>Total interest and investment income</b>	<b>2,304</b>	<b>1,274</b>

### Material accounting policy information

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest rate at the date that interest is earned.

## B2-6 Other income

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
<b>Rental income</b>			
<b>Other lease income</b>			
Room/Facility Hire		877	862
Leaseback fees - council vehicles		142	216
<b>Total other lease income</b>		<b>1,019</b>	<b>1,078</b>
<b>Total rental income</b>	C2-2	<b>1,019</b>	<b>1,078</b>
<b>Total other income</b>		<b>1,019</b>	<b>1,078</b>

## B3 Costs of providing services

### B3-1 Employee benefits and on-costs

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Salaries and wages	17,769	14,518
Employee termination costs (where material – other than vested leave paid)	613	1,237
Employee leave entitlements (ELE)	3,754	4,072
Superannuation	2,232	1,900
Workers' compensation insurance	1,167	1,471
Fringe benefit tax (FBT)	163	136
Training costs (other than salaries and wages)	280	265
Recruitment costs	107	263
Other	147	122
<b>Total employee costs</b>	<b>26,232</b>	<b>23,984</b>
Less: Capitalised employee costs	(427)	(320)
<b>Total employee costs expensed</b>	<b>25,805</b>	<b>23,664</b>

#### Material accounting policy information

Employee benefit expenses are recorded when the service has been provided by the employee.

#### Retirement benefit obligations

All employees of the Council are entitled to benefits on retirement, disability or death. Council contributes to various defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans on behalf of its employees.

#### Superannuation plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

Council participates in a defined benefit plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, however, sufficient information to account for the plan as a defined benefit is not available and therefore Council accounts for its obligations to defined benefit plans on the same basis as its obligations to defined contribution plans, i.e. as an expense when it becomes payable – refer to Note D3-1 for more information.

#### Capitalised employee costs

Employee costs that are directly attributable to the construction or acquisition of items of Infrastructure, Property Plant and Equipment (IPPE) are capitalised to the cost of the respective items of IPPE in accordance with AASB 16.



## B3-2 Materials and services

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
Raw materials and consumables		2,959	3,680
Contractor costs		6,872	6,185
Street and gutter cleaning		776	816
Audit Fees	E2-1	315	400
Infringement notice contract costs (SEINS)		174	295
<b>Previously other expenses:</b>			
Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses	E1-2	255	257
Advertising		88	96
Bank charges		81	78
Cleaning		368	399
Electricity, heating and water		304	266
Insurance		1,043	928
Office expenses (including computer expenses)		145	131
Postage		81	97
Printing and stationery		75	94
Street lighting		453	564
Subscriptions, memberships and publications		393	316
Telephone and communications		405	504
Valuation fees		51	48
Other expenses		141	137
Security		101	56
Waste disposal – tipping fees		3,862	4,086
<b>Legal expenses:</b>			
– Legal expenses: planning and development		669	756
– Legal expenses: debt recovery		68	29
– Legal expenses: other		87	12
Expenses from short-term leases		3	28
Other		8	–
<b>Total materials and services</b>		<b>19,777</b>	<b>20,258</b>
<b>Total materials and services</b>		<b>19,777</b>	<b>20,258</b>

### Material accounting policy information

Expenses are recorded on an accruals basis as the Council receives the goods or services.

## B3-3 Borrowing costs

### Material accounting policy information

Borrowing costs incurred for the construction of any qualifying asset are capitalised during the period of time that is required to complete and prepare the asset for its intended use or sale. Other borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

Council borrowed \$7million on the 28th June 2024, therefore no borrowing costs were attributed to the 2023-24 Financial Year.

**B3-4 Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Depreciation and amortisation</b>	C1-8,C1-7		
Plant and equipment		<b>1,168</b>	1,211
Office equipment		<b>534</b>	741
<b>Other assets:</b>			
– Library books		<b>118</b>	109
<b>Infrastructure:</b>			
– Buildings and other structures		<b>1,227</b>	812
– Roads		<b>2,619</b>	2,311
– Bridges		<b>91</b>	123
– Footpaths		<b>534</b>	546
– Stormwater drainage		<b>931</b>	793
– Car parks		<b>73</b>	213
– Other open space/recreational assets		<b>2,153</b>	1,975
Intangible assets		<b>523</b>	448
<b>Total gross depreciation and amortisation costs</b>		<b>9,971</b>	<b>9,282</b>
<b>Total depreciation and amortisation costs</b>		<b>9,971</b>	<b>9,282</b>
<b>Total depreciation, amortisation and impairment for non-financial assets</b>		<b>9,971</b>	<b>9,282</b>

**Material accounting policy information****Depreciation and amortisation**

Depreciation and amortisation are calculated using the straight line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives. Useful lives are included in Note C1-6 for IPPE assets.

**Impairment of non-financial assets**

Council assets held at fair value that are not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash flow, and that are deemed to be specialised, are no longer required to be tested for impairment under AASB 136. This is because these assets are assessed on an annual basis to ensure that the carrying amount is not materially different from fair value and therefore an impairment loss would be captured during this assessment.

Other assets that do not meet the criteria above are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash-generating units). Non-financial assets that suffered an impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

Impairment losses for revalued assets are firstly offset against the amount in the revaluation surplus for the class of asset, with only the excess to be recognised in the Income Statement.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

**B3-5 Other expenses**

<b>\$ '000</b>	Notes	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Impairment of receivables</b>			
User charges and fees		–	128
Other		(55)	–
<b>Total impairment of receivables</b>	C1-4	<b>(55)</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>Other</b>			
Contributions/levies to other levels of government			
– Department of planning levy		103	100
– Emergency services levy (includes FRNSW, SES, and RFS levies)		221	128
– NSW fire brigade levy		1,015	874
Donations, contributions and assistance to other organisations (Section 356)		70	64
<b>Total other</b>		<b>1,409</b>	<b>1,166</b>
<b>Total other expenses</b>		<b>1,354</b>	<b>1,294</b>

**Material accounting policy information**

Other expenses are recorded on an accruals basis when Council has an obligation for the expenses.

Impairment expenses are recognised when identified.

**B4 Gains or losses****B4-1 Gain or loss from the disposal, replacement and de-recognition of assets**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Gain (or loss) on disposal of plant and equipment</b>			
	C1-6		
Proceeds from disposal – plant and equipment		<b>577</b>	581
Less: carrying amount of plant and equipment assets sold/written off		<b>(165)</b>	(393)
<b>Gain (or loss) on disposal</b>		<b>412</b>	<b>188</b>
<b>Gain (or loss) on disposal of infrastructure</b>			
	C1-6		
Less: carrying amount of bridge assets sold/written off		<b>(15)</b>	–
Less: carrying amount of road assets written off <sup>a</sup>		<b>(700)</b>	(1,579)
Less: carrying amount of footpath assets written off <sup>b</sup>		<b>(858)</b>	(307)
Less: carrying amount of building assets sold/written off		<b>(429)</b>	(200)
Less: carrying amount of open space assets sold/written off		<b>(21)</b>	–
Less: carrying value of car park assets sold/written off		<b>(63)</b>	–
Less: carrying amount of stormwater assets write off		<b>–</b>	(7)
<b>Gain (or loss) on disposal</b>		<b>(2,086)</b>	<b>(2,093)</b>
<b>Net gain (or loss) from disposal of assets <sup>4</sup></b>		<b>(1,674)</b>	<b>(1,905)</b>

**Material accounting policy information**

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. The gain or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has irrevocably passed to the buyer and the asset is de-recognised.

(4) Net losses from disposal of assets relate to plant and equipment, roads (surface and base) and footpath assets replaced as part of the capital program.

(a) This includes road surface, road base and kerbs & gutters that were replaced through capital works undertaken during the financial year. The carrying amounts stated is replaced by the new asset value in Council's asset register. The works included Section 7.11, Local Area Traffic Management (LATM), kerbs and gutters replacement program, RMS block grant and stimulus funding. Council budgeted \$0.45 million in disposal of road asset.

(b) This includes footpaths that were replaced through capital works undertaken during the financial year. The carrying amounts stated is replaced by the new asset value in Council's asset register. There was no budget for this.

## B5 Performance against budget

### B5-1 Material budget variations

Council's original budget was adopted by the Council on 27 June 2023 and is not required to be audited. The original projections on which the budget was based have been affected by a number of factors. These include state and federal government decisions, including new grant programs, changing economic activity, environmental factors, and by decisions made by Council.

While these General Purpose Financial Statements include the original budget adopted by Council, the Act requires Council to review its financial budget on a quarterly basis, so it is able to manage the variation between actuals and budget that invariably occur during the year.

**Material variations of more than 10%** between original budget and actual results or where the variance is considered material by nature are explained below.

**Variation Key:** **F** = Favourable budget variation, **U** = Unfavourable budget variation.

\$ '000	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2024 ----- Variance -----	
<b>Revenues</b>				
Rates and annual charges	36,948	36,920	(28)	0% <b>U</b>
User charges and fees	5,022	5,290	268	5% <b>F</b>
Other revenue	2,924	2,673	(251)	(9)% <b>U</b>
Operating grants and contributions	2,921	2,850	(71)	(2)% <b>U</b>
Capital grants and contributions	9,762	22,943	13,181	135% <b>F</b>
Capital grants and contributions are higher than budgeted for the financial year due to the receipt of significant developer contributions. These contributions were triggered by several large developments receiving their Occupation Certificates (OC) during the year. When a development reaches the stage where an OC is granted, developers are required to pay infrastructure contributions, which fund essential community infrastructure like roads, parks, and utilities.				
Interest and investment revenue	1,714	2,304	590	34% <b>F</b>
Interest income refers to the revenue earned from Council's cash investments (i.e. term deposits). These investments are made to generate additional revenue and maximise the use of surplus funds. During the 2022/2023 fiscal year, Council experienced higher-than-expected interest income due to the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA) rate hikes. This resulted in a net positive impact on the Council's interest income. The higher interest rates led to increased returns on the council's investments, exceeding the forecasted income.				
Net gains from disposal of assets	625	–	(625)	(100)% <b>U</b>
Council adopts a conservative approach to budgeting, which excludes any anticipation of substantial gains or losses from the disposal of assets. Instead, any gain or loss resulting from the sale of assets is recognised during the quarterly review process. This approach ensures that the budget remains realistic and avoids potential overestimation of revenue or underestimation of expenses.				
Other income	1,019	1,019	–	0% <b>F</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Employee benefits and on-costs	25,524	25,805	(281)	(1)% <b>U</b>
Materials and services	20,607	19,777	830	4% <b>F</b>
Borrowing costs	179	–	179	100% <b>F</b>
Council did not incur borrowing costs during the year because the actual drawdown of borrowings occurred at the end of the financial year, rather than at the beginning, as originally budgeted.				
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	9,551	9,971	(420)	(4)% <b>U</b>
Other expenses	1,400	1,354	46	3% <b>F</b>
Net losses from disposal of assets	–	1,674	(1,674)	∞ <b>U</b>

**B5-1 Material budget variations (continued)**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2024 ----- Variance -----</b>
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**Statement of cash flows**

<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>12,600</b>	<b>17,273</b>	<b>4,673</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>F</b>
This is attributable to higher than budgeted capital grants and contributions received during the year. Higher than budgeted capital grants and contributions for the financial year due to the receipt of significant developer contributions. These contributions were triggered by several large developments receiving their Occupation Certificates (OC) during the year. When a development reaches the stage where an OC is granted, developers are required to pay infrastructure contributions, which fund essential community infrastructure like roads, parks, and utilities.					
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	<b>(17,802)</b>	<b>(14,310)</b>	<b>3,492</b>	<b>(20)%</b>	<b>F</b>
Cash flows from investing activities are lower than budget because several capital works projects, although commenced during the financial year, are still in progress and will continue into the following year. Since these projects have not yet been completed, the full associated capital expenditure has not been realised in the current financial year.					
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>	<b>6,897</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>F</b>

**C Financial position****C1 Assets we manage****C1-1 Cash and cash equivalents**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Cash assets</b>		
Cash on hand and at bank	8,126	876
Deposits at call	10,418	7,705
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>18,544</b>	<b>8,581</b>

**Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents**

Total cash and cash equivalents per Statement of Financial Position	18,544	8,581
<b>Balance as per the Statement of Cash Flows</b>	<b>18,544</b>	<b>8,581</b>

**Material accounting policy information**

For Statement of Cash Flow presentation purposes, cash and cash equivalents include: cash on hand; deposits held at call with financial institutions; other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value; and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the Statement of Financial Position.

**C1-2 Financial investments**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024 Current</b>	<b>2024 Non-current</b>	<b>2023 Current</b>	<b>2023 Non-current</b>
<b>Debt securities at amortised cost</b>				
Term deposits	28,000	16,000	23,000	20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>Total financial investments</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>Total cash assets, cash equivalents and investments</b>	<b>46,544</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>31,581</b>	<b>20,000</b>

**Material accounting policy information**

Financial instruments are recognised initially on the date that the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

On initial recognition, all financial instruments are measured at fair value plus transaction costs (except for instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss where transaction costs are expensed as incurred).

**Financial assets**

All recognised financial assets are subsequently measured in their entirety at either amortised cost or fair value, depending on the classification of the financial assets.

**Classification**

On initial recognition, Council classifies its financial assets into the following categories – those measured at:

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit and loss (FVTPL)
- fair value through other comprehensive income – equity instrument (FVOCI-equity)

Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition.

## C1-2 Financial investments (continued)

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### **Amortised cost**

Council's financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other receivables, term deposits and cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Financial Position. Term deposits with an initial term of more than 3 months are classified as investments rather than cash and cash equivalents.

Subsequent to initial recognition, these assets are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less provision for impairment.

Interest income, impairment and gains or loss on de-recognition are recognised in profit or loss.



Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

**C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments**

\$ '000	2024	2023
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(a) Externally restricted cash,  
cash equivalents and  
investments

<b>Total cash, cash equivalents and investments</b>	<b>62,544</b>	<b>51,581</b>
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Less: Externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments	<u>(37,695)</u>	<u>(29,386)</u>
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**Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions**

<b>24,849</b>	<b>22,195</b>
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**External restrictions****External restrictions – included in liabilities**

External restrictions included in cash, cash equivalents and investments above comprise:

Specific purpose unexpended grants – general fund	<b>5,402</b>	8,354
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<b>External restrictions – included in liabilities</b>	<b>5,402</b>	<b>8,354</b>
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**External restrictions – other**

External restrictions included in cash, cash equivalents and investments above comprise:

Developer contributions – general	<b>28,418</b>	16,996
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Stormwater management	<b>589</b>	586
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Domestic waste management	<b>3,286</b>	3,450
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<b>External restrictions – other</b>	<b>32,293</b>	<b>21,032</b>
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<b>Total external restrictions</b>	<b>37,695</b>	<b>29,386</b>
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Cash, cash equivalents and investments subject to external restrictions are those which are only available for specific use by Council due to a restriction placed by legislation or third-party contractual agreement.

\$ '000	2024	2023
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**(b) Internal allocations****Internal allocations**

At 30 June, Council has internally allocated funds to the following:

Plant and vehicle replacement	<b>2,230</b>	1,630
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Employees leave entitlement	<b>1,200</b>	1,400
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Carry over works	<b>3,426</b>	810
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Deposits, retentions and bonds	<b>12,347</b>	12,956
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Adshel (bus shelters)	<b>270</b>	270
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Council elections	<b>350</b>	250
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Future major expenditure	<b>2,082</b>	2,053
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Hudson Park Golf Driving Range	<b>195</b>	195
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Parkscape improvements	<b>–</b>	29
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Planning agreements	<b>688</b>	–
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Risk management	<b>400</b>	400
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Technology	<b>140</b>	134
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Contributions towards works	<b>20</b>	–
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Financial Assistance Grant - paid in advance	<b>1,437</b>	1,605
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<b>Total internal allocations</b>	<b>24,785</b>	<b>21,732</b>
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Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions may be internally allocated by resolution or policy of the elected Council.

## C1-4 Receivables

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024 Current</b>	<b>2024 Non-current</b>	<b>2023 Current</b>	<b>2023 Non-current</b>
Rates and annual charges	2,229	–	1,566	–
Interest and extra charges	206	–	147	–
User charges and fees	322	–	438	–
Accrued revenues:				
– Interest on investments	1,141	–	382	–
– Other income accruals	525	–	216	–
Net GST receivable	847	–	506	–
Other debtors	2	–	110	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,272</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,365</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Less: provision for impairment</b>				
User charges and fees	(79)	–	(133)	–
<b>Total provision for impairment – receivables</b>	<b>(79)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(133)</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total net receivables</b>	<b>5,193</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,232</b>	<b>–</b>

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Movement in provision for impairment of receivables</b>		
Balance at the beginning of the year	133	29
+ new provisions recognised during the year	–	128
– amounts already provided for and written off this year	(54)	(24)
<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>133</b>

### Material accounting policy information

Receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days.

#### Impairment

Impairment of financial assets measured at amortised cost is recognised on an expected credit loss (ECL) basis.

When determining whether the credit risk of a financial asset has increased significantly since initial recognition, and when estimating ECL, the Council considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis based on Council's historical experience and informed credit assessment, and including forward-looking information.

When considering the ECL for rates receivables, Council takes into account that unpaid rates represent a charge against the rateable property that will be recovered when the property is next sold. For non-rates receivables, Council uses the presumption that an asset which is more than 30 days past due has seen a significant increase in credit risk.

The Council uses the presentation that a financial asset is in default when:

- the other party is unlikely to pay its credit obligations to the Council in full, without recourse by the Council to actions such as realising security (if any is held); or
- the financial assets (for non-rates debtors) are more than 90 days past due.

Credit losses are measured as the present value of the difference between the cash flows due to the entity in accordance with the contract, and the cash flows expected to be received. This is applied using a probability weighted approach.

On initial recognition of the asset, an estimate of the expected credit losses for the next 12 months is recognised. Where the asset has experienced significant increase in credit risk then the lifetime losses are estimated and recognised.

Council uses the simplified approach for trade receivables where the expected lifetime credit losses are recognised on day 1.

There has been no change in the estimation techniques or significant assumptions made during the current reporting period.

The Council writes off a trade receivable when there is information indicating that the debtor is in severe financial difficulty and there is no realistic prospect of recovery, e.g. when the debtor has been placed under liquidation or has entered into bankruptcy proceedings.

### C1-4 Receivables (continued)

Where the Council renegotiates the terms of receivables due from certain customers, the new expected cash flows are discounted at the original effective interest rate and any resulting difference to the carrying value is recognised in profit or loss.

Rates and annual charges outstanding are secured against the property.

### C1-5 Inventories

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024 Current</b>	<b>2024 Non-current</b>	<b>2023 Current</b>	<b>2023 Non-current</b>
<b>(i) Inventories at cost</b>				
Stores and materials	73	–	65	–
<b>Total inventories at cost</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total inventories</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>–</b>

#### Material accounting policy information

##### Raw materials and stores, work in progress and finished goods

Raw materials and stores, work in progress and finished goods are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned to individual items of inventory on the basis of weighted average costs. Costs of purchased inventory are determined after deducting rebates and discounts. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

## C1-6 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

By aggregated asset class	At 1 July 2023			Asset movements during the reporting period								At 30 June 2024		
	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount	Additions renewals <sup>1</sup>	Additions new assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	WIP transfers	Adjustments and transfers (WIP to Exp)	Revaluation increments / (decrements) to equity (ARR)		Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
\$ '000														
Capital work in progress	9,563	–	9,563	3,372	–	–	–	(8,107)	(531)	–		4,295	–	4,295
Plant and equipment	10,184	(6,846)	3,338	1,674	–	(165)	(1,168)	–	–	–		10,819	(7,140)	3,679
Office equipment	6,697	(4,458)	2,239	–	354	–	(534)	–	–	–		5,350	(3,292)	2,058
<b>Land:</b>														
– Operational land	77,592	–	77,592	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		77,592	–	77,592
– Community land	49,503	–	49,503	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		49,503	–	49,503
Land improvements – non-depreciable	–	–	–	–	42	–	–	799	–	–		841	–	841
<b>Infrastructure:</b>														
– Buildings and other structures	76,418	(22,346)	54,072	680	5,600	(429)	(1,227)	1,911	–	6,445		90,791	(23,740)	67,051
– Roads	196,494	(83,160)	113,334	3,797	110	(700)	(2,619)	–	–	12,102		217,327	(91,302)	126,025
– Bridges	9,458	(3,483)	5,975	268	122	(15)	(91)	1,943	–	(287)		11,106	(3,190)	7,916
– Footpaths	41,263	(16,433)	24,830	3,455	–	(858)	(534)	–	–	1,856		45,684	(16,936)	28,748
– Bulk earthworks (non-depreciable)	36,841	–	36,841	–	–	–	–	–	–	1,989		38,830	–	38,830
– Stormwater drainage	93,143	(37,503)	55,640	–	37	–	(931)	–	–	3,847		129,696	(71,104)	58,592
– Car parks	7,203	(1,621)	5,582	188	–	(63)	(73)	–	–	304		7,654	(1,716)	5,938
– Other open space / recreational assets	60,911	(18,026)	42,885	14	218	(21)	(2,153)	3,454	–	(11,363)		43,694	(10,659)	33,035
<b>Other assets:</b>														
– Library books	2,272	(1,936)	336	90	–	–	(118)	–	–	–		2,362	(2,054)	308
<b>Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>677,542</b>	<b>(195,812)</b>	<b>481,730</b>	<b>13,538</b>	<b>6,483</b>	<b>(2,251)</b>	<b>(9,448)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(531)</b>	<b>14,893</b>		<b>735,544</b>	<b>(231,133)</b>	<b>504,411</b>

(1) Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

## C1-6 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

By aggregated asset class	At 1 July 2022			Asset movements during the reporting period						At 30 June 2023		
	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount	Additions renewals <sup>1</sup>	Additions new assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	WIP transfers	Revaluation increments / (decrements) to equity (ARR)	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
\$ '000												
Capital work in progress	6,644	–	6,644	5,175	1,104	–	–	(3,360)	–	9,563	–	9,563
Plant and equipment	9,536	(5,971)	3,565	1,378	–	(393)	(1,211)	–	–	10,184	(6,846)	3,338
Office equipment	6,658	(3,718)	2,940	–	39	–	(741)	–	–	6,697	(4,458)	2,239
<b>Land:</b>												
– Operational land	68,890	–	68,890	–	–	–	–	–	8,702	77,592	–	77,592
– Community land	49,503	–	49,503	–	–	–	–	–	–	49,503	–	49,503
<b>Infrastructure:</b>												
– Buildings and other structures	68,617	(21,534)	47,083	119	677	(200)	(812)	2,100	5,105	76,418	(22,346)	54,072
– Roads	195,617	(42,229)	153,388	2,246	187	(1,579)	(2,311)	69	(38,666)	196,494	(83,160)	113,334
– Bridges	14,181	(4,421)	9,760	–	–	–	(123)	–	(3,662)	9,458	(3,483)	5,975
– Footpaths	45,614	(9,453)	36,161	698	–	(307)	(546)	–	(11,176)	41,263	(16,433)	24,830
– Bulk earthworks (non-depreciable)	38,641	–	38,641	–	–	–	–	–	(1,800)	36,841	–	36,841
– Stormwater drainage	86,727	(36,710)	50,017	28	170	(7)	(793)	–	6,225	93,143	(37,503)	55,640
– Car parks	2,760	(473)	2,287	–	–	–	(213)	–	3,508	7,203	(1,621)	5,582
– Other open space / recreational assets	55,825	(16,051)	39,774	211	–	(2)	(1,975)	1,191	3,686	60,911	(18,026)	42,885
<b>Other assets:</b>												
– Library books	2,152	(1,827)	325	119	–	–	(109)	–	–	2,272	(1,936)	336
<b>Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>651,365</b>	<b>(142,387)</b>	<b>508,978</b>	<b>9,974</b>	<b>2,177</b>	<b>(2,488)</b>	<b>(8,834)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(28,078)</b>	<b>677,542</b>	<b>(195,812)</b>	<b>481,730</b>

(1) Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).

## C1-6 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

### Material accounting policy information

#### Initial recognition of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)

IPPE is measured initially at cost. Cost includes the fair value of the consideration given to acquire the asset (net of discounts and rebates) and any directly attributable cost of bringing the asset to working condition for its intended use (inclusive of import duties and taxes).

When infrastructure, property, plant and equipment is acquired by Council at significantly below fair value, the assets are initially recognised at their fair value at acquisition date.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the Income Statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

#### Useful lives of IPPE

Land is not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Class of IPPE	Useful Lives
Plant and equipment (inc. office equipment)	5 - 20 years
Buildings and other structures	20 - 150 years
Roads, bridges and footpaths	20 - 155 years
Stormwater drainage	100 - 150 years
Car parks	35 - 100 years and infinite base
Other open space / recreational assets	10 - 100 years
Library books	5 years

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

#### Revaluation model

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are held at fair value. Comprehensive valuations are performed at least every five (5) years, however the carrying amount of assets is assessed by Council at each reporting date to confirm that it is not materially different from current fair value.

Increases in the carrying amounts arising on revaluation are credited to the IPPE revaluation reserve. To the extent that the increase reverses a decrease previously recognising profit or loss relating to that asset class, the increase is first recognised as profit or loss. Decreases that reverse previous increases of assets in the same class are first charged against IPPE revaluation reserve to the extent of the remaining reserve attributable to the class; all other decreases are charged to the Income Statement.

#### Land under roads

Land under roads is land under roadways and road reserves including land under footpaths, nature strips and median strips.

Council has elected not to recognise land under roads acquired before 1 July 2008. Land under roads acquired after 1 July 2008 is recognised in accordance with the IPPE accounting policy. Council does not have any land under road that were acquired after 1 July 2008.

#### Crown reserves

Crown reserves under Council's care and control are recognised as assets of the Council categorised within community land. While ownership of the reserves remains with the Crown, Council retains operational control of the reserves and is responsible for their maintenance and use in accordance with the specific purposes to which the reserves are dedicated.

Improvements on Crown reserves are also recorded as assets, while maintenance costs incurred by Council and revenues relating to the reserves are recognised within Council's Income Statement.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

**C1-7 Intangible assets**

Intangible assets are as follows:

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Software</b>		
<b>Opening values at 1 July</b>		
Gross book value	<b>3,609</b>	3,609
Accumulated amortisation	<b>(1,739)</b>	(1,292)
<b>Net book value – opening balance</b>	<b>1,870</b>	2,317
<b>Movements for the year</b>		
Amortisation charges	<b>(523)</b>	(447)
<b>Closing values at 30 June</b>		
Gross book value	<b>3,609</b>	3,609
Accumulated amortisation	<b>(2,262)</b>	(1,739)
<b>Total software – net book value</b>	<b>1,347</b>	1,870
<b>Total intangible assets – net book value</b>	<b>1,347</b>	1,870

**Material accounting policy information****IT development and software**

Software development costs include only those costs directly attributable to the development phase (including external direct costs of materials and services, direct payroll, and payroll-related costs of employees' time spent on the project) and are only recognised following completion of technical feasibility, and where the Council has an intention and ability to use the asset. Amortisation is calculated on a straight-line basis over periods generally ranging from three to five years.

## C2 Leasing activities

### C2-1 Council as a lessee

#### (i) Council as a lessee

Council has leases over office equipment. Information relating to the leases in place and associated balances and transactions is provided below.

#### Terms and conditions of leases

##### Office and IT equipment

Leases for office and IT equipment are generally for the threshold for low value assets, except for significant items (such as photocopiers). The leases for Council's photocopiers are on a rolling 12 month basis and the payments are fixed, however certain variable payments apply based on usage.

#### (a) Income Statement

\$ '000	2024	2023
Expenses relating to short-term leases	3	28
	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>

#### (b) Statement of Cash Flows

Total cash outflow for leases	3	28
	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>

#### (c) Leases at significantly below market value – concessionary / peppercorn leases

Council has leases at significantly below market value for land which are used for parks and open space.

The leases of these types are generally for terms between 2 and 10 years and require payments of nominal amounts not exceeding \$1,000 per annum.

The use of the right-of-use asset is restricted by the lessors to specified community services which Council must provide, these services are detailed in the leases.

None of the leases in place are individually material from a Statement of Financial Position or Performance perspective.

#### Material accounting policy information

At inception of a contract, Council assesses whether a lease exists – i.e. does the contract convey the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration?

Council has elected not to separate non-lease components from lease components for any class of asset and has accounted for payments as a single component.

At the lease commencement, Council recognises a right-of-use asset and associated lease liability for the lease term. The lease term includes extension periods where Council believes it is reasonably certain that the option will be exercised.

The right-of-use asset is measured using the cost model where cost on initial recognition comprises: the lease liability, initial direct costs, prepaid lease payments, estimated cost of removal and restoration, less any lease incentives received. The right-of-use asset is depreciated over the lease term on a straight-line basis and assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of asset accounting policy.

The lease liability is initially recognised at the present value of the remaining lease payments at the commencement of the lease. The discount rate is the rate implicit in the lease, however where this cannot be readily determined then the Council's incremental borrowing rate for a similar term with similar security is used.

Subsequent to initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The lease liability is re-measured when there is a lease modification, or change in estimate of the lease term or index upon which the lease payments are based (e.g. CPI).



## C2-1 Council as a lessee (continued)

Where the lease liability is re-measured, the right-of-use asset is adjusted to reflect the re-measurement.

### Exceptions to lease accounting

Council has applied the exceptions to lease accounting for both short-term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low-value assets. Council recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

### Leases at significantly below market value / Concessionary leases

Council has elected to measure the right of use asset arising from the concessionary leases at cost which is based on the associated lease liability at initial recognition.

## C2-2 Council as a lessor

\$ '000	2024	2023
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### Maturity analysis of undiscounted lease payments to be received after reporting date for all operating leases:

Maturity analysis of future lease income receivable showing the undiscounted lease payments to be received after reporting date for operating leases:

< 1 year	1,030	760
1–2 years	680	662
2–3 years	552	572
3–4 years	482	501
4–5 years	435	297
> 5 years	2,828	2,472
<b>Total undiscounted lease payments to be received <sup>a</sup></b>	<b>6,007</b>	<b>5,264</b>

(a) These leases relate to council owned properties that are leased to external parties and community groups.

### Material accounting policy information

When Council is a lessor, the lease is classified as either an operating or finance lease at inception date, based on whether substantially all of the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the asset have been transferred to the lessee. If the risks and rewards have been transferred then the lease is classified as a finance lease, otherwise it is an operating lease.

When Council has a sub-lease over an asset and is the intermediate lessor then the head lease and sub-lease are accounted for separately. The classification of the sub-lease is based on the right-of-use asset which arises from the head lease rather than the useful life of the underlying asset.

If the lease contains lease and non-lease components then the non-lease components are accounted for in accordance with AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*.

The lease income is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

### C3 Liabilities of Council

#### C3-1 Payables

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024 Current</b>	<b>2024 Non-current</b>	<b>2023 Current</b>	<b>2023 Non-current</b>
<b>Payables</b>				
Goods and services – operating expenditure	1,623	–	1,746	–
Accrued expenses:				
– Salaries and wages	513	–	223	–
– Other expenditure accruals	478	–	1,108	–
Security bonds, deposits and retentions	13,719	–	12,956	–
Prepaid rates	361	–	394	–
Other	152	–	–	–
<b>Total payables</b>	<b>16,846</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>16,427</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total payables</b>	<b>16,846</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>16,427</b>	<b>–</b>

#### Current payables not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
The following liabilities, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.		
Payables – security bonds, deposits and retentions	13,719	12,956
<b>Total payables</b>	<b>13,719</b>	<b>12,956</b>

#### Material accounting policy information

Council measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transaction costs, subsequently financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

The financial liabilities of the Council comprise trade payables.

#### Payables

Payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to Council prior to the end of financial year that are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

**C3-2 Contract Liabilities**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024 Current</b>	<b>2024 Non-current</b>	<b>2023 Current</b>	<b>2023 Non-current</b>
<b>Grants and contributions received in advance:</b>				
Unexpended grants (received prior to performance obligation being satisfied) <sup>1</sup>	5,403	—	8,354	—
<b>Total grants received in advance</b>	<b>5,403</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>8,354</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>User fees and charges received in advance:</b>				
Other <sup>2</sup>	313	—	378	—
<b>Total user fees and charges received in advance</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Total contract liabilities</b>	<b>5,716</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>8,732</b>	<b>—</b>

(1) Council receives funding to construct assets including sporting facilities, bridges, library and other infrastructure. The funds received are under an enforceable contract which require Council to construct an identified asset which will be under Council's control on completion. The revenue is recognised as Council constructs the asset and the contract liability reflects the funding received which cannot yet be recognised as revenue. The revenue is expected to be recognised in the next 12 months. The contract liability relates to grants received prior to the revenue recognition criteria being satisfied since the performance obligations are ongoing.

(2) This includes fees received in advance for development applications that were not determined as at balance date.

**Material accounting policy information**

Contract liabilities are recorded when consideration is received from a customer / fund provider prior to Council transferring a good or service to the customer, Council presents the funds which exceed revenue recognised as a contract liability.

**C3-3 Borrowings**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024 Current</b>	<b>2024 Non-current</b>	<b>2023 Current</b>	<b>2023 Non-current</b>
Loans – secured <sup>1</sup>	548	6,452	—	—
<b>Total borrowings</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>6,452</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

(1) Loans are secured over the general rating income of Council.

Disclosures on liability interest rate risk exposures, fair value disclosures and security can be found in Note 20.

**Current borrowings not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months**

The following borrowings, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.

**(a) Changes in liabilities arising from financing activities**

	<b>2023</b>		<b>Non-cash movements</b>				<b>2024</b>
	<i>Opening Balance</i>	<i>Cash flows</i>	<i>Acquisition</i>	<i>Fair value changes</i>	<i>Acquisition due to change in accounting policy</i>	<i>Other non-cash movement</i>	<i>Closing balance</i>
<b>\$ '000</b>							
Loans – secured	—	7,000	—	—	—	—	7,000
<b>Total liabilities from financing activities</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7,000</b>

**(b) Financing arrangements**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Total facilities</b>		

Page 42 of 62

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

**C3-3 Borrowings (continued)**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Total financing facilities available to Council at the reporting date are:		
Credit cards/purchase cards	<b>70</b>	70
<b>Total financing arrangements</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Drawn facilities</b>		
Financing facilities drawn down at the reporting date are:		
<b>Undrawn facilities</b>		
Undrawn financing facilities available to Council at the reporting date are:		
– Credit cards/purchase cards	<b>61</b>	13
<b>Total undrawn financing arrangements</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>13</b>

### C3-4 Employee benefit provisions

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024 Current</b>	<b>2024 Non-current</b>	<b>2023 Current</b>	<b>2023 Non-current</b>
Annual leave	1,523	–	1,498	–
Sick leave	15	–	16	–
Long service leave	2,241	560	1,832	458
ELE on-costs	417	51	439	–
<b>Total employee benefit provisions</b>	<b>4,196</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>3,785</b>	<b>458</b>

#### Current employee benefit provisions not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
The following provisions, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.		
Provisions – employees benefits	2,204	1,642
	<b>2,204</b>	<b>1,642</b>

#### Material accounting policy information

Employee benefit provisions are presented as current liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position if Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur and therefore all annual leave and vested long service leave (or that which vests within 12 months) is presented as current.

#### Short-term obligations

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulating sick leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service) are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liability for annual leave and accumulating sick leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

#### Other long-term employee benefit obligations

The liability for long-service leave and annual leave that is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

#### On-costs

The employee benefit provisions include the aggregate on-cost liabilities that will arise when payment of current employee benefits is made in future periods.

These amounts include superannuation, payroll tax and workers compensation expenses which will be payable upon the future payment of certain leave liabilities which employees are entitled to at the reporting period.

## C4 Reserves

### C4-1 Nature and purpose of reserves

#### Revaluation reserve

The infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE) revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements in the revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

## D Risks and accounting uncertainties

### D1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held

Council's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks including credit risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk.

The Council's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Council.

Council does not engage in transactions expressed in foreign currencies and is therefore not subject to foreign currency risk.

Council's objective is to maximise its return on cash and investments whilst maintaining an adequate level of liquidity and preserving capital. The finance team manages the cash and Investments portfolio with the assistance of independent advisors. Council has an investment policy which complies with the s 625 of the Act and the Ministerial Investment Order. The policy is regularly reviewed by Council and a monthly investment report is provided to Council setting out the make-up performance of the portfolio as required by local government regulations.

Financial risk management is carried out by Council's finance section under policies approved by the Council.

The fair value of Council's financial assets and financial liabilities approximates their carrying amount.

#### (a) Credit risk

Council's major receivables comprise rates, annual charges, and user charges and fees.

Council manages the credit risk associated with these receivables by monitoring outstanding debt and employing stringent debt recovery procedures. Council also encourages ratepayers to pay their rates by the due date through certain incentives.

The credit risk for liquid funds and other short-term financial assets is considered negligible, since the counterparties are reputable financial institutions with high quality external credit ratings.

There are no significant concentrations of credit risk to Council due to the nature of Council operations.

The level of outstanding receivables is reported to Council periodically and benchmarks are set and monitored for acceptable collection performance. The balances of receivables that remain within initial trade terms are considered to be of high credit quality.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the carrying amount of each class of receivable in the financial statements.

There are no material receivables that have been subjected to a re-negotiation of repayment terms.

## D1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

### Credit risk profile

#### Receivables – rates and annual charges

Credit risk on rates and annual charges is minimised by the ability of Council to recover these debts as a secured charge over the land; that is, the land can be sold to recover the debt. Council is also able to charge interest on overdue rates and annual charges at higher than market rates which further encourages payment.

\$ '000	Not yet overdue	overdue rates and annual charges		Total
		< 5 years	≥ 5 years	
<b>2024</b>				
Gross carrying amount	623	1,606	–	2,229
<b>2023</b>				
Gross carrying amount	–	1,566	–	1,566

#### Receivables - non-rates and annual charges and contract assets

Council applies the simplified approach for non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets to provide for expected credit losses, which permits the use of the lifetime expected loss provision at inception. To measure the expected credit losses, non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and the days past due.

The loss allowance provision is determined as follows. The expected credit losses incorporate forward-looking information.

\$ '000	Not yet overdue	Overdue debts				Total
		0 - 30 days	31 - 60 days	61 - 90 days	> 91 days	
<b>2024</b>						
Gross carrying amount	2,947	14	2	3	77	3,043
Expected loss rate (%)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	87.50%	2.21%
<b>ECL provision</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>2023</b>						
Gross carrying amount	1,532	42	20	53	152	1,799
Expected loss rate (%)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	87.50%	7.39%
<b>ECL provision</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>133</b>

## D1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

### (b) Liquidity risk

Payables are subject to liquidity risk; that is, the risk that insufficient funds may be on hand to meet payment obligations as and when they fall due.

Council manages this risk by monitoring its cash flow requirements and liquidity levels, and by maintaining an adequate cash buffer. Payment terms can be extended, and overdraft facilities drawn upon in extenuating circumstances.

Borrowings are also subject to interest rate risk: the risk that movements in interest rates could adversely affect funding costs. Council manages this risk through diversification of borrowing types, maturities and interest rate structures.

The timing of cash flows presented in the table below to settle financial liabilities reflects the earliest contractual settlement dates. The timing of expected outflows is not expected to be materially different from contracted cashflows.

\$ '000	Weighted average interest rate	Subject to no maturity	payable in: ≤ 1 Year	1 - 5 Years	> 5 Years	Total cash outflows	Actual carrying values
<b>2024</b>							
Payables (excluding prepaid rates)	0.00%	—	16,485	—	—	16,485	16,485
Borrowings	5.24%	—	548	2,499	3,953	7,000	7,000
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>—</b>	<b>17,033</b>	<b>2,499</b>	<b>3,953</b>	<b>23,485</b>	<b>23,485</b>
<b>2023</b>							
Payables (excluding prepaid rates)	0.00%	—	16,033	—	—	16,033	16,033
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>—</b>	<b>16,033</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>16,033</b>	<b>16,033</b>



## D2-1 Fair value measurement

The Council measures the following asset and liability classes at fair value on a recurring basis:

– Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

The fair value of assets and liabilities must be estimated in accordance with various accounting standards for either recognition and measurement requirements or for disclosure purposes.

AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement requires all assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be assigned to a 'level' in the fair value hierarchy as follows:

**Level 1:** Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

**Level 2:** Inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

**Level 3:** Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

		Fair value measurement hierarchy					
\$ '000	Notes	Level 2 Significant observable inputs		Level 3 Significant unobservable inputs		Total	
		2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Recurring fair value measurements							
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-6						
Plant & equipment		–	–	3,679	3,338	3,679	3,338
Office equipment		–	–	2,058	2,239	2,058	2,239
Operational land		77,592	77,592	–	–	77,592	77,592
Community land		–	–	49,503	49,503	49,503	49,503
Land improvements (non-depreciable)		–	–	841	–	841	–
Buildings		5,600	–	61,451	54,072	67,051	54,072
Roads		–	–	126,025	113,334	126,025	113,334
Bridges		–	–	7,916	5,975	7,916	5,975
Footpaths		–	–	28,748	24,830	28,748	24,830
Bulk earthworks (non-depreciable)		–	–	38,830	36,841	38,830	36,841
Stormwater drainage		–	–	58,592	55,640	58,592	55,640
Car parks		–	–	5,938	5,582	5,938	5,582
Other open space / recreational assets		–	–	33,035	42,885	33,035	42,885
Library books		–	–	308	336	308	336
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		83,192	77,592	416,924	394,575	500,116	472,167

### Valuation techniques

Where Council is unable to derive fair valuations using quoted market prices of identical assets (ie. level 1 inputs) Council instead utilises a spread of both observable inputs (level 2 inputs) and unobservable inputs (level 3 inputs).

The fair valuation techniques Council has employed while utilising level 2 and level 3 inputs are as follows:

#### Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)

##### Plant & Equipment and Office Equipment

The purchase cost of Plant & Equipment and Office Equipment are taken as their fair value. There has been no change to the valuation techniques during the reporting period.

##### Operational Land

A comprehensive valuation of Council's operational land was undertaken at 30 June 2022 by an external valuer and further followed up with a desktop assesment at 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2024.

## D2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Operational land has been valued at market value, having regard to the "highest and best use", after identifying all elements that would be taken into account by buyers and sellers in settling the price.

There has been no change to the valuation techniques during the reporting period.

### Community Land

Council's community land was valued based on the Land Value (LV) provided by Valuer-General valuation.

Where the Valuer-General did not provide LV an average unit rate based on the LV for similar community land was used, having regard to the highest and best use for the land.

### Land Under Roads

Council has elected not to recognise land under roads acquired before 1 July 2008 in accordance with AASB 1051.

### Buildings

Council's buildings were valued utilising the current replacement cost approach by an external valuer at 30 June 2024.

The approach estimated the replacement cost of each building and componentising of significant parts with different useful lives and taking into account a range of factors. The unit rates could be supported by market evidence and other inputs (such as estimates of residual value, useful life and asset condition) required extensive professional judgement and impacted significantly on the final determination of fair value.

As such, these assets have been valued using Level 2 and 3 inputs. There has been no change to the valuation techniques during the reporting period.

### Roads, Bridges, Footpaths

A full external revaluation of Council's transport assets (including roads, bridges, footpaths) were undertaken by an external valuers as at 30 June 2023. An independent firm was engaged to undertake condition assessments prior to the valuation date.

Roads include carriageway, roadside shoulders, kerbs and gutters, and roadside assets such as bus shelters, round-a-bouts, signs and street furniture. The cost approach using level 3 inputs was used to value this asset class. As no market based evidence (Level 2) inputs are available therefore Level 3 valuation inputs were used for this asset class.

There has been no change to the valuation methodology during the reporting period.

### Stormwater Drainage

Assets within this class comprise pits, pipes, open channels, headwalls and other water quality devices. The "cost approach" estimates the replacement cost for each asset by componentising the assets into significant parts with different useful lives and taking into account a range of factors. While the unit rates based on linear metres or certain diameter pipes and prices per pit or similar could be supported from extensive professional judgement and market evidence.

A revaluation was undertaken as at 30 June 2024 by an external valuer.

### Car Parks

Car parks include surface area and pavement, kerbs and gutters, layback and landscaping. The cost approach using level 3 inputs was used to value this asset class. An external revaluation was undertaken as at 30 June 2023.

### Other Open Space and Recreational Assets

Assets within this class have been valued by an external valuer at fair value comprising of regional sporting and recreational facilities and playgrounds, park furniture, amenities and fittings (picnic tables, shelters, seats, bollards, fences, BBQ's, etc).

Extensive professional judgement has been required to determine the final fair value of assets. Valuation of Council's other open space and recreational assets was undertaken as at 30 June 2024 by an external valuer.

### Library Books

Library Books are valued at cost. The carrying amounts of these assets are assumed to approximate fair value due to the nature of the items. There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

## Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (level 3)

## D2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

A reconciliation of the movements in recurring fair value measurements allocated to Level 3 of the hierarchy is provided below:

\$ '000	2024	2023
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>394,575</b>	433,445
Total gains or (losses) for the period - Revaluation surplus / (decrement)	<b>15,722</b>	(36,780)
<b>Other movements</b>		
Additions (Purchases) (GBV)	<b>11,017</b>	5,872
Disposals (WDV)	<b>(2,251)</b>	(2,488)
Depreciation and impairment	<b>(9,447)</b>	(8,834)
Other movement - Transfers from WIP	<b>7,308</b>	3,360
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>416,924</b>	<b>394,575</b>

### Highest and best use

All of Council's non-financial assets, except community land, are considered as being utilised for their highest and best use.

Community land is being utilised in a manner that differs from its highest and best use due to standing legal restrictions on the permissible usage of the land based on the Local Government Act 1993.

## D3-1 Contingencies

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position, but their knowledge and disclosure is considered relevant to the users of Council's financial report.

### LIABILITIES NOT RECOGNISED

#### 1. Guarantees

##### (i) Defined benefit superannuation contribution plans

Council is party to an Industry Defined Benefit Plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, named The Local Government Superannuation Scheme – Pool B (the Scheme) which is a defined benefit plan that has been deemed to be a 'multi-employer fund' for purposes of AASB119 Employee Benefits for the following reasons:

- Assets are not segregated within the sub-group according to the employees of each sponsoring employer.
- The contribution rates have been the same for all sponsoring employers. That is, contribution rates have not varied for each sponsoring employer according to the experience relating to the employees of that sponsoring employer.
- Benefits for employees of all sponsoring employers are determined according to the same formulae and without regard to the sponsoring employer.
- The same actuarial assumptions are currently used in respect of the employees of each sponsoring employer.

Given the factors above, each sponsoring employer is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers, and hence shares in the associated gains and losses (to the extent that they are not borne by members).

*A description of the funding arrangements, including the method used to determine the entity's rate of contributions and any minimum funding requirements.*

Pooled Employers are required to pay future service employer contributions and past service employer contributions to the Fund.

The future service employer contributions were determined using the new entrant rate method under which a contribution rate sufficient to fund the total benefits over the working life-time of a typical new entrant is calculated. The current future service employer contribution rates are:

Division B	1.9 times member contributions for non-180 Point Members; Nil for 180 Point Members*
Division C	2.5% salaries
Division D	1.64 times member contributions

*\* For 180 Point Members, Employers are required to contribute 8.5% of salaries for the year ending 30 June 2024 (increasing to 9.0% in line with the increase in the Superannuation Guarantee) to these members' accumulation accounts, which are paid in addition to members' defined benefits.*

The past service contribution for each Pooled Employer is a share of the total past service contributions of \$20.0 million per annum for 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024, apportioned according to each employer's share of the accrued liabilities as at 30 June 2023. These past service contributions are used to maintain the adequacy of the funding position for the accrued liabilities.

The adequacy of contributions is assessed at each triennial actuarial investigation and monitored annually between triennials.

*A description of the extent to which the entity can be liable to the plan for other entities' obligations under the terms and conditions of the multi-employer plan:*

As stated above, each sponsoring employer is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers and hence shares in the associated gains and losses.

However, there is no relief under the Fund's trust deed for employers to walk away from their defined benefit obligations. Under limited circumstances, an employer may withdraw from the plan when there are no active members, on full payment of outstanding past service contributions. There is no provision for allocation of any surplus which may be present at the date of withdrawal of the entity.

*(c) a description of any agreed allocation of a deficit or surplus on:*

##### (i) wind-up of the plan

There are no specific provisions under the Fund's trust deed dealing with deficits or surplus on wind-up.

##### (ii) the entity's withdrawal from the plan

There is no provision for allocation of any surplus which may be present at the date of withdrawal of an employer.

### D3-1 Contingencies (continued)

The amount of employer contributions to the defined benefit section of the Fund and recognised as an expense for the year ending 30 June 2024 was \$134,018.10. The last formal valuation of the Fund was undertaken by the Fund Actuary, Richard Boyfield FIAA as at 30 June 2023.

The amount of past service contributions in the total employer contribution advised above is \$42,835.59. The expected contributions to the Fund for the next annual reporting period are \$91,308.99.

The estimated employer reserves financial position for the Pooled Employers at 30 June 2024 is:

Defined Benefit Reserves Only*	\$ Millions	Asset Coverage
Assets	2,237.5	
Past Service Liabilities	2,141.9	104.5%
Vested Benefits	2,159.8	103.6%

\* excluding other accumulation accounts and reserves in both assets and liabilities

The key economic assumptions used to calculate the present value of accrued benefits are:

Investment Return	6.0% per annum
Salary Inflation	3.5% per annum
Increase in CPI	3.5% for FY23/24 2.5% per annum thereafter

The contribution requirements may vary from the current rates if the overall sub-group experience is not in line with the actuarial assumptions in determining the funding program; however, any adjustment to the funding program would be the same for all sponsoring employers in the Pooled Employers group. Please note that the estimated employer reserves financial position above is a preliminary calculation, and once all the relevant information has been received by the Funds Actuary, the final end of year review will be completed by December 2024.

#### (ii) Statewide Limited

Council is a member of Statewide Mutual, a mutual pool scheme providing liability insurance to local government.

Membership includes the potential to share in either the net assets or liabilities of the fund depending on its past performance. Council's share of the net assets or liabilities reflects Council's contributions to the pool and the result of insurance claims within each of the fund years.

The future realisation and finalisation of claims incurred but not reported to 30 June this year may result in future liabilities or benefits as a result of past events that Council will be required to fund or share in respectively.

#### (iii) StateCover Limited

Council is a member of StateCover Mutual Limited and holds a partly paid share in the entity.

StateCover is a company providing workers compensation insurance cover to the NSW local government industry and specifically Council.

Council has a contingent liability to contribute further equity in the event of the erosion of the company's capital base as a result of the company's past performance and/or claims experience or as a result of any increased prudential requirements from APRA.

These future equity contributions would be required to maintain the company's minimum level of net assets in accordance with its licence requirements.

#### (iv) Other guarantees

Council has provided no other guarantees other than those listed above.

### 2. Other liabilities

#### (i) Third party claims

The Council is involved from time to time in various claims incidental to the ordinary course of business including claims for damages relating to its services.

### D3-1 Contingencies (continued)

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Council believes that it is appropriately covered for all claims through its insurance coverage and does not expect any material liabilities to eventuate.

#### **(ii) Potential land acquisitions due to planning restrictions imposed by Council**

Council has classified a number of privately owned land parcels as local open space or bushland.

As a result, where notified in writing by the various owners, Council will be required to purchase these land parcels.

At reporting date, reliable estimates as to the value of any potential liability (and subsequent land asset) from such potential acquisitions has not been possible.

#### **ASSETS NOT RECOGNISED**

##### **(i) Land under roads**

As permitted under AASB 1051, Council has elected not to bring to account land under roads that it owned or controlled up to and including 30 June 2008.

## E People and relationships

### E1 Related party disclosures

#### E1-1 Key management personnel (KMP)

Key management personnel (KMP) of the council are those persons having the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the council, directly or indirectly.

The aggregate amount of KMP compensation included in the Income Statement is:

\$ '000	2024	2023
<b>Compensation:</b>		
Short-term benefits	1,157	728
Post-employment benefits	109	70
Other long-term benefits	36	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>822</b>

#### Other transactions with KMP and their related parties

Council has determined that transactions at arm's length between KMP and Council as part of KMP using Council services (e.g. access to library or Council swimming pool) will not be disclosed. There are no other transactions between the Council and the KMP's and their related parties.

#### E1-2 Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses

\$ '000	2024	2023
The aggregate amount of Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses included in materials and services expenses in the Income Statement are:		
Mayoral fee	53	53
Councillors' fees	164	157
Other Councillors' expenses (including Mayor)	38	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>257</b>

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

**E2 Other relationships****E2-1 Audit fees**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
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During the year, the following fees were incurred for services provided by the auditor of Council, related practices and non-related audit firms

**Auditors of the Council - NSW Auditor-General:****(i) Audit services**

Audit of financial statements

**Remuneration for audit services****Total Auditor-General remuneration**

<b>140</b>	<b>270</b>
<b>140</b>	<b>270</b>
<b>140</b>	<b>270</b>

**Non NSW Auditor-General audit firms:****(i) Audit and other assurance services**

Internal audit

**Remuneration for audit and other assurance services****Total remuneration of non NSW Auditor-General audit firms****Total audit fees**

<b>175</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>175</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>175</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>315</b>	<b>400</b>



## F Other matters

### F1-1 Statement of Cash Flows information

#### Reconciliation of Operating Result

\$ '000	2024	2023
<b>Net operating result from Income Statement</b>	<b>15,418</b>	<b>3,898</b>
<b>Add / (less) non-cash items:</b>		
Depreciation and amortisation	9,971	9,282
(Gain) / loss on disposal of assets	1,674	1,905
Non-cash capital grants and contributions	(5,600)	–
<b>Movements in operating assets and liabilities and other cash items:</b>		
(Increase) / decrease of receivables	(1,907)	1,167
Increase / (decrease) in provision for impairment of receivables	(54)	104
(Increase) / decrease of inventories	(8)	26
(Increase) / decrease of other current assets	(188)	98
Increase / (decrease) in payables	419	1,024
Increase / (decrease) in contract liabilities	(3,016)	2,544
Increase / (decrease) in employee benefit provision	564	(577)
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>17,273</b>	<b>19,471</b>

### F2-1 Commitments

#### Capital commitments (exclusive of GST)

\$ '000	2024	2023
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:		
<b>Property, plant and equipment</b>		
Road infrastructure	3,798	2,395
Buildings	219	306
Plant and equipment	813	162
Other community infrastructure	203	208
Other	63	–
<b>Total commitments</b>	<b>5,096</b>	<b>3,071</b>
<b>These expenditures are payable as follows:</b>		
Within the next year	5,096	3,071
<b>Total payable</b>	<b>5,096</b>	<b>3,071</b>

#### Details of capital commitments

Capital commitments represent the committed but unspent component of capital projects that are currently in progress.

### F3-1 Events occurring after the reporting date

Council is unaware of any material or significant 'non-adjusting events' that should be disclosed.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

## F4 Statement of developer contributions

### F4-1 Summary of developer contributions

\$ '000	Opening balance at 1 July 2023	Contributions received during the year				Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2024	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
		Cash	Non-cash Land	Non-cash Other						
Parking	426	–	–	–	17	(9)	–	–	434	–
Community facilities	(537)	1,085	–	–	22	–	–	–	570	–
Roads and traffic facilities	749	315	–	–	39	(83)	–	–	1,020	–
Major open space	1,531	4,785	–	–	253	–	–	–	6,569	–
Local open space	4,799	2,872	–	–	307	–	–	–	7,978	–
Administration	341	103	–	–	14	(100)	–	–	358	–
<b>S7.11 contributions – under a plan</b>	<b>7,309</b>	<b>9,160</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>(192)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>16,929</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>S7.12 levies – under a plan</b>	<b>8,797</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>10,563</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total S7.11 and S7.12 revenue under plans</b>	<b>16,106</b>	<b>10,520</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>(192)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>27,492</b>	<b>–</b>
S7.11 not under plans	890	–	–	–	36	–	–	–	926	–
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>16,996</b>	<b>10,520</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1,094</b>	<b>(192)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>28,418</b>	<b>–</b>

Under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, Council has significant obligations to provide Section 7.11 (contributions towards provision or improvement of amenities or services) infrastructure in new release areas. It is possible that the funds contributed may be less than the cost of this infrastructure, requiring Council to borrow or use general revenue to fund the difference.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

## F4-2 Developer contributions by plan

	Opening balance at 1 July 2023	Contributions received during the year			Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2024	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
\$ '000		Cash	Non-cash Land	Non-cash Other					
CONTRIBUTION PLAN 2010 – DIRECT									
Community facilities	(537)	1,085	–	–	22	–	–	570	–
Administration	341	103	–	–	14	(100)	–	358	–
Roads and traffic facilities	749	315	–	–	39	(83)	–	1,020	–
Major open space	1,531	4,785	–	–	253	–	–	6,569	–
Local open space	4,799	2,872	–	–	307	–	–	7,978	–
Total	6,883	9,160	–	–	635	(183)	–	16,495	–
CONTRIBUTION PLAN 1993									
Parking	426	–	–	–	17	(9)	–	434	–
Total	426	–	–	–	17	(9)	–	434	–

## S7.12 Levies – under a plan

## INDIRECT DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN – 2010

General levy	8,797	1,360	–	–	406	–	–	10,563	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,797</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>10,563</b>	<b>–</b>

## F4-3 Contributions not under plans

## CONTRIBUTIONS – NOT UNDER A PLAN

Parking	890	–	–	–	36	–	–	926	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>–</b>

## F4-4 S7.4 planning agreements

## Voluntary Planning Agreements

Other	–	681	–	5,600	7	–	–	688	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>–</b>

## F5 Statement of performance measures

### F5-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results

\$ '000	Amounts 2024	Indicator 2024	Indicators 2023 2022		Benchmark
1. Operating performance ratio					
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions less operating expenses <sup>1, 2</sup>	(5,906)	(11.57)%	(16.23)%	(7.87)%	> 0.00%
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions <sup>1</sup>	51,056				
2. Own source operating revenue ratio					
Total continuing operating revenue excluding all grants and contributions <sup>1</sup>	48,206	65.14%	72.40%	76.88%	> 60.00%
Total continuing operating revenue <sup>1</sup>	73,999				
3. Unrestricted current ratio					
Current assets less all external restrictions	30,693	5.13x	4.32x	3.31x	> 1.50x
Current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities	5,981				
4. Debt service cover ratio					
Operating result before capital excluding interest and depreciation/impairment/amortisation <sup>1</sup>	4,065	∞	∞	∞	> 2.00x
Principal repayments (Statement of Cash Flows) plus borrowing costs (Income Statement)	—				
5. Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage					
Rates and annual charges outstanding	2,435	6.28%	4.86%	4.39%	< 5.00%
Rates and annual charges collectable	38,787				
6. Cash expense cover ratio					
Current year's cash and cash equivalents plus all term deposits	62,544	17.30	12.77	13.30	> 3.00
Monthly payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities	3,616	months	months	months	months
(1) Excludes fair value increments on investment properties, reversal of revaluation decrements, reversal of impairment losses on receivables, net gain on sale of assets and net share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method and includes pensioner rate subsidies					
(2) Excludes impairment/revaluation decrements of IPPE, fair value decrements on investment properties, net loss on disposal of assets and net loss on share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method					

**End of the audited general purpose financial statements**

## G Additional Council disclosures (unaudited)

### G1-1 Council information and contact details

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**Principal place of business:**

65 Homebush Rd  
Strathfield NSW 2135

**Contact details****Mailing Address:**

PO Box 120  
Strathfield NSW 2135

**Telephone:** (02) 9748 9999

**Facsimile:** (02) 9764 1034

**Opening hours:**

10:00am - 4:00pm  
Monday to Friday

**Internet:** [www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au](http://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au)

**Email:** [council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au)

**Officers****General Manager**

Michael Mamo

**Responsible Accounting Officer**

Rodney Sanjivi

**Public Officer**

Melissa Mallos

**Auditors**

Audit Office NSW  
Level 19, Darling Park Tower 2,  
201 Sussex Street, Sydney NSW 2000

**Elected members****Elected Members (During the Financial Year)**

- Karen Pensabene (Mayor)
- Sandy Reddy (Deputy Mayor)
- Benjamin Cai
- Raj Datta
- Nella Hall
- Sharangan Maheswaran
- Matthew Blackmore

**Elected Members at the Date of Approval of Financial Statements:**

- John-Paul Baladi (Mayor)
- Benjamin Cai (Deputy Mayor)
- Sandy Reddy
- Esther Kim
- Matthew Blackmore
- Karen Pensabene
- Rory Nosworthy

**Other information**

**ABN:** 52 719 940 263



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### Report on the general purpose financial statements

#### Strathfield Municipal Council

To the Councillors of Strathfield Municipal Council

### Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Strathfield Municipal Council (the Council), which comprise the Statement by Councillors and Management, the Income Statement and Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2024, the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2024, the Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information and other explanatory information.

In my opinion:

- the Council's accounting records have been kept in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2 (the Division)
- the financial statements:
  - have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of this Division
  - are consistent with the Council's accounting records
  - present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2024, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards
- all information relevant to the conduct of the audit has been obtained
- no material deficiencies in the accounting records or financial statements have come to light during the audit.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

### Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

### **Other Information**

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 includes other information in addition to the financial statements and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the special purpose financial statements and Special Schedules (the Schedules).

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the special purpose financial statements and Special Schedule - Permissible income for general rates.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

### **The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements**

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1993* and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: [www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- on the Original Budget information included in the Income Statement, Statement of Cash Flows, and Note B5-1 'Material budget variations
- on the Special Schedules. A separate opinion has been provided on Special Schedule - Permissible income for general rates
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.



Karen Taylor  
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

30 October 2024  
SYDNEY





Cr John-Paul Baladi  
Mayor  
Strathfield Municipal Council  
PO Box 120  
STRATHFIELD NSW 2135

Contact: Karen Taylor  
Phone no: 02 9275 7311  
Our ref: R008-2124742775-8228

30 October 2024

Dear Mayor

**Report on the Conduct of the Audit  
for the year ended 30 June 2024  
Strathfield Municipal Council**

I have audited the general purpose financial statements (GPFS) of the Strathfield Municipal Council (the Council) for the year ended 30 June 2024 as required by section 415 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act).

I expressed an unmodified opinion on the Council's GPFS.

This Report on the Conduct of the Audit (the Report) for the Council for the year ended 30 June 2024 is issued in accordance with section 417 of the Act. This Report should be read in conjunction with my audit opinion on the GPFS issued under section 417(2) of the Act.

## INCOME STATEMENT

### Operating result

	2024	2023	Variance
	\$m	\$m	%
Rates and annual charges revenue	36.9	33.6	↑ 9.8
Grants and contributions revenue	25.8	16.6	↑ 55.4
Operating result from continuing operations	15.4	3.9	↑ 295
Net operating result before capital grants and contributions	(7.5)	(9.6)	↑ 2.2

Rates and annual charges revenue (\$36.9 million) increased by \$3.3 million (9.8%) in 2023–24 due to special rate variation increase of 35.1%, which was off-set by reduction in the domestic waste management annual charges (DWM).

Grants and contributions revenue (\$25.8 million) increased by \$9.2 million (55.4%) in 2023–24 mainly due to increase of \$9.6 million of developer contributions recognised during the year, which included an in-kind contribution of \$5.6 million relating to eight affordable housing units.

Council's operating result from continuing operations (\$15.4 million including depreciation, amortisation expense of \$10.0 million) was \$11.5 million higher than the 2022–23 result. The improved operating result was mainly attributable to the increase to capital grants and contributions.

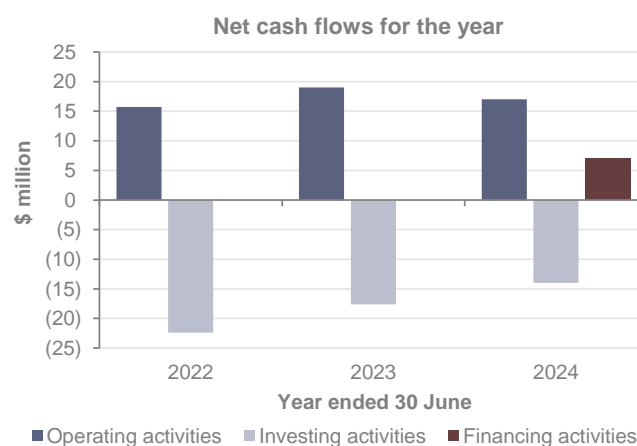
The net operating result before capital grants and contributions (\$7.5 million deficit) was \$2.1 million lower than the 2022–23 deficit, mainly due to increase in rates and annual charges.

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

No significant movement in the net cash flows generated from operating activities compared to the prior year.

Net cash used in investing activities decreased by \$3.3 million from 2022–23, primarily due to less investment in term deposits.

Net cash flows from financing activities increased by \$7.0 million due to borrowing made during 2023–24.



## FINANCIAL POSITION

### Cash and investments

Cash and investments	2024	2023	Commentary
	\$m	\$m	
<b>Total cash, cash equivalents and investments</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>51.6</b>	Externally restricted balances comprise mainly of developer contributions, stormwater and domestic waste funds. These funds increased by \$8.3 million mainly due to higher level of developer contributions collected during the year.
Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments:			Internal allocations are determined by council policies or decisions, which are subject to change. The allocations increased by \$3.1 million mainly due increase in funds allocated to capital works and vehicle replacements.
• External restrictions	37.7	29.4	
• Internal allocations	24.8	21.7	

## Debt

At 30 June 2024, Council had \$7.0 million in secured loans (Nil in 2022–23). There was also \$9,000 used from a \$70,000 credit card facility.

## PERFORMANCE

### Performance measures

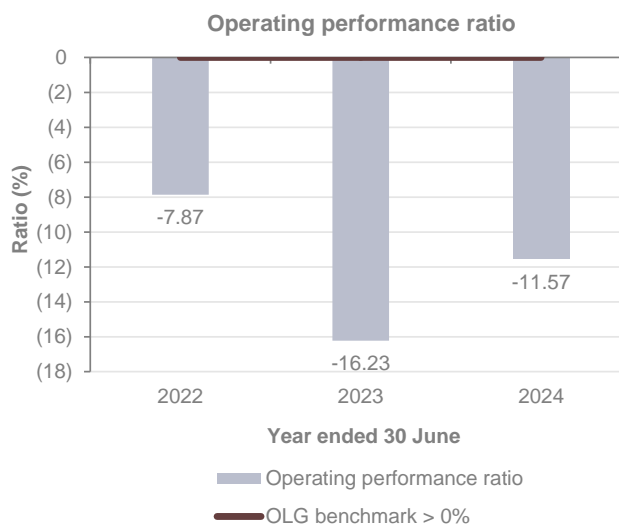
The following section provides an overview of the Council's performance against the performance measures and performance benchmarks set by the Office of Local Government (OLG) within the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

#### Operating performance ratio

Council continues to not meet this benchmark for the current reporting period.

The 2024 operating performance ratio has been improved compared to 2022–23 due to special rate variation increasing rates income.

The 'operating performance ratio' measures how well council contained operating expenditure within operating revenue (excluding capital grants and contributions, fair value adjustments, and reversal of revaluation decrements). The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 0%.



#### Own source operating revenue ratio

Council continued to exceed the benchmark for the current reporting period.

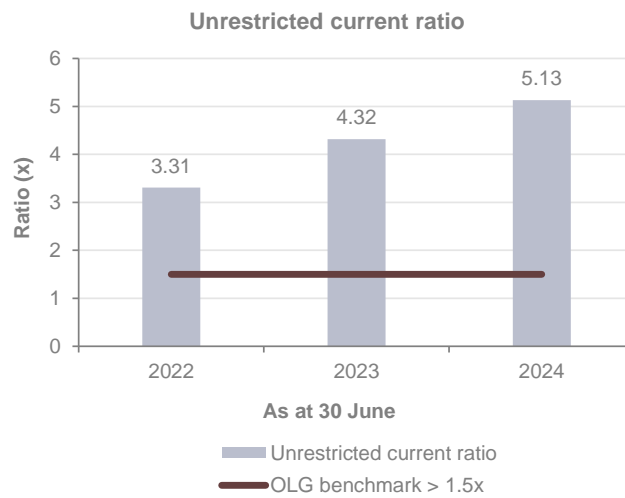
The 'own source operating revenue ratio' measures council's fiscal flexibility and the degree to which it relies on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 60%.



**Unrestricted current ratio**

Council continues to exceed the benchmark for the current reporting period.

The 'unrestricted current ratio' is specific to local government and represents council's ability to meet its short-term obligations as they fall due. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 1.5 times.

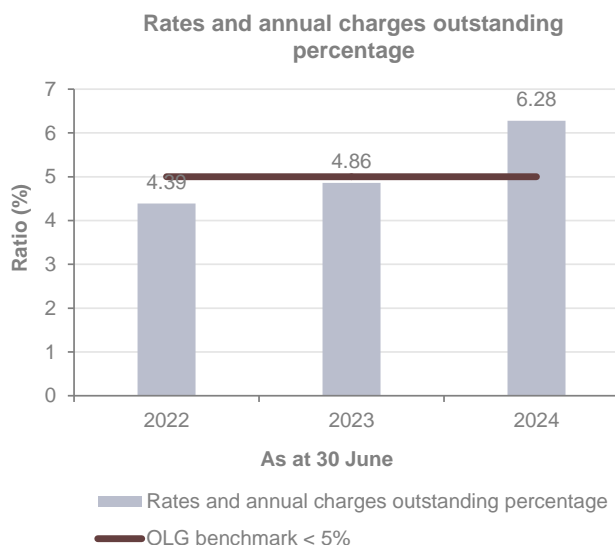
**Debt service cover ratio**

Council borrowed \$7 million at end of the financial year 2023–24 and no repayments were made during the year so there is no reported ratio. This ratio measures the operating cash to service debt including interest, principal, and lease payments.

**Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage**

Council did not meet the benchmark for the current reporting period. More can be done to improve debt collection. Some of the increase can be attributed to the higher rates income.

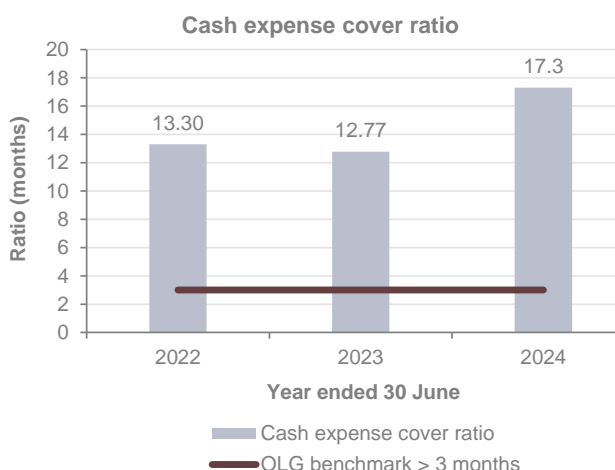
The 'rates and annual charges outstanding percentage' assesses the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on council's liquidity and the adequacy of debt recovery efforts. The benchmark set by OLG is less than 5% for metropolitan councils.

**Cash expense cover ratio**

Council continues to exceed the benchmark for the current reporting period.

The ratio indicates the Council holds enough cash to meet expenditure for the next 17.3 months without additional cash inflow.

This liquidity ratio indicates the number of months the council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 3 months.

**Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment renewals**

Council renewed \$13.5 million of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment during the 2023–24 financial year, primarily related to roads and footpaths renewal projects.

## OTHER MATTERS

### Legislative compliance

My audit procedures did not identify any instances of material non-compliance with the financial reporting requirements in Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2 of the LG Act and the associated regulation or a material deficiency in the Council's accounting records or financial statements. The Council's:

- accounting records were maintained in a manner and form to allow the GPFS to be prepared and effectively audited
- staff provided all accounting records and information relevant to the audit.



Karen Taylor  
Director, Financial Audit

Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

# Strathfield Municipal Council

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2024

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## Strathfield Municipal Council

### Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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Contents	Page
<b>Statement by Councillors and Management</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Special Purpose Financial Statements:</b>	
Income Statement of the Hudson Park Driving Range	4
Statement of Financial Position of the Hudson Park Driving Range	5
<b>Note – Material accounting policy information</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Auditor's Report on Special Purpose Financial Statements</b>	<b>8</b>

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#### Background

- i. These Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared for the use by both Council and the Office of Local Government in fulfilling their requirements under National Competition Policy.
- ii. The principle of competitive neutrality is based on the concept of a 'level playing field' between persons/entities competing in a market place, particularly between private and public sector competitors.

Essentially, the principle is that government businesses, whether Commonwealth, state or local, should operate without net competitive advantages over other businesses as a result of their public ownership.

- iii. For Council, the principle of competitive neutrality and public reporting applies only to declared business activities.

These include **(a)** those activities classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as business activities being water supply, sewerage services, abattoirs, gas production and reticulation, and **(b)** those activities with a turnover of more than \$2 million that Council has formally declared as a business activity (defined as Category 1 activities).

- iv. In preparing these financial statements for Council's self-classified Category 1 businesses and ABS-defined activities, councils must **(a)** adopt a corporatisation model and **(b)** apply full cost attribution including tax-equivalent regime payments and debt guarantee fees (where the business benefits from Council's borrowing position by comparison with commercial rates).



## Strathfield Municipal Council

### Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

The attached special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

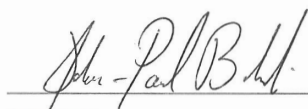
- the NSW Government Policy Statement, 'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government',
- the Division of Local Government Guidelines, 'Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses: A Guide to Competitive Neutrality',
- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the operating result and financial position for each of Council's declared business activities for the year, and
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 22 October 2024.



John-Paul Baladi  
Mayor  
22 October 2024



Benjamin Cai  
Deputy Mayor  
22 October 2024



Michael Mamo  
General Manager  
22 October 2024



Rodney Sanjivi  
Responsible Accounting Officer  
22 October 2024

Strathfield Municipal Council | Income Statement of the Hudson Park Driving Range | for the year ended 30 June 2024

**Strathfield Municipal Council****Income Statement of the Hudson Park Driving Range**  
for the year ended 30 June 2024

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024 Category 1</b>	<b>2023 Category 1</b>
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>		
User fees and charges	1,977	1,794
Other income	7	7
<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>	<b>1,984</b>	<b>1,801</b>
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>		
Employee benefits and on-costs	599	516
Materials and services	185	260
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	231	78
<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>854</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>947</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>947</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>947</b>
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	(242)	(237)
<b>Surplus (deficit) after tax</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>710</b>
<b>Plus opening accumulated surplus</b>	<b>5,542</b>	<b>4,595</b>
<b>Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:</b>		
– Corporate taxation equivalent	242	237
<b>Add:</b>		
<b>Less:</b>		
– Surplus dividend paid	(279)	–
<b>Closing accumulated surplus</b>	<b>6,232</b>	<b>5,542</b>
<b>Return on capital %</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	<b>17.0%</b>

Strathfield Municipal Council | Statement of Financial Position of the Hudson Park Driving Range | as at 30 June 2024

**Strathfield Municipal Council****Statement of Financial Position of the Hudson Park Driving Range**

as at 30 June 2024

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024 Category 1</b>	<b>2023 Category 1</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Inventories	7	5
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	6,333	5,573
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>6,333</b>	<b>5,573</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>6,340</b>	<b>5,578</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Employee benefit provisions	49	36
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>6,291</b>	<b>5,542</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Accumulated surplus	6,232	5,542
IPPE revaluation reserves	59	—
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>6,291</b>	<b>5,542</b>

## Note – Material accounting policy information

These special purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2024 were authorised for issue by Council on 22 October 2024. Council has the power to amend and reissue these special purpose financial statements in cases where critical information is received from public submissions or where the OLG directs Council to amend the special purpose financial statements.

A statement summarising the supplemental accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the special purpose financial statements (SPFS) for National Competition Policy (NCP) reporting purposes follows.

These financial statements are SPFS prepared for use by Council and the Office of Local Government. For the purposes of these statements, the Council is a non-reporting not-for-profit entity.

The figures presented in these special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement criteria of relevant Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and Australian Accounting Interpretations.

The disclosures in these special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act), the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (Regulation) and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

The statements are prepared on an accrual basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, fair value of non-current assets. Certain taxes and other costs, appropriately described, have been imputed for the purposes of the National Competition Policy.

The Statement of Financial Position includes notional assets/liabilities receivable from/payable to Council's general fund. These balances reflect a notional intra-entity funding arrangement with the declared business activities.

### National Competition Policy

Council has adopted the principle of 'competitive neutrality' in its business activities as part of the National Competition Policy which is being applied throughout Australia at all levels of government. The framework for its application is set out in the June 1996 NSW Government Policy statement titled 'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government'. *The Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality* issued by the Office of Local Government in July 1997 has also been adopted.

The pricing and costing guidelines outline the process for identifying and allocating costs to activities and provide a standard for disclosure requirements. These disclosures are reflected in Council's pricing and/or financial reporting systems and include taxation equivalents, Council subsidies, and returns on investments (rate of return and dividends paid).

### Declared business activities

In accordance with Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality, Council has declared that the following are to be considered as business activities:

#### Category 1

(where gross operating turnover is over \$2 million)

##### Hudson Park Golf Driving Range

A business activity involves the supply of goods and services for a fee or charge for the purposes of making a profit.

#### Category 2

(where gross operating turnover is less than \$2 million)

Nil

### Taxation equivalent charges

Council is liable to pay various taxes and financial duties. Where this is the case, they are disclosed as a cost of operations just like all other costs. However, where Council does not pay some taxes which are generally paid by private sector businesses, such as income tax, these equivalent tax payments have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities and are reflected in Special Purpose Financial Statements. For the purposes of disclosing comparative information relevant to the private sector equivalent, the following taxation equivalents have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities (this does not include Council's non-business activities):

#### Notional rate applied (%)

Corporate income tax rate – 25%

## Note – Material accounting policy information (continued)

### Income tax

An income tax equivalent has been applied on the profits of the business activities.

Whilst income tax is not a specific cost for the purpose of pricing a good or service, it needs to be taken into account in terms of assessing the rate of return required on capital invested.

Accordingly, the return on capital invested is set at a pre-tax level - gain/(loss) from ordinary activities before capital amounts, as would be applied by a private sector competitor. That is, it should include a provision equivalent to the corporate income tax rate, currently 25%.

Income tax is only applied where a gain/ (loss) from ordinary activities before capital amounts has been achieved.

Since the taxation equivalent is notional – that is, it is payable to Council as the 'owner' of business operations - it represents an internal payment and has no effect on the operations of the Council. Accordingly, there is no need for disclosure of internal charges in the SPFS.

The rate applied of 25% is the equivalent company tax rate prevalent at reporting date. No adjustments have been made for variations that have occurred during the year.

### Local government rates and charges

A calculation of the equivalent rates and charges for all Category 1 businesses has been applied to all assets owned, or exclusively used by the business activity.

### Loan and debt guarantee fees

The debt guarantee fee is designed to ensure that Council business activities face 'true' commercial borrowing costs in line with private sector competitors. In order to calculate a debt guarantee fee, Council has determined what the differential borrowing rate would have been between the commercial rate and Council's borrowing rate for its business activities.

#### (i) Subsidies

Government policy requires that subsidies provided to customers, and the funding of those subsidies, must be explicitly disclosed. Subsidies occur where Council provides services on a less than cost recovery basis. This option is exercised on a range of services in order for Council to meet its community service obligations. The overall effect of subsidies is contained within the Income Statements of business activities.

#### (ii) Return on investments (rate of return)

The NCP policy statement requires that councils with Category 1 businesses 'would be expected to generate a return on capital funds employed that is comparable to rates of return for private businesses operating in a similar field'.

Funds are subsequently available for meeting commitments or financing future investment strategies. The rate of return is disclosed for each of Council's business activities on the Income Statement.

The rate of return is calculated as follows:

**Operating result before capital income + interest expense**

**Written down value of I,PP&E as at 30 June**

As a minimum, business activities should generate a return equal to the Commonwealth 10 year bond rate which is 4.30% at 30/6/24.

#### (iii) Dividends

Council is not required to pay dividends to either itself (as owner of a range of businesses) or to any external entities.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Special Purpose Financial Statements 2024

## Strathfield Municipal Council

### Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### Report on the special purpose financial statements

#### Strathfield Municipal Council

To the Councillors of Strathfield Municipal Council

#### Opinion

I have audited the accompanying special purpose financial statements (the financial statements) of Strathfield Municipal Council's (the Council) Declared Business Activities, which comprise the Statement by Councillors and Management, the Income Statement of each Declared Business Activity for the year ended 30 June 2024, the Statement of Financial Position of each Declared Business Activity as at 30 June 2024 and the Material accounting policy information note.

The Declared Business Activities of the Council are:

- Hudson Park Driving Range.

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council's declared Business Activities as at 30 June 2024, and their financial performance for the year then ended, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards described in the Material accounting policy information note and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting 2023–24 (LG Code).

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

#### Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as the auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

**Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting**

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to the Material accounting policy information note to the financial statements which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's financial reporting responsibilities under the LG Code. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.

**Other Information**

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 includes other information in addition to the financial statements and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the general purpose financial statements and Special Schedules (the Schedules).

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the general purpose financial statements and Special Schedule 'Permissible income for general rates'.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

**The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements**

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and for determining that the accounting policies, described in the Material accounting policy information note to the financial statements, are appropriate to meet the requirements in the LG Code. The Councillors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: [www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). The description forms part of my auditor's report.



The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.



Karen Taylor  
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

30 October 2024  
SYDNEY

# Strathfield Municipal Council

SPECIAL SCHEDULES  
for the year ended 30 June 2024

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## Strathfield Municipal Council

### Special Schedules

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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#### Contents

#### Page

#### **Special Schedules:**

Permissible income for general rates

3

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

4

Strathfield Municipal Council | Permissible income for general rates | for the year ended 30 June 2024

## Strathfield Municipal Council

## Permissible income for general rates

\$ '000	Notes	Calculation 2023/24	Calculation 2024/25
<b>Notional general income calculation <sup>1</sup></b>			
Last year notional general income yield	a	19,903	<b>27,003</b>
Plus or minus adjustments <sup>2</sup>	b	62	<b>405</b>
<b>Notional general income</b>	c = a + b	<b>19,965</b>	<b>27,408</b>
<b>Permissible income calculation</b>			
Percentage increase	d	35.10%	<b>14.11%</b>
Plus percentage increase amount <sup>3</sup>	f = d x (c + e)	7,008	<b>3,867</b>
<b>Sub-total</b>	g = (c + e + f)	<b>26,973</b>	<b>31,275</b>
Plus (or minus) last year's carry forward total	h	—	<b>2</b>
Less valuation objections claimed in the previous year	i	—	<b>(32)</b>
<b>Sub-total</b>	j = (h + i)	<b>—</b>	<b>(30)</b>
<b>Total permissible income</b>	k = g + j	<b>26,973</b>	<b>31,245</b>
Less notional general income yield	l	27,003	<b>31,331</b>
<b>Catch-up or (excess) result</b>	m = k - l	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(86)</b>
Plus income lost due to valuation objections claimed <sup>4</sup>	n	32	<b>45</b>
<b>Carry forward to next year <sup>6</sup></b>	p = m + n + o	<b>1</b>	<b>(41)</b>

**Notes**

- (1) The notional general income will not reconcile with rate income in the financial statements in the corresponding year. The statements are reported on an accrual accounting basis which include amounts that relate to prior years' rates income.
- (2) Adjustments account for changes in the number of assessments and any increase or decrease in land value occurring during the year. The adjustments are called 'supplementary valuations' as defined in the *Valuation of Land Act 1916 (NSW)*.
- (3) The 'percentage increase' is inclusive of the rate-peg percentage, and/or special variation and/or Crown land adjustment (where applicable).
- (4) Valuation objections are unexpected changes in land values as a result of land owners successfully objecting to the land value issued by the Valuer General. Councils can claim the value of the income lost due to valuation objections in any single year.
- (6) Carry-forward amounts which are in excess (an amount that exceeds the permissible income) require Ministerial approval by order published in the *NSW Government Gazette* in accordance with section 512 of the Act. The OLG will extract these amounts from Council's Permissible income for general rates Statement in the financial data return (FDR) to administer this process.



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### Special Schedule – Permissible income for general rates

#### Strathfield Municipal Council

To the Councillors of Strathfield Municipal Council

### Opinion

I have audited the accompanying Special Schedule – Permissible income for general rates (the Schedule) of Strathfield Municipal Council (the Council) for the year ending 30 June 2025.

In my opinion, the Schedule is prepared, in all material respects in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting 2023–24 (LG Code) and is in accordance with the books and records of the Council.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

### Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

### Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to the special purpose framework used to prepare the Schedule. The Schedule has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's reporting obligations under the LG Code. As a result, the Schedule may not be suitable for another purpose.

**Other Information**

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 includes other information in addition to the Schedule and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the general purpose financial statements, special purpose financial statements and Special Schedule 'Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024.

My opinion on the Schedule does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the general purpose financial statements and the special purpose financial statements.

In connection with my audit of the Schedule, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the Schedule or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

**The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Schedule**

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation of the Schedule in accordance with the LG Code. The Councillors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the Schedule that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the Schedule, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule**

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance whether the Schedule as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the Schedule.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the Schedule is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: [www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar8.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar8.pdf). The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited Schedule on any website where it may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the Schedule.



Karen Taylor  
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

30 October 2024  
SYDNEY

Strathfield Municipal Council | Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

## Strathfield Municipal Council

## Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

Asset Class	Asset Category	Estimated cost to bring assets to satisfactory standard		Estimated cost to bring assets to agreed level of service set by Council		2023/24 Required maintenance <sup>a</sup>	2023/24 Actual maintenance	Net carrying amount	Gross replacement cost (GRC)	Assets in condition as a percentage of gross replacement cost				
		\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000					1	2	3	4	5
Buildings	Buildings and other structures	5,435	8,578	1,100	1,586	67,051	90,791	41.2%	23.8%	28.5%	3.7%	2.8%		
	Sub-total	5,435	8,578	1,100	1,586	67,051	90,791	41.2%	23.8%	28.5%	3.7%	2.8%		
Roads & Car Parks	Roads, bridges, footpaths, kerb & gutter, bulk earthworks (non-depreciable).	10,636	32,526	2,740	1,606	207,457	325,004	17.4%	28.4%	44.2%	9.3%	0.7%		
	Sub-total	10,636	32,526	2,740	1,606	207,457	325,004	17.4%	28.4%	44.2%	9.3%	0.7%		
Stormwater drainage	Stormwater drainage (Pits, Pipes, & Conduits)	20,878	54,797	1,370	107	58,592	129,697	6.2%	16.0%	35.5%	33.7%	8.6%		
	Sub-total	20,878	54,797	1,370	107	58,592	129,697	6.2%	16.0%	35.5%	33.7%	8.6%		
Open Space & Recreational Assets	Other open space / recreational assets	1,186	1,981	1,020	3,354	33,035	43,694	33.0%	45.8%	18.5%	2.5%	0.2%		
	Swimming pools	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
	Sub-total	1,186	1,981	1,020	3,354	33,035	43,694	33.0%	45.8%	18.5%	2.5%	0.2%		
	Total – all assets	38,135	97,882	6,230	6,653	366,135	589,186	19.8%	26.3%	38.0%	13.3%	2.6%		

<sup>(a)</sup> Required maintenance is the amount identified in Council's asset management plans.

## Infrastructure asset condition assessment 'key'

#	Condition	Integrated planning and reporting (IP&R) description
1	Excellent/very good	No work required (normal maintenance)
2	Good	Only minor maintenance work required
3	Satisfactory	Maintenance work required
4	Poor	Renewal required
5	Very poor	Urgent renewal/upgrading required



Strathfield Municipal Council | Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

## Strathfield Municipal Council

## Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

## Infrastructure asset performance indicators (consolidated) \*

\$ '000	Amounts 2024	Indicator 2024	Indicators 2023      2022		Benchmark
Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio					
Asset renewals <sup>1</sup>	8,402	110.15%	48.75%	70.18%	> 100.00%
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	7,628				
Infrastructure backlog ratio					
Estimated cost to bring assets to a satisfactory standard	38,135	10.29%	6.69%	4.21%	< 2.00%
Net carrying amount of infrastructure assets	370,430				
Asset maintenance ratio					
Actual asset maintenance	6,653	106.79%	69.31%	126.09%	> 100.00%
Required asset maintenance	6,230				
Cost to bring assets to agreed service level					
Estimated cost to bring assets to an agreed service level set by Council	97,882	16.61%	12.37%	11.15%	
Gross replacement cost	589,186				

(\*) All asset performance indicators are calculated using classes identified in the previous table.

(1) Asset renewals represent the replacement and/or refurbishment of existing assets to an equivalent capacity/performance as opposed to the acquisition of new assets (or the refurbishment of old assets) that increases capacity/performance.

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CCS1                      AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024  
AUTHOR:                Rodney Sanjivi, Chief Financial Officer  
APPROVER:             Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

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## RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approves and adopts the annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.
2. Acknowledge the historical deterioration of its financial position and performance evidenced by years of rising operating deficits, aging infrastructure, and constrained revenue streams that has placed Council's financial sustainability and going concern at risk.
3. **Note the improvement to Council's operating results for the 2023-2024 financial year marking the successful commencement of its multi-faceted and multi-year financial improvement strategy, grounded in Council's Revised Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) to build a foundation for sustainability and financial resilience.**
4. Acknowledge that the Council's long term financial sustainability is dependent on the continuation and implementation of its financial strategy as currently adopted in Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP).

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to present Council with the completed and audited set of Financial Statements of Council for the year ended 30 June 2024 ("the Statements") for approval and adoption by Council.

The NSW Audit Office, as the appointed external auditor of Strathfield Municipal Council, has completed its audit of Council's Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 and has issued an unqualified (clean) auditor's report.

In addition to the auditor's report on the annual financial statements, the NSW Audit Office has also issued the following reports that are included in the annual statements:

- Unmodified auditor's report on the Special Schedule for Permissible Income for General Rates; and
- Report on the Conduct of the Audit.
- Unmodified auditor's report on the Special Purpose Financial Statements (SPFS) of Declared Business Activities

In accordance with Section 418 (3) of the *Local Government Act, 1993*, the audited financial statements have been on public exhibition for a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to being presented at this Council meeting.

In accordance with Section 420 of the *Local Government Act, 1993*, any person may make a submission in writing to Council with respect to the Council's Audited Financial Statements or the Auditor's Reports. As at

**Audited Annual Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024 (Cont'd)**

the date or preparing this report, Council had not received any submissions on the 30 June 2024 annual Financial Statements. Submissions close one-week (seven (7) days) after this Council meeting has been held.

Council's audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 are attached to this report.

## REPORT

At the ordinary Council meeting on 22 October 2024, Council was informed that the audit of the Annual Financial Statements for 30 June 2024 was substantially complete, and it was anticipated that the NSW Audit Office would issue a clean (unqualified) auditor's report on the statements. Accordingly, Council resolved to authorise the signing of an unmodified "Statement by Councillors and Management" for the Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 dated 22 October 2024. This sign-off facilitated the completion of the Statements including the finalisation and issuance of the auditor's reports to Council, by the NSW Audit Office.

As anticipated, the NSW Audit Office, subsequently completed its audit of Councils Annual Financial Statements and has issued an unqualified (clean) auditors report dated 30 October 2024. Council Subsequently lodged the statements with the OLG on the statutory deadline of 31 October 2024.

The financial statements consist of five key reports: the Income Statement, Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Equity, and Statement of Cash Flows.

Below is a summary of the key financial indicators related to the Council's Financial Statements.

	2024 \$000's	2023 \$000's
<b>Income Statement</b>		
Total income from continuing operations	73,999	60,301
Total expenses from continuing operations	58,581	56,403
Operating result from continuing operations	15,418	3,898
Net operating result for the year	15,418	3,898
Net operating result before grants & contributions provided for capital purposes	(7,525)	(9,626)
<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>		
Total current assets	52,388	35,268
Total current liabilities	(27,306)	(28,944)
Total non-current assets	521,758	503,600
Total non-current liabilities	(7,063)	(458)
Total equity	539,777	509,466

### Financial Summary

- Net Operating Result: \$15.418M surplus (2023: \$3.898M surplus).
- Net Operating Result before Grants and Contributions Provided for Capital Purposes: Deficit \$7.525M (2023: Deficit \$9.626M) – representing a 22% improvement in operating results.

**Audited Annual Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024 (Cont'd)**

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- Interest and Investment Income: Increased to \$2.30M (2023: \$1.27M), benefiting from rising interest rates on cash investments.
- Total Comprehensive Income: \$30.31M surplus as a result of increase to asset fair values (2023: \$24.18M deficit).
- Developer Contributions: Significant increase to \$22.94M.
- Cash and Investments: \$62.54M in cash and investments (2023: \$51.58M) mainly due to increased developer contributions (i.e. restricted cash).
- Total Assets: \$574.15M (2023: \$538.87M), driven by infrastructure revaluation uplifts and increased capital work. Infrastructure, Property, Plant, and Equipment (IPPE): Increased to \$504.41M.
- Total Liabilities: \$34.37M (2023: \$29.40M). Increase primarily drive by borrowings: \$7M, contributing to capital projects.

**Key Financial Highlights:**

- **Improved Operating Results (Before Capital Income):** The Council reduced its operating deficit before capital income to \$7.525M, a marked improvement of 22% compared to \$9.626M in the prior year.
- **Stable Rates and Annual Charges:** Stable revenue of \$36.92M, reflecting consistent collections under the new rating model introduced with the Special Variation (SV) and rebasing of its Domestic Waste Charge (DWMC).
- **Controlled Expenditure:** Despite inflationary pressures, materials and services costs declined to \$19.78M compared to prior year, reflecting effective cost management.
- **Essential Infrastructure Investment:** Capital works of \$20M, including \$13.5M in asset renewals, addressed urgent infrastructure needs while reducing the backlog.
- **Initiation of Planned Borrowing Program:** Drawdown of \$7M during 2023-2024 to fast-track infrastructure renewal and address the backlog, particularly for roads and footpaths, ensuring immediate improvements without delays.

The next section provides context and key elements that are important to understanding Council's financial performance for the 2023-2024 financial year.

For the fiscal year ending on 30 June 2024, Council reported a net operating surplus from continuing operations of \$15.418M, compared to \$3.898M in the prior year. However, it's important to note that this surplus includes grants and contributions intended for capital purposes, which masks the true underlying operating deficit.

The net operating result before capital grants and contributions, presented next, provides an accurate reflection of the true underlying operating result from Council's operations.

**Net Operating Result before Capital Grants and Contributions – Deficit \$7.525M (PY: Deficit \$9.626M)**

The Net Operating Result before Grants and Contributions Provided for Capital Purposes for the year was a deficit of \$7.53 million, however this represents a significant improvement of 22% compared to the prior year's deficit of \$9.63 million.

income, such as grants and contributions intended for capital projects, from the operating result. By removing capital income, this metric aims to reveal the true underlying operating performance of a Council. This **adjustment provides a clearer picture of how well Council's core operations are performing, without the influence of one-off or non-operating income sources related to capital activities.**

For several financial years, including the 2022-2023 fiscal year, Council has consistently reported an operating deficit before capital grants and contributions.

Over the past four years, Council has experienced a significant deterioration in its financial position, as evidenced by its audited operating results. **The Council's operating deficits (before capital income) have progressively increased from \$1.3M in 2019-2020 to \$9.6M in 2022-2023, reflecting a troubling trend that raised severe concerns about its financial sustainability.**

In 2019/2020, Council's operating deficit of \$1.3M marked the beginning of a concerning trend, which was exacerbated in 2020/2021 with an increased deficit of \$5.5M. This escalation indicated Council's growing challenges in managing its finances. The subsequent years continued this trajectory of decline, with deficits of \$5.9M in 2021-2022 and \$9.6M in 2022-2023, resulting in a **cumulative operating deficit of \$22.3M over this four-year period.**

These continued financial deficits presented a critical challenge for Council, necessitating urgent attention to develop a sustainable financial strategy. Without decisive action to address the underlying issues, the financial outlook would have further declined, impacting Council's ability to deliver essential services to the community effectively.

**Addressing this situation required a comprehensive review of operational efficiencies, revenue-raising opportunities, and long-term financial planning to restore the Council's financial stability and enhance service delivery for its residents.**

In March and April 2022, Council conducted a thorough review of its long-term financial sustainability alongside an organisational service review. As part of this review, Council's Revised Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) for 2022-2033 indicated that operating deficits in the General Fund would persist through 2033. **The average annual operating deficit over the ten-year forecast period was estimated to be \$13M.** By 2033, the annual operating deficits for Council was projected to exceed \$15M, with a **cumulative cash deficit expected to surpass \$75M over the next decade.**

Without an increase in income levels, Council would have struggled to sustainably fund asset renewals or maintain existing services. In this scenario, it was projected that **Council would deplete its unrestricted cash by 2026 and exhaust its total cash reserves by 2029.**

In response, during March and April 2022, Council conducted a comprehensive organisational-wide service review aimed at enhancing efficiency and identifying opportunities for cost savings and improvements to revenue (other than rates).

This review thoroughly evaluated various functions and service delivery mechanisms, allowing Council to identify specific areas where budgetary efficiencies could be improved.

As a result of this review, several cost containment and savings initiatives as well as revenue improvements were identified and prioritised based on their potential impact and feasibility.

Council has already implemented some of these initiatives, leading to immediate cost reductions and improved service delivery in certain areas. For example,

- Budgetary savings realised in the delivery of Council's community bus service.
- Improvements to Council's return on its investment portfolio.
- Improvements to revenue derived from Council's golf driving range at Hudson Park.
- No increases to IT service costs and efficiencies from current IT service contracts.

In addition to the budgetary improvements already implemented, the review identified strategies for future **enhancements that have been integrated into the Council's revised Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP)**. These strategies are being gradually implemented and realised over the current and coming years. Collectively, these improvements are expected to yield an annual improvement of approximately \$1.2M which will result in a cumulative operational improvement of \$12M over the next decade.

Despite the thorough review and the identification of various strategies for budgetary improvements and operational efficiencies, these measures alone are insufficient to fully address the Council's sustainability issues. Furthermore, the Council continues to face pressures from aging infrastructure, increasing demand for services, and the need for significant investments in asset renewal.

The projected annual improvements while beneficial, represent only a fraction of the larger financial challenges facing Council. As a result, Council took the decision to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)<sup>1</sup> to seek their approval to implement a Special Variation (SV) to gradually increase Council's rates revenue over the next four years, commencing in the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The SV along with other operational improvements aims to provide a predictable path for revenue growth while balancing the need for additional funds with the community's financial capacity.

Council's approved IPART issued instrument sets its rate increase path over the 4-year period commencing 2023/2024 as follows:

Year	Annual increase in general income	Cumulative increase in general income
Year 2023-24	35.1%	35.10%
Year 2024-25	14.11%	54.16%
Year 2025-26	17.5%	81.14%
Year 2026-27	7.5%	94.73%

[Source: Special Variation for Strathfield Municipal Council for 2023-24 to 2026-27 Instrument issued by IPART under section 508A of the Local Government Act 1993]

The IPART-approved Special Variation (SV) includes a total increase of 94.73% in the Council's general income, implemented over four years from 2023-2024 to 2026-2027. At the same time, Council has reduced the

<sup>1</sup> **Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)** is an independent statutory authority in New South Wales, Australia, responsible for regulating prices and monitoring the performance of certain industries, including local government, public utilities, and transport. IPART's primary functions include setting prices for water, energy, and public transport services, conducting reviews of local government rates and charges, and providing guidance on regulatory frameworks to ensure fair pricing and service delivery.

domestic waste management charge by approximately \$4M each year (without decreasing service levels). Instead of overpaying for waste management, the additional funds were redirected to general rates in order to offset the increased ordinary rates, enabling Council to allocate revenue in more effective and productive ways, ensuring that residents benefit from overall services standards.

Furthermore, Council has set minimum ordinary rates for the years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 as part of its efforts to restructure the rate system and ensure a fairer distribution of the rate burden. As part of the newly approved rating structure, approximately 80% of all ratepayers in the Local Government Area (LGA) are currently paying the Minimum Rate.

Due to the newly implemented revenue strategy adopted in Councils LTFP (which encompasses the SV), during 2023-2024, Council has been able to spend approx. \$13.5M on asset renewals while delivering approx. \$20 million in overall capital works over the financial year.

The increased spending on infrastructure renewals is in accordance with Councils revised Long Term Financial Plan and Capital program to invest on average approx. \$12M per annum over the next 10 years to improve the condition of its infrastructure assets and reduce the infrastructure backlog to a manageable level.

The Council's infrastructure renewal works over the past year have primarily concentrated on roads and footpaths, recognising that these assets are among the most utilised by the community given their significance for daily transportation and pedestrian safety. It is essential to maintain and improve these surfaces. Regular upkeep not only enhances the quality of travel for residents but also addresses crucial public safety concerns.

This focus on infrastructure renewal reflects Council's commitment to supporting community needs and promoting overall public safety in the LGA.

**Maintaining the revenue path set by the Special Variation (SV) is fundamental for the Council to continue delivering its capital works and infrastructure renewal program in line with its adopted Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and to maintain its service levels for the current and future populations of Strathfield.**

The Council's infrastructure works are being forward funded through an underlying borrowing program (as adopted in its LTFP). The borrowing is planned to be repaid using future rates revenue generated from the Special Variation (SV). This approach allows Council to address urgent renewal works immediately, particularly in critical areas such as roads and footpaths, without having to delay these essential projects and further exacerbating its infrastructure backlog.

During 2023-2024 Council initiated its planned borrowing program, drawing down \$7M in loan funding from NSW TCorp to fast-track infrastructure renewal and address the backlog, particularly for roads and footpaths, ensuring immediate improvements without delays.

**Without the revenue boost provided by the SV, the borrowing program would not be feasible, and Council would be unable to fund its required infrastructure renewal program while maintaining service levels and maintain liquidity to remain cash positive.**



The SV along with the operational improvement strategies adopted in Councils LTFP ensures that the Council can maintain and renew key assets promptly while remaining financially sustainable in the long term.

The financial story of 2023-2024 is the start of the journey to financial sustainability. It represented the successful implementation of a multi-faceted and multi-year strategy, grounded in Councils Revised Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and Community Strategic Plan (CSP), to build a foundation for sustainability. **The plan was not only about addressing the deficits but about reshaping the Council's financial architecture** over the long term to ensure a stronger, more resilient future of Council and its Residents.

Summary of cash and investments:

Summary of Cash and Investments	2024 \$000's	2023 \$000's	Commentary
External Restrictions	37,695	29,386	Externally restricted balances encompass funds like developer contributions, domestic waste management charges, stormwater levy and unexpended grants. These funds are earmarked for specific purposes and cannot be used for general operations.
Internal Restrictions	24,785	21,732	
Unrestricted Cash	64	463	Internally restricted balances are funds that are set aside based on Council policy or decisions for future plans, such as works programs. While these funds are not externally restricted, they are internally allocated for specific uses and cannot be utilised for general operations.  Unrestricted balances, on the other hand, provide liquidity for day-to-day operations and can be used as needed to support the Council's ongoing activities.
Total Cash & Investments	62,544	51,581	

The following performance ratios, mandated by the Office of Local Government (OLG), provide additional context and insight beyond what is evident from the raw numbers presented in the primary statements.

OLG Performance Ratios	2024 \$000's	2023 \$000's	2022 \$000's <i>Restated</i>	OLG Benchmark	Commentary
Operating performance ratio (%)	(11.57%)	(16.23%)	(7.87%)	> 0%	<p>The operating performance ratio measures how well Council contained operating expenditure within operations revenue.</p> <p>The Council's performance against this measure remains significantly below benchmark, with operating expenses consistently exceeding operating income.</p> <p>To address this on-going structural deficit, the Council has implemented an Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) approved Special Rate Variation (SRV). This additional revenue from the SRV is designed to</p>



**Audited Annual Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024 (Cont'd)**

OLG Performance Ratios	2024 \$000's	2023 \$000's	2022 \$000's Restated	OLG Benchmark	Commentary
					systematically correct the deficit over a four-year period, starting from the 2023/24 fiscal year.
Own source operating revenue ratio (%)	65.14%	72.40%	76.88%	> 60%	The own source operating revenue ratio measures Council's fiscal flexibility and the degree to which it relies on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions.  Council continues to exceed benchmark.
Unrestricted current ratio (times)	5.13x	4.32x	3.31x	> 3 Months	The 'unrestricted current ratio' is specific to Local Government and represents Council's ability to meet its short-term obligations as they fall due.  Council continues to exceed benchmark.
Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage (%)	6.28%	4.86%	4.39%	< 5%	The 'rates and annual charges outstanding percentage' assesses the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of debt recovery efforts.  Council continues to exceed benchmark.
Cash expense cover ratio (months)	17.30 mths	12.77 mths	13.30 mths	> 3 Months	This liquidity ratio indicates the number of months Council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow.  Council continues to exceed benchmark.

*Nb: The debt service cover ratio is for the 2023-2024 year was unable to be calculated as Council undertook its borrowing very close to the end of the financial year thus it did not have any repayments during the financial year. The 'debt service cover ratio' measures the operating cash to service debt including interest, principal, and lease payments. The OLG benchmark is greater than 2 times.*

Report on Infrastructure Assets as at 30 June 2024

As per the financial reporting requirements, Council must also provide an assessment of its infrastructure assets' condition. This assessment is completed through the completion of Special Schedule "Report on Infrastructure Assets" within the annual financial statements.

This special schedule contains important indicators that offer insights into the maintenance and renewal of Council's assets. It helps evaluate if adequate investments are made to maintain and renew assets at the agreed service standards, aligning with the benchmarks set by the Office of Local Government (OLG).

Shown on the next page is the extract from Report on Infrastructure Assets as at 30 June 2024.

## Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

### Infrastructure asset performance indicators (consolidated) \*

\$ '000	Amounts 2024	Indicator 2024	Indicators 2023      2022		Benchmark
Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio					
Asset renewals <sup>1</sup>	8,402	110.15%	48.75%	70.18%	> 100.00%
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	7,628				
Infrastructure backlog ratio					
Estimated cost to bring assets to a satisfactory standard	38,135	10.29%	6.69%	4.21%	< 2.00%
Net carrying amount of infrastructure assets	370,430				
Asset maintenance ratio					
Actual asset maintenance	6,653	106.79%	69.31%	126.09%	> 100.00%
Required asset maintenance	6,230				
Cost to bring assets to agreed service level					
Estimated cost to bring assets to an agreed service level set by Council	97,882	16.61%	12.37%	11.15%	
Gross replacement cost	589,186				

(\*) All asset performance indicators are calculated using classes identified in the previous table.

(1) Asset renewals represent the replacement and/or refurbishment of existing assets to an equivalent capacity/performance as opposed to the acquisition of new assets (or the refurbishment of old assets) that increases capacity/performance.

### Commentary on Report on Infrastructure Assets as at 30 June 2024:

#### 1. Buildings and Infrastructure Renewals Ratio

This indicator is important for assessing the rate of asset renewal relative to its depreciation and is calculated by dividing actual asset renewals by the depreciation expense. The benchmark is set at greater than 100% by the OLG.

The 2023-2024 indicator stands at 110.15% (compared to the previous year's 48.75%), indicating that asset renewals have increased to meet benchmark and the additional spend above the benchmark is starting to address the infrastructure backlog (discussed next).

#### 2. The Infrastructure Backlog Ratio

This is another important indicator that highlights the proportion of infrastructure renewal backlog against the total value of Council's infrastructure. The benchmark for this ratio is set at less than 2% by the OLG, meaning that the backlog should be a small percentage of the total infrastructure value.

This ratio is calculated by dividing the estimated cost to bring assets to satisfactory levels by the assets' carrying values. For Council, the backlog ratio stands at 10.29% (compared to the previous year's 6.69%). The increase in this ratio is primarily due to better condition information available on Council's stormwater drainage asset class as a result of its asset management improvement project. The growth in the estimated cost to bring assets to satisfactory standards is also driven by year-on-year inflation and the increasing cost of infrastructure renewals.

### 3. Asset Maintenance Ratio

This is another a key indicator that compares actual annual asset maintenance expenditure with the required amount for maintaining infrastructure assets. The benchmark for this ratio is set at greater than 100% by the OLG, indicating that councils should aim to invest more than the minimum required amount for maintenance and invest enough funds in a given year to prevent the infrastructure backlog from growing, ensuring that assets are adequately maintained.

Council's Asset Maintenance Ratio is 106.79%, up from 69.31% in the previous year. This increase can be attributed to Councils commitment to maintaining its assets to an acceptable service standard.

### 4. Cost to bring assets to agreed service levels

This indicator represents the estimated costs to renew or rehabilitate existing assets that have reached their condition-based intervention point. It is calculated as a percentage of the gross replacement cost of infrastructure assets.

It is important to note that this figure is a snapshot at the end of the financial year and excludes any planned enhancements. It is expected Council will have works outstanding to bring assets to the agreed level of service as a normal part of managing infrastructure assets on behalf of the community. This measure is calculated using the full gross replacement cost of assets in conditions 4 and 5.

As at 30 June 2024, Council's estimated cost to bring assets to satisfactory service levels is approximately \$97.882M. This amount represents approximately 16.61% of the gross replacement cost of infrastructure assets, compared to 12.37% in the previous year. The estimated cost to bring assets to agreed service levels increases as the infrastructure backlog grows and the level of renewals declines, which are all interrelated.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications. However, it should be acknowledged that:

1. The historical deterioration of Council's financial position and performance evidenced by years of rising operating deficits, aging infrastructure, and constrained revenue streams has placed Council's financial sustainability and going concern at risk.
2. The improvement to Council's operating results for the 2023-2024 financial year marks the successful commencement of its multi-faceted and multi-year financial improvement strategy, grounded in Council's Revised Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) to build a foundation for sustainability and financial resilience.
3. The Council's long term financial sustainability is dependent on the continuation and implementation of its financial strategy as currently adopted in Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP).

## ATTACHMENTS

1. [Audited Annual Financial Statements - 30 June 2024](#)

# Strathfield Municipal Council

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2024

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# Strathfield Municipal Council

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2024

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## Strathfield Municipal Council

### General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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Contents	Page
<b>Understanding Council's Financial Statements</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Statement by Councillors and Management</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Primary Financial Statements:</b>	
Income Statement	5
Statement of Comprehensive Income	6
Statement of Financial Position	7
Statement of Changes in Equity	8
Statement of Cash Flows	9
<b>Contents for the notes to the Financial Statements</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Independent Auditor's Reports:</b>	
On the Financial Statements (Sect 417 [2])	61
On the Financial Statements (Sect 417 [3])	62

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#### Overview

Strathfield Municipal Council is constituted under the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) and has its principal place of business at:

65 Homebush Rd  
Strathfield NSW 2135

Council's guiding principles are detailed in Chapter 3 of the LGA and includes:

- principles applying to the exercise of functions generally by council,
- principles to be applied when making decisions,
- principles of community participation,
- principles of sound financial management, and
- principles for strategic planning relating to the development of an integrated planning and reporting framework.

A description of the nature of Council's operations and its principal activities are provided in Note B1-2.

Through the use of the internet, we have ensured that our reporting is timely, complete and available at minimum cost. All press releases, financial statements and other information are publicly available on our website: [www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au](http://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au).

## Strathfield Municipal Council

### General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Understanding Council's Financial Statements

#### Introduction

Each year NSW local governments are required to present audited financial statements ("the financial statements") to their council and community.

#### What you will find in the Statements

The financial statements set out the financial performance, financial position and cash flows of Council for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

The format of the financial statements is standard across all NSW Councils and complies with both the accounting and reporting requirements of Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB's) and requirements as set down by the Office of Local Government (OLG).

#### About the Statement by Councillors and Management

The financial statements must be certified by senior staff as 'presenting fairly' the Council's financial results for the year and are required to be adopted by Council – ensuring both responsibility for and ownership of the financial statements.

#### About the Primary Financial Statements

The financial statements incorporate five "primary" financial statements:

##### 1. The Income Statement

Summarises Council's financial performance for the year, listing all income and expenses. This statement also displays Council's original adopted budget to provide a comparison between the financial performance that was projected for the year and what actually occurred.

##### 2. The Statement of Comprehensive Income

Primarily records changes in the fair value of Council's Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

##### 3. The Statement of Financial Position

Shows a snapshot of Council's financial position, that is, the value of its assets, liabilities and "net wealth" (or, net assets), as at the balance date (i.e. 30 June).

##### 4. The Statement of Changes in Equity

The overall change for the year of Council's "net wealth".

##### 5. The Statement of Cash Flows

Shows where Council's cash came from and where it was spent. This statement also displays Council's original adopted budgeted cashflows to provide a comparison between what was projected for the year and what actually occurred.

#### About the Notes to the Financial Statements

The Notes to the Financial Statements provide greater level of detail and additional information on the five primary financial statements.

#### About the Auditor's Reports

Council's financial statements are required to be audited by the Audit Office of NSW.

In NSW the auditor provides 2 audit reports:

1. an opinion on whether the financial statements present fairly the Council's financial performance and position, and
2. their observations on the conduct of the audit, including commentary on the Council's financial performance and financial position.

#### Who uses the Financial Statements?

The financial statements are publicly available documents and must be presented at a Council meeting between seven days and five weeks after the date of the audit report.

The public can make submissions to Council up to seven days subsequent to the public presentation of the financial statements.

Council is required to forward an audited set of financial statements to the Office of Local Government.

## Strathfield Municipal Council

### General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to Section 413 (2c) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW)

The attached general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:


- the *Local Government Act 1993* and the regulations made thereunder,
- the Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board
- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 22 October 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**John-Paul Bakadi**  
Mayor  
22 October 2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Benjamin Cai**  
Deputy Mayor  
22 October 2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Michael Mamo**  
General Manager  
22 October 2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Rodney Sanjivi**  
Responsible Accounting Officer  
22 October 2024



Strathfield Municipal Council | Income Statement | for the year ended 30 June 2024

## Strathfield Municipal Council

## Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2024

<i>Original unaudited budget</i>			<i>Actual</i>	<i>Actual</i>
<b>2024</b>	<b>\$ '000</b>	Notes	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Income from continuing operations</b>			
36,948	Rates and annual charges	B2-1	<b>36,920</b>	33,581
5,022	User charges and fees	B2-2	<b>5,290</b>	4,712
2,924	Other revenue	B2-3	<b>2,673</b>	3,010
2,921	Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	B2-4	<b>2,850</b>	3,122
9,762	Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	B2-4	<b>22,943</b>	13,524
1,714	Interest and investment income	B2-5	<b>2,304</b>	1,274
1,019	Other income	B2-6	<b>1,019</b>	1,078
625	Net gain from the disposal of assets	B4-1	<b>—</b>	—
<b>60,935</b>	<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>		<b>73,999</b>	60,301
	<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>			
25,524	Employee benefits and on-costs	B3-1	<b>25,805</b>	23,664
20,607	Materials and services	B3-2	<b>19,777</b>	20,258
179	Borrowing costs	B3-3	<b>—</b>	—
9,551	Depreciation and amortisation	B3-4	<b>9,971</b>	9,282
1,400	Other expenses	B3-5	<b>1,354</b>	1,294
—	Net loss from the disposal of assets	B4-1	<b>1,674</b>	1,905
<b>57,261</b>	<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>		<b>58,581</b>	56,403
<b>3,674</b>	<b>Operating result from continuing operations</b>		<b>15,418</b>	3,898
<b>3,674</b>	<b>Net operating result attributable to Council</b>		<b>15,418</b>	3,898
	<b>Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes</b>			
<b>(6,088)</b>			<b>(7,525)</b>	(9,626)

The above Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Statement of Comprehensive Income | for the year ended 30 June 2024

**Strathfield Municipal Council****Statement of Comprehensive Income**

for the year ended 30 June 2024

<b>\$ '000</b>	Notes	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Net operating result for the year – from Income Statement</b>		<b>15,418</b>	<b>3,898</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income:</b>			
Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to the operating result			
Gain / (loss) on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-6	<b>14,893</b>	<b>(28,078)</b>
<b>Total items which will not be reclassified subsequently to the operating result</b>		<b>14,893</b>	<b>(28,078)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>14,893</b>	<b>(28,078)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to Council</b>		<b>30,311</b>	<b>(24,180)</b>

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Statement of Financial Position | as at 30 June 2024

## Strathfield Municipal Council

## Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2024

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	C1-1	18,544	8,581
Investments	C1-2	28,000	23,000
Receivables	C1-4	5,193	3,232
Inventories	C1-5	73	65
Other assets		578	390
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>52,388</b>	<b>35,268</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Investments	C1-2	16,000	20,000
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)	C1-6	504,411	481,730
Intangible assets	C1-7	1,347	1,870
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>521,758</b>	<b>503,600</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>574,146</b>	<b>538,868</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables	C3-1	16,846	16,427
Contract liabilities	C3-2	5,716	8,732
Borrowings	C3-3	548	—
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	4,196	3,785
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>27,306</b>	<b>28,944</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Borrowings	C3-3	6,452	—
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	611	458
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>7,063</b>	<b>458</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>34,369</b>	<b>29,402</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>539,777</b>	<b>509,466</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated surplus		233,484	218,066
IPPE revaluation reserve	C4-1	306,293	291,400
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>539,777</b>	<b>509,466</b>
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>539,777</b>	<b>509,466</b>

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Statement of Changes in Equity | for the year ended 30 June 2024

## Strathfield Municipal Council

Statement of Changes in Equity  
for the year ended 30 June 2024

\$ '000	Notes	2024			2023		
		Accumulated surplus	IPPE revaluation reserve	Total equity	Accumulated surplus	IPPE revaluation reserve	Total equity
Opening balance at 1 July		218,066	291,400	509,466	214,168	319,478	533,646
Opening balance		218,066	291,400	509,466	214,168	319,478	533,646
Net operating result for the year		15,418	–	15,418	3,898	–	3,898
Net operating result for the period		15,418	–	15,418	3,898	–	3,898
Other comprehensive income							
Gain / (loss) on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-6	–	14,893	14,893	–	(28,078)	(28,078)
Other comprehensive income		–	14,893	14,893	–	(28,078)	(28,078)
Total comprehensive income		15,418	14,893	30,311	3,898	(28,078)	(24,180)
Closing balance at 30 June		233,484	306,293	539,777	218,066	291,400	509,466

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Statement of Cash Flows | for the year ended 30 June 2024

## Strathfield Municipal Council

## Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2024

<i>Original unaudited budget</i>			<i>Actual</i>	<i>Actual</i>
<b>2024</b>	<b>\$ '000</b>	Notes	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>				
<b>Receipts:</b>				
36,948	Rates and annual charges		<b>36,224</b>	33,309
5,022	User charges and fees		<b>5,287</b>	5,906
1,714	Interest received		<b>1,486</b>	1,007
12,683	Grants and contributions		<b>17,242</b>	19,011
–	Bonds, deposits and retentions received		<b>763</b>	1,561
3,943	Other income		<b>6,658</b>	7,146
<b>Payments:</b>				
(25,524)	Payments to employees		<b>(24,951)</b>	(24,349)
(20,607)	Payments for materials and services		<b>(23,361)</b>	(22,923)
(179)	Borrowing costs		<b>–</b>	–
(1,400)	Other expenses		<b>(2,075)</b>	(1,197)
<b>12,600</b>	<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	F1-1	<b>17,273</b>	19,471
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>				
<b>Receipts:</b>				
625	Proceeds from sale of IPPE		<b>577</b>	581
<b>Payments:</b>				
–	Acquisition of term deposits		<b>(1,000)</b>	(6,000)
(18,427)	Payments for IPPE		<b>(13,887)</b>	(12,151)
<b>(17,802)</b>	<b>Net cash flows from investing activities</b>		<b>(14,310)</b>	(17,570)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>				
<b>Payments:</b>				
(103)	Repayment of borrowings		<b>–</b>	–
7,000	Proceeds from borrowings		<b>7,000</b>	–
<b>6,897</b>	<b>Net cash flows from financing activities</b>		<b>7,000</b>	–
<b>1,695</b>	<b>Net change in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>9,963</b>	1,901
8,581	Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		<b>8,581</b>	6,680
<b>10,276</b>	<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>	C1-1	<b>18,544</b>	8,581
46,000	plus: Investments on hand at end of year	C1-2	<b>44,000</b>	43,000
<b>56,276</b>	<b>Total cash, cash equivalents and investments</b>		<b>62,544</b>	51,581

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Strathfield Municipal Council

### Contents for the notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

<b>A About Council and these financial statements</b>	<b>12</b>
A1-1 Basis of preparation	12
<b>B Financial Performance</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>B1 Functions or activities</b>	<b>14</b>
B1-1 Functions or activities – income, expenses and assets	14
B1-2 Components of functions or activities	15
<b>B2 Sources of income</b>	<b>16</b>
B2-1 Rates and annual charges	16
B2-2 User charges and fees	17
B2-3 Other revenue	18
B2-4 Grants and contributions	19
B2-5 Interest and investment income	22
B2-6 Other income	22
<b>B3 Costs of providing services</b>	<b>23</b>
B3-1 Employee benefits and on-costs	23
B3-2 Materials and services	24
B3-3 Borrowing costs	24
B3-4 Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	25
B3-5 Other expenses	26
<b>B4 Gains or losses</b>	<b>27</b>
B4-1 Gain or loss from the disposal, replacement and de-recognition of assets	27
<b>B5 Performance against budget</b>	<b>28</b>
B5-1 Material budget variations	28
<b>C Financial position</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>C1 Assets we manage</b>	<b>30</b>
C1-1 Cash and cash equivalents	30
C1-2 Financial investments	30
C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments	32
C1-4 Receivables	33
C1-5 Inventories	34
C1-6 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	35
C1-7 Intangible assets	38
<b>C2 Leasing activities</b>	<b>39</b>
C2-1 Council as a lessee	39
C2-2 Council as a lessor	40
<b>C3 Liabilities of Council</b>	<b>41</b>
C3-1 Payables	41
C3-2 Contract Liabilities	42
C3-3 Borrowings	42
C3-4 Employee benefit provisions	44
<b>C4 Reserves</b>	<b>44</b>
C4-1 Nature and purpose of reserves	44

## Strathfield Municipal Council

## Contents for the notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

<b>D Risks and accounting uncertainties</b>	<b>45</b>
D1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held	45
D2-1 Fair value measurement	48
D3-1 Contingencies	51
<b>E People and relationships</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>E1 Related party disclosures</b>	<b>54</b>
E1-1 Key management personnel (KMP)	54
E1-2 Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses	54
<b>E2 Other relationships</b>	<b>55</b>
E2-1 Audit fees	55
<b>F Other matters</b>	<b>56</b>
F1-1 Statement of Cash Flows information	56
F2-1 Commitments	56
F3-1 Events occurring after the reporting date	56
<b>F4 Statement of developer contributions</b>	<b>57</b>
F4-1 Summary of developer contributions	57
F4-2 Developer contributions by plan	58
F4-3 Contributions not under plans	58
F4-4 S7.4 planning agreements	58
<b>F5 Statement of performance measures</b>	<b>59</b>
F5-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results	59
<b>G Additional Council disclosures (unaudited)</b>	<b>60</b>
G1-1 Council information and contact details	60

## A About Council and these financial statements

### A1-1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements were authorised for issue by Council on 22 October 2024. Council has the power to amend and reissue these financial statements in cases where critical information is received from public submissions or where the OLG directs Council to amend the financial statements.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. Accounting policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations, the *Local Government Act 1993 (Act)* and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (Regulation)*, and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting. Council is a not-for-profit entity.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

#### **Historical cost convention**

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain classes of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

#### **Significant accounting estimates and judgements**

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Council's accounting policies.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact on the Council and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

#### **Critical accounting estimates and assumptions**

Council makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future.

The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year include:

- (i) Fair values of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment – refer Note C1-6 and Note D2-1.
- (ii) Employee benefit provisions – refer Note C3-4.

#### **Significant judgements in applying the Council's accounting policies**

- (i) Impairment of receivables - refer to Note C1-4
- (ii) Impairment of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment - refer Note C1-6
- (iii) Determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific and whether the contract is within the scope of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* and / or AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* – refer to Notes B2-2 – B2-4.

### **Monies and other assets received by Council**

#### **The Consolidated Fund**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 409(1) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW), all money and property received by Council is held in the Council's Consolidated Fund unless it is required to be held in the Council's Trust Fund.

Council's consolidated fund is the General Fund. The Consolidated Fund has been included in the financial statements of the Council.

#### **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.



## A1-1 Basis of preparation (continued)

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities that are recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

### Volunteer services

Council has various opportunities for volunteers to be involved in various programs. These volunteer services are not recognised in these financial statements on the basis that the service would not be purchased or provided for by Council, if it had not been donated / volunteered.

### New accounting standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2024 reporting period. Council has not applied any pronouncements before its operative date in the annual reporting period beginning 1 July 2023.

As at the date of authorisation of these financial statements Council does not consider that any of these new (and still to be applied) standards and interpretations are likely to have a material impact on the Council's future financial statements, financial position, financial performance or cash flows.

### New accounting standards adopted during the year

During the year Council adopted all accounting standards and interpretations (as issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board) which were mandatorily effective from the first time at 30 June 2024. None of these standards had a significant impact on the reported financial position and performance of Council.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

**B Financial Performance****B1 Functions or activities****B1-1 Functions or activities – income, expenses and assets**

Income, expenses and assets have been directly attributed to the following functions or activities. Details of those functions or activities are provided in Note B1-2.

\$ '000	<i>Income</i>		<i>Expenses</i>		<i>Operating result</i>		<i>Grants and contributions</i>		<i>Carrying amount of assets</i>	
	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>
<b>Functions or activities</b>										
1. Connectivity	<b>733</b>	3,163	<b>1,077</b>	3,796	<b>(344)</b>	(633)	<b>5,200</b>	4,220	<b>201,507</b>	205,531
2. Community Wellbeing	<b>331</b>	1,391	<b>4,305</b>	5,576	<b>(3,974)</b>	(4,185)	<b>2,220</b>	2,727	<b>54,146</b>	59,667
3. Celebrating Culture and Place	<b>374</b>	264	<b>1,739</b>	1,765	<b>(1,365)</b>	(1,501)	<b>346</b>	273	<b>–</b>	–
4. Liveable Neighbourhoods	<b>28,728</b>	32,511	<b>26,542</b>	20,025	<b>2,186</b>	12,486	<b>18,027</b>	9,426	<b>194,349</b>	187,539
5. Responsible Leadership	<b>43,833</b>	22,972	<b>24,918</b>	25,241	<b>18,915</b>	(2,269)	<b>–</b>	–	<b>124,144</b>	86,131
<b>Total functions and activities</b>	<b>73,999</b>	<b>60,301</b>	<b>58,581</b>	<b>56,403</b>	<b>15,418</b>	<b>3,898</b>	<b>25,793</b>	<b>16,646</b>	<b>574,146</b>	<b>538,868</b>

## B1-2 Components of functions or activities

**Details relating to the Council's functions or activities as reported in B1-1 are as follows:**

Council's Community Strategic Plan (CSP) provides long-term direction for the Strathfield Council's Local Government Area (LGA) and is Council's overarching plan in the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) framework.

The CSP provides guidance for the alignment of Council's resources to meet community priorities, responds to state and regional plans and in planning and delivering services in the LGA.

Therefore, all the functions and activities of Council can be categorised under the themes listed below as per Council's CSP:

### 1. Connectivity

This theme reflects on the centrality and connectivity of the Strathfield LGA to Greater Sydney and beyond through infrastructure, transport and communications. The high levels of connectivity are significant attractors for residents, businesses, students and visitors to the Strathfield LGA. The theme is concerned with planning for and the delivery of regional, state and local infrastructure to meet the needs of increasing populations, ensuring regional and local transport networks are integrated, connected and safe, and that service delivery and information access is optimised through integration of communications and digital technology.

### 2. Community Wellbeing

This theme concerns supporting Strathfield's culturally diverse and socially cohesive, connected and safe communities with access to public spaces and community facilities, and opportunities to participate in programs and activities. Council plays an important role in facilitating opportunities for participation in learning, recreation, community programs and activities that enhance healthy active lifestyles. Council will enhance the safety and wellbeing of the community by providing safe, clean, healthy and attractive environments and working with Police on community safety and crime prevention.

### 3. Celebrating Culture and Place

This theme relates to creating vibrant and enticing public domains, especially our town, village and commercial centres, which blend access to services with opportunities for social connectivity. The theme also celebrates Strathfield as a place of learning, culture and creativity supported by events, cultural programs and acknowledgement of civic and community achievements which promote a sense of civic pride and belonging.

### 4. Liveable Neighbourhoods

This theme concerns ensuring well planned urban design, protection and maintenance of the built and natural environment of the Strathfield LGA. Liveable Neighbourhoods involve high quality, well planned, sustainable, clean and well maintained urban and natural environments that balance new development with the retention and reflection of established local character and healthy thriving and resilient natural environments. Development, changing lifestyles and increasing population also create higher levels of waste, resource usage and pollution, creating pressure on the local area, at a regional and local level, to maintain the high standards of amenity, character and liveability of the Strathfield LGA.

### 5. Responsible Leadership

The theme of Responsible Leadership is concerned with leadership and accountable Council services directed by the priorities of an engaged and connected community. Responsible leadership requires the community having confidence in the Council to make decisions based on community priorities and values reflecting meaningful and informed community engagement. Effective management of Council's operations is underpinned by transparent, effective and accountable governance which is responsive to the needs of the community.

## B2 Sources of income

### B2-1 Rates and annual charges

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Ordinary rates</b>		
Residential	18,876	14,030
Business	8,338	5,864
Less: pensioner rebates (mandatory)	(94)	(86)
Less: pensioner rebates (Council policy)	(103)	(94)
Less: rates levied on council properties	(88)	(68)
<b>Rates levied to ratepayers</b>	<b>26,929</b>	<b>19,646</b>
Pensioner rate subsidies received	94	83
<b>Total ordinary rates</b>	<b>27,023</b>	<b>19,729</b>
<b>Annual charges (pursuant to s496, 496A, 496B, 501 &amp; 611)</b>		
Domestic waste management services	9,522	13,457
Stormwater management services	313	309
Section 611 charges	109	142
Less: pensioner rebates (mandatory)	(44)	(54)
Less: pensioner rebates (Council policy)	(47)	(54)
<b>Annual charges levied</b>	<b>9,853</b>	<b>13,800</b>
Pensioner annual charges subsidies received:		
– Domestic waste management	44	52
<b>Total annual charges</b>	<b>9,897</b>	<b>13,852</b>
<b>Total rates and annual charges</b>	<b>36,920</b>	<b>33,581</b>

Council has used 2022 year valuations provided by the NSW Valuer General in calculating its rates.

#### Material accounting policy information

Rates and annual charges are recognised as revenue at the beginning of the rating period to which they relate. Prepaid rates are recognised as a financial liability until the beginning of the rating period.

Pensioner rebates relate to reductions in rates and certain annual charges for eligible pensioners' place of residence in the local government council area.

Pensioner rate subsidies are received from the NSW Government to provide a contribution towards the pensioner rebates and are recognised within the underlying revenue item based on their substance.

**B2-2 User charges and fees**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<i>Timing</i>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Specific user charges (per s502 - specific 'actual use' charges)</b>			
Domestic waste management services		56	49
Waste management services (non-domestic)		81	56
<b>Total specific user charges</b>		<b>137</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Other user charges and fees</b>			
<b>(i) Fees and charges – statutory and regulatory functions (per s608)</b>			
Planning and building regulation		877	604
Section 10.7 certificates (EP&A Act)		147	122
Section 603 certificates		103	80
Health act		201	157
<b>Total fees and charges – statutory/regulatory</b>		<b>1,328</b>	<b>963</b>
<b>(ii) Fees and charges – other (incl. general user charges (per s608))</b>			
Credit card service fee		49	48
Library and art gallery		26	39
Park rents		681	654
Festivals and events		15	24
Restoration charges		118	53
Hoarding income		51	21
Hudson park golf course and driving range		1,983	1,801
Other property rentals		19	45
Parking fees		64	63
Privately funded works and anchor work permits		–	24
Road opening permits		19	8
Work zone parking and standing plant permits		622	593
Residential Parking Scheme		2	–
Public halls		144	75
Other		1	1
Road closure		31	195
<b>Total fees and charges – other</b>		<b>3,825</b>	<b>3,644</b>
<b>Total other user charges and fees</b>		<b>5,153</b>	<b>4,607</b>
<b>Total user charges and fees</b>		<b>5,290</b>	<b>4,712</b>
<b>Timing of revenue recognition for user charges and fees</b>			
User charges and fees recognised over time (1)		–	–
User charges and fees recognised at a point in time (2)		5,290	4,712
<b>Total user charges and fees</b>		<b>5,290</b>	<b>4,712</b>

**Material accounting policy information**

Revenue arising from user charges and fees is recognised when or as the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the goods / services being provided.

The performance obligation relates to the specific services which are provided to the customers and generally the payment terms are within 30 days of provision of the service, or in some cases the customer is required to pay on arrival or a deposit in advance. There is no material obligation for Council in relation to refunds or returns.

Licences granted by Council are all either short-term or low value and all revenue from licences is recognised at the time that the licence is granted rather than over the term of the licence.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

**B2-3 Other revenue**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<i>Timing</i>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Ex gratia rates		<b>95</b>	180
Fines – parking		<b>2,004</b>	2,301
Legal fees recovery – rates and charges (extra charges)		<b>4</b>	35
Legal fees recovery – other		<b>24</b>	93
Diesel rebate		<b>1</b>	41
Insurance claims recoveries		<b>262</b>	169
Sale of abandoned vehicles		<b>42</b>	18
Carbon tax rebate		<b>97</b>	16
Insurance incentives/rebates		<b>65</b>	64
Other		<b>18</b>	6
Other corporate income		<b>4</b>	4
Recycling income (non-domestic)		<b>57</b>	83
<b>Total other revenue</b>		<b>2,673</b>	<b>3,010</b>

**Timing of revenue recognition for other revenue**

Other revenue recognised over time (1)	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
Other revenue recognised at a point in time (2)	<b>2,673</b>	3,010
<b>Total other revenue</b>	<b>2,673</b>	<b>3,010</b>

**Material accounting policy information for other revenue**

Where the revenue is earned for the provision of specified goods / services under an enforceable contract, revenue is recognised when or as the obligations are satisfied.

Statutory fees and fines are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received or when the penalty has been applied, whichever occurs first.

Other revenue is recorded when the payment is due, the value of the payment is notified, or the payment is received, whichever occurs first.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

**B2-4 Grants and contributions**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<i>Timing</i>	<b>Operating 2024</b>	<b>Operating 2023</b>	<b>Capital 2024</b>	<b>Capital 2023</b>
<b>General purpose grants and non-developer contributions (untied)</b>					
<b>General purpose (untied)</b>					
<b>Current year allocation</b>					
Financial assistance – general component		17	334	–	–
Financial assistance – local roads component		5	102	–	–
<b>Payment in advance - future year allocation</b>					
Financial assistance – general component		1,106	1,229	–	–
Financial assistance – local roads component		331	376	–	–
<b>Amount recognised as income during current year</b>		<b>1,459</b>	<b>2,041</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)</b>					
<b>Cash contributions</b>					
Community centres		–	–	508	494
Environmental programs		141	226	–	60
Heritage and cultural		13	–	–	–
Library – per capita		252	192	–	–
Road Safety		57	94	–	–
Parks and open space		–	–	888	2,648
Festivals and events		334	273	–	–
Street lighting		140	271	–	–
Planning		–	25	–	–
Other transport (bridges, footpaths, cycleways)		–	–	4,305	2,693
Other Council's Long Service Leave contributions		454	–	–	–
Transport (Block Grants)		–	–	190	295
Transport (roads to recovery)		–	–	196	179
Other grants		–	–	55	–
<b>Total special purpose grants and non-developer contributions – cash</b>		<b>1,391</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>6,142</b>	<b>6,369</b>
<b>Total special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)</b>		<b>1,391</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>6,142</b>	<b>6,369</b>
<b>Total grants and non-developer contributions</b>		<b>2,850</b>	<b>3,122</b>	<b>6,142</b>	<b>6,369</b>
<b>Comprising:</b>					
– Commonwealth funding		1,459	2,041	386	494
– State funding		936	1,081	5,756	5,815
– Other funding		455	–	–	60
		<b>2,850</b>	<b>3,122</b>	<b>6,142</b>	<b>6,369</b>

## B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

## Developer contributions

<b>\$ '000</b>	Notes	<b>Operating 2024</b>	<b>Operating 2023</b>	<b>Capital 2024</b>	<b>Capital 2023</b>
<b>Developer contributions:</b>					
<b>(s7.4 &amp; s7.11 - EP&amp;A Act, s64 of the LGA):</b>					
<b>Cash contributions</b>					
S 7.4 – contributions using planning agreements	F4	–	–	681	–
S 7.11 – contributions towards amenities/services		–	–	9,160	5,607
S 7.12 – fixed development consent levies		–	–	1,360	1,548
<b>Total developer contributions – cash</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>11,201</b>	<b>7,155</b>
<b>Non-cash contributions</b>					
S 7.4 – contributions using planning agreements		–	–	5,600	–
<b>Total developer contributions non-cash</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total developer contributions</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>16,801</b>	<b>7,155</b>
<b>Total contributions</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>16,801</b>	<b>7,155</b>
<b>Total grants and contributions</b>		<b>2,850</b>	<b>3,122</b>	<b>22,943</b>	<b>13,524</b>
<b>Timing of revenue recognition for grants and contributions</b>					
Grants and contributions recognised over time (1)		–	499	6,362	6,369
Grants and contributions recognised at a point in time (2)		2,850	2,623	16,581	7,155
<b>Total grants and contributions</b>		<b>2,850</b>	<b>3,122</b>	<b>22,943</b>	<b>13,524</b>



## B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

### Unspent grants and contributions

Certain grants and contributions are obtained by Council on the condition they be spent in a specified manner or in a future period but which are not yet spent in accordance with those conditions are as follows:

\$ '000	Operating 2024	Operating 2023	Capital 2024	Capital 2023
<b>Unspent grants and contributions</b>				
Unspent funds at 1 July	327	321	8,027	5,668
<b>Add:</b> Funds recognised as revenue in the reporting year but not yet spent in accordance with the conditions	144	327	5,258	8,027
<b>Less:</b> Funds received in prior year but revenue recognised and funds spent in current year	(327)	(321)	(8,027)	(5,668)
<b>Unspent funds at 30 June</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>5,258</b>	<b>8,027</b>
<b>Contributions</b>				
Unspent funds at 1 July	–	–	16,996	10,730
<b>Add:</b> contributions recognised as revenue in the reporting year but not yet spent in accordance with the conditions	–	–	11,614	7,470
<b>Less:</b> contributions recognised as revenue in previous years that have been spent during the reporting year	–	–	(192)	(1,204)
<b>Unspent contributions at 30 June</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>28,418</b>	<b>16,996</b>

### Material accounting policy information

#### Grants and contributions – enforceable agreement with sufficiently specific performance obligations

Grant and contribution revenue from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised as or when control of each performance obligations is transferred.

The performance obligations vary according to the agreement but include completion of milestone reports. Payment terms vary depending on the terms of the grant, cash is received upfront for some grants and on the achievement of certain payment milestones for others.

Performance obligations may be satisfied either at a point-in-time or over-time and this is reflected in the revenue recognition pattern. Point-in-time recognition occurs when the beneficiary obtains control of the goods / services at a single time such as the completion of a project or when a report / outcome is provided, whereas over-time recognition is where the control of the services is ongoing throughout the project.

Where control is transferred over-time, generally the input methods being either costs or time incurred are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefit.

#### Capital grants

Capital grants received by Council under an enforceable contract for the acquisition or construction of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment to sufficiently identified specifications which will be under Council's control on completion are recognised as revenue as and when the obligation to construct or purchase is completed.

For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred since this is deemed to be the most appropriate measure of progress towards the completion of the construction project.

For acquisitions of assets (i.e. purchases), the revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the Council.

#### Developer contributions

Council has obligations to provide facilities from contribution revenues levied on developers under the provisions of sections 7.4, 7.11 and 7.12 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

## B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

While Council generally incorporates these amounts as part of a Development Consents Order, such developer contributions are only recognised as income upon receipt by Council, due to the possibility that individual development consents may not be acted upon by the applicant and, accordingly, would not be payable to Council.

Developer contributions may only be expended for the purposes for which the contributions were required, but Council may apply contributions according to the priorities established in work schedules for the contribution plan.

### Other grants and contributions

Assets, including cash, received from other grants and contributions are recognised at fair value when the asset is received. Council considers whether there are any related liability or equity items associated with the asset which are recognised in accordance with the relevant accounting standard.

Once the assets and liabilities have been recognised, then income is recognised for any remaining asset value at the time that the asset is received.

## B2-5 Interest and investment income

\$ '000	2024	2023
<b>Interest on financial assets measured at amortised cost</b>		
– Overdue rates and annual charges (incl. special purpose rates)	150	88
– Cash and investments	2,154	1,186
<b>Total interest and investment income</b>	<b>2,304</b>	<b>1,274</b>

### Material accounting policy information

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest rate at the date that interest is earned.

## B2-6 Other income

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
<b>Rental income</b>			
<b>Other lease income</b>			
Room/Facility Hire		877	862
Leaseback fees - council vehicles		142	216
<b>Total other lease income</b>		<b>1,019</b>	<b>1,078</b>
<b>Total rental income</b>	C2-2	<b>1,019</b>	<b>1,078</b>
<b>Total other income</b>		<b>1,019</b>	<b>1,078</b>

## B3 Costs of providing services

### B3-1 Employee benefits and on-costs

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Salaries and wages	17,769	14,518
Employee termination costs (where material – other than vested leave paid)	613	1,237
Employee leave entitlements (ELE)	3,754	4,072
Superannuation	2,232	1,900
Workers' compensation insurance	1,167	1,471
Fringe benefit tax (FBT)	163	136
Training costs (other than salaries and wages)	280	265
Recruitment costs	107	263
Other	147	122
<b>Total employee costs</b>	<b>26,232</b>	<b>23,984</b>
Less: Capitalised employee costs	(427)	(320)
<b>Total employee costs expensed</b>	<b>25,805</b>	<b>23,664</b>

#### Material accounting policy information

Employee benefit expenses are recorded when the service has been provided by the employee.

#### Retirement benefit obligations

All employees of the Council are entitled to benefits on retirement, disability or death. Council contributes to various defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans on behalf of its employees.

#### Superannuation plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

Council participates in a defined benefit plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, however, sufficient information to account for the plan as a defined benefit is not available and therefore Council accounts for its obligations to defined benefit plans on the same basis as its obligations to defined contribution plans, i.e. as an expense when it becomes payable – refer to Note D3-1 for more information.

#### Capitalised employee costs

Employee costs that are directly attributable to the construction or acquisition of items of Infrastructure, Property Plant and Equipment (IPPE) are capitalised to the cost of the respective items of IPPE in accordance with AASB 16.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

**B3-2 Materials and services**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Raw materials and consumables		<b>2,959</b>	3,680
Contractor costs		<b>6,872</b>	6,185
Street and gutter cleaning		<b>776</b>	816
Audit Fees	E2-1	<b>315</b>	400
Infringement notice contract costs (SEINS)		<b>174</b>	295
<b>Previously other expenses:</b>			
Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses	E1-2	<b>255</b>	257
Advertising		<b>88</b>	96
Bank charges		<b>81</b>	78
Cleaning		<b>368</b>	399
Electricity, heating and water		<b>304</b>	266
Insurance		<b>1,043</b>	928
Office expenses (including computer expenses)		<b>145</b>	131
Postage		<b>81</b>	97
Printing and stationery		<b>75</b>	94
Street lighting		<b>453</b>	564
Subscriptions, memberships and publications		<b>393</b>	316
Telephone and communications		<b>405</b>	504
Valuation fees		<b>51</b>	48
Other expenses		<b>141</b>	137
Security		<b>101</b>	56
Waste disposal – tipping fees		<b>3,862</b>	4,086
<b>Legal expenses:</b>			
– Legal expenses: planning and development		<b>669</b>	756
– Legal expenses: debt recovery		<b>68</b>	29
– Legal expenses: other		<b>87</b>	12
Expenses from short-term leases		<b>3</b>	28
Other		<b>8</b>	–
<b>Total materials and services</b>		<b>19,777</b>	<b>20,258</b>
<b>Total materials and services</b>		<b>19,777</b>	<b>20,258</b>

**Material accounting policy information**

Expenses are recorded on an accruals basis as the Council receives the goods or services.

**B3-3 Borrowing costs****Material accounting policy information**

Borrowing costs incurred for the construction of any qualifying asset are capitalised during the period of time that is required to complete and prepare the asset for its intended use or sale. Other borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

Council borrowed \$7million on the 28th June 2024, therefore no borrowing costs were attributed to the 2023-24 Financial Year.

**B3-4 Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Depreciation and amortisation</b>	C1-8,C1-7		
Plant and equipment		<b>1,168</b>	1,211
Office equipment		<b>534</b>	741
<b>Other assets:</b>			
– Library books		<b>118</b>	109
<b>Infrastructure:</b>			
– Buildings and other structures		<b>1,227</b>	812
– Roads		<b>2,619</b>	2,311
– Bridges		<b>91</b>	123
– Footpaths		<b>534</b>	546
– Stormwater drainage		<b>931</b>	793
– Car parks		<b>73</b>	213
– Other open space/recreational assets		<b>2,153</b>	1,975
Intangible assets		<b>523</b>	448
<b>Total gross depreciation and amortisation costs</b>		<b>9,971</b>	9,282
<b>Total depreciation and amortisation costs</b>		<b>9,971</b>	9,282
<b>Total depreciation, amortisation and impairment for non-financial assets</b>		<b>9,971</b>	9,282

**Material accounting policy information****Depreciation and amortisation**

Depreciation and amortisation are calculated using the straight line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives. Useful lives are included in Note C1-6 for IPPE assets.

**Impairment of non-financial assets**

Council assets held at fair value that are not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash flow, and that are deemed to be specialised, are no longer required to be tested for impairment under AASB 136. This is because these assets are assessed on an annual basis to ensure that the carrying amount is not materially different from fair value and therefore an impairment loss would be captured during this assessment.

Other assets that do not meet the criteria above are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash-generating units). Non-financial assets that suffered an impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

Impairment losses for revalued assets are firstly offset against the amount in the revaluation surplus for the class of asset, with only the excess to be recognised in the Income Statement.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

**B3-5 Other expenses**

<b>\$ '000</b>	Notes	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Impairment of receivables</b>			
User charges and fees		–	128
Other		(55)	–
<b>Total impairment of receivables</b>	C1-4	<b>(55)</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>Other</b>			
Contributions/levies to other levels of government			
– Department of planning levy		103	100
– Emergency services levy (includes FRNSW, SES, and RFS levies)		221	128
– NSW fire brigade levy		1,015	874
Donations, contributions and assistance to other organisations (Section 356)		70	64
<b>Total other</b>		<b>1,409</b>	<b>1,166</b>
<b>Total other expenses</b>		<b>1,354</b>	<b>1,294</b>

**Material accounting policy information**

Other expenses are recorded on an accruals basis when Council has an obligation for the expenses.

Impairment expenses are recognised when identified.

**B4 Gains or losses****B4-1 Gain or loss from the disposal, replacement and de-recognition of assets**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Gain (or loss) on disposal of plant and equipment</b>			
	C1-6		
Proceeds from disposal – plant and equipment		<b>577</b>	581
Less: carrying amount of plant and equipment assets sold/written off		<b>(165)</b>	(393)
<b>Gain (or loss) on disposal</b>		<b>412</b>	<b>188</b>
<b>Gain (or loss) on disposal of infrastructure</b>			
	C1-6		
Less: carrying amount of bridge assets sold/written off		<b>(15)</b>	–
Less: carrying amount of road assets written off <sup>a</sup>		<b>(700)</b>	(1,579)
Less: carrying amount of footpath assets written off <sup>b</sup>		<b>(858)</b>	(307)
Less: carrying amount of building assets sold/written off		<b>(429)</b>	(200)
Less: carrying amount of open space assets sold/written off		<b>(21)</b>	–
Less: carrying value of car park assets sold/written off		<b>(63)</b>	–
Less: carrying amount of stormwater assets write off		<b>–</b>	(7)
<b>Gain (or loss) on disposal</b>		<b>(2,086)</b>	<b>(2,093)</b>
<b>Net gain (or loss) from disposal of assets <sup>4</sup></b>		<b>(1,674)</b>	<b>(1,905)</b>

**Material accounting policy information**

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. The gain or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has irrevocably passed to the buyer and the asset is de-recognised.

(4) Net losses from disposal of assets relate to plant and equipment, roads (surface and base) and footpath assets replaced as part of the capital program.

(a) This includes road surface, road base and kerbs & gutters that were replaced through capital works undertaken during the financial year. The carrying amounts stated is replaced by the new asset value in Council's asset register. The works included Section 7.11, Local Area Traffic Management (LATM), kerbs and gutters replacement program, RMS block grant and stimulus funding. Council budgeted \$0.45 million in disposal of road asset.

(b) This includes footpaths that were replaced through capital works undertaken during the financial year. The carrying amounts stated is replaced by the new asset value in Council's asset register. There was no budget for this.

## B5 Performance against budget

### B5-1 Material budget variations

Council's original budget was adopted by the Council on 27 June 2023 and is not required to be audited. The original projections on which the budget was based have been affected by a number of factors. These include state and federal government decisions, including new grant programs, changing economic activity, environmental factors, and by decisions made by Council.

While these General Purpose Financial Statements include the original budget adopted by Council, the Act requires Council to review its financial budget on a quarterly basis, so it is able to manage the variation between actuals and budget that invariably occur during the year.

**Material variations of more than 10%** between original budget and actual results or where the variance is considered material by nature are explained below.

**Variation Key:** **F** = Favourable budget variation, **U** = Unfavourable budget variation.

\$ '000	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2024 ----- Variance -----	
<b>Revenues</b>				
Rates and annual charges	36,948	36,920	(28)	0% <b>U</b>
User charges and fees	5,022	5,290	268	5% <b>F</b>
Other revenue	2,924	2,673	(251)	(9)% <b>U</b>
Operating grants and contributions	2,921	2,850	(71)	(2)% <b>U</b>
Capital grants and contributions	9,762	22,943	13,181	135% <b>F</b>
Capital grants and contributions are higher than budgeted for the financial year due to the receipt of significant developer contributions. These contributions were triggered by several large developments receiving their Occupation Certificates (OC) during the year. When a development reaches the stage where an OC is granted, developers are required to pay infrastructure contributions, which fund essential community infrastructure like roads, parks, and utilities.				
Interest and investment revenue	1,714	2,304	590	34% <b>F</b>
Interest income refers to the revenue earned from Council's cash investments (i.e. term deposits). These investments are made to generate additional revenue and maximise the use of surplus funds. During the 2022/2023 fiscal year, Council experienced higher-than-expected interest income due to the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA) rate hikes. This resulted in a net positive impact on the Council's interest income. The higher interest rates led to increased returns on the council's investments, exceeding the forecasted income.				
Net gains from disposal of assets	625	–	(625)	(100)% <b>U</b>
Council adopts a conservative approach to budgeting, which excludes any anticipation of substantial gains or losses from the disposal of assets. Instead, any gain or loss resulting from the sale of assets is recognised during the quarterly review process. This approach ensures that the budget remains realistic and avoids potential overestimation of revenue or underestimation of expenses.				
Other income	1,019	1,019	–	0% <b>F</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Employee benefits and on-costs	25,524	25,805	(281)	(1)% <b>U</b>
Materials and services	20,607	19,777	830	4% <b>F</b>
Borrowing costs	179	–	179	100% <b>F</b>
Council did not incur borrowing costs during the year because the actual drawdown of borrowings occurred at the end of the financial year, rather than at the beginning, as originally budgeted.				
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	9,551	9,971	(420)	(4)% <b>U</b>
Other expenses	1,400	1,354	46	3% <b>F</b>
Net losses from disposal of assets	–	1,674	(1,674)	∞ <b>U</b>



**B5-1 Material budget variations (continued)**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2024 ----- Variance -----</b>
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**Statement of cash flows**

**Cash flows from operating activities** **12,600** **17,273** **4,673** **37% F**

This is attributable to higher than budgeted capital grants and contributions received during the year. Higher than budgeted capital grants and contributions for the financial year due to the receipt of significant developer contributions. These contributions were triggered by several large developments receiving their Occupation Certificates (OC) during the year. When a development reaches the stage where an OC is granted, developers are required to pay infrastructure contributions, which fund essential community infrastructure like roads, parks, and utilities.

**Cash flows from investing activities** **(17,802)** **(14,310)** **3,492** **(20)% F**

Cash flows from investing activities are lower than budget because several capital works projects, although commenced during the financial year, are still in progress and will continue into the following year. Since these projects have not yet been completed, the full associated capital expenditure has not been realised in the current financial year.

**Cash flows from financing activities** **6,897** **7,000** **103** **1% F**

**C Financial position****C1 Assets we manage****C1-1 Cash and cash equivalents**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Cash assets</b>		
Cash on hand and at bank	8,126	876
Deposits at call	10,418	7,705
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>18,544</b>	<b>8,581</b>

**Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents**

Total cash and cash equivalents per Statement of Financial Position	18,544	8,581
<b>Balance as per the Statement of Cash Flows</b>	<b>18,544</b>	<b>8,581</b>

**Material accounting policy information**

For Statement of Cash Flow presentation purposes, cash and cash equivalents include: cash on hand; deposits held at call with financial institutions; other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value; and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the Statement of Financial Position.

**C1-2 Financial investments**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024 Current</b>	<b>2024 Non-current</b>	<b>2023 Current</b>	<b>2023 Non-current</b>
<b>Debt securities at amortised cost</b>				
Term deposits	28,000	16,000	23,000	20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>Total financial investments</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>Total cash assets, cash equivalents and investments</b>	<b>46,544</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>31,581</b>	<b>20,000</b>

**Material accounting policy information**

Financial instruments are recognised initially on the date that the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

On initial recognition, all financial instruments are measured at fair value plus transaction costs (except for instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss where transaction costs are expensed as incurred).

**Financial assets**

All recognised financial assets are subsequently measured in their entirety at either amortised cost or fair value, depending on the classification of the financial assets.

**Classification**

On initial recognition, Council classifies its financial assets into the following categories – those measured at:

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit and loss (FVTPL)
- fair value through other comprehensive income – equity instrument (FVOCI-equity)

Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition.

## C1-2 Financial investments (continued)

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### **Amortised cost**

Council's financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other receivables, term deposits and cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Financial Position. Term deposits with an initial term of more than 3 months are classified as investments rather than cash and cash equivalents.

Subsequent to initial recognition, these assets are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less provision for impairment.

Interest income, impairment and gains or loss on de-recognition are recognised in profit or loss.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

**C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
(a) Externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments		
<b>Total cash, cash equivalents and investments</b>	<b>62,544</b>	<b>51,581</b>
Less: Externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments	<b>(37,695)</b>	<b>(29,386)</b>
<b>Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions</b>	<b>24,849</b>	<b>22,195</b>
<b>External restrictions</b>		
<b>External restrictions – included in liabilities</b>		
External restrictions included in cash, cash equivalents and investments above comprise:		
Specific purpose unexpended grants – general fund	<b>5,402</b>	<b>8,354</b>
<b>External restrictions – included in liabilities</b>	<b>5,402</b>	<b>8,354</b>
<b>External restrictions – other</b>		
External restrictions included in cash, cash equivalents and investments above comprise:		
Developer contributions – general	<b>28,418</b>	<b>16,996</b>
Stormwater management	<b>589</b>	<b>586</b>
Domestic waste management	<b>3,286</b>	<b>3,450</b>
<b>External restrictions – other</b>	<b>32,293</b>	<b>21,032</b>
<b>Total external restrictions</b>	<b>37,695</b>	<b>29,386</b>

Cash, cash equivalents and investments subject to external restrictions are those which are only available for specific use by Council due to a restriction placed by legislation or third-party contractual agreement.

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
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**(b) Internal allocations****Internal allocations**

At 30 June, Council has internally allocated funds to the following:

Plant and vehicle replacement	<b>2,230</b>	<b>1,630</b>
Employees leave entitlement	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,400</b>
Carry over works	<b>3,426</b>	<b>810</b>
Deposits, retentions and bonds	<b>12,347</b>	<b>12,956</b>
Adshel (bus shelters)	<b>270</b>	<b>270</b>
Council elections	<b>350</b>	<b>250</b>
Future major expenditure	<b>2,082</b>	<b>2,053</b>
Hudson Park Golf Driving Range	<b>195</b>	<b>195</b>
Parkscape improvements	<b>–</b>	<b>29</b>
Planning agreements	<b>688</b>	<b>–</b>
Risk management	<b>400</b>	<b>400</b>
Technology	<b>140</b>	<b>134</b>
Contributions towards works	<b>20</b>	<b>–</b>
Financial Assistance Grant - paid in advance	<b>1,437</b>	<b>1,605</b>
<b>Total internal allocations</b>	<b>24,785</b>	<b>21,732</b>

Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions may be internally allocated by resolution or policy of the elected Council.

## C1-4 Receivables

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024 Current</b>	<b>2024 Non-current</b>	<b>2023 Current</b>	<b>2023 Non-current</b>
Rates and annual charges	2,229	–	1,566	–
Interest and extra charges	206	–	147	–
User charges and fees	322	–	438	–
Accrued revenues:				
– Interest on investments	1,141	–	382	–
– Other income accruals	525	–	216	–
Net GST receivable	847	–	506	–
Other debtors	2	–	110	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,272</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,365</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Less: provision for impairment</b>				
User charges and fees	(79)	–	(133)	–
<b>Total provision for impairment – receivables</b>	<b>(79)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(133)</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total net receivables</b>	<b>5,193</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,232</b>	<b>–</b>

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Movement in provision for impairment of receivables</b>		
Balance at the beginning of the year	133	29
+ new provisions recognised during the year	–	128
– amounts already provided for and written off this year	(54)	(24)
<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>133</b>

## Material accounting policy information

Receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days.

## Impairment

Impairment of financial assets measured at amortised cost is recognised on an expected credit loss (ECL) basis.

When determining whether the credit risk of a financial asset has increased significantly since initial recognition, and when estimating ECL, the Council considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis based on Council's historical experience and informed credit assessment, and including forward-looking information.

When considering the ECL for rates receivables, Council takes into account that unpaid rates represent a charge against the rateable property that will be recovered when the property is next sold. For non-rates receivables, Council uses the presumption that an asset which is more than 30 days past due has seen a significant increase in credit risk.

The Council uses the presentation that a financial asset is in default when:

- the other party is unlikely to pay its credit obligations to the Council in full, without recourse by the Council to actions such as realising security (if any is held); or
- the financial assets (for non-rates debtors) are more than 90 days past due.

Credit losses are measured as the present value of the difference between the cash flows due to the entity in accordance with the contract, and the cash flows expected to be received. This is applied using a probability weighted approach.

On initial recognition of the asset, an estimate of the expected credit losses for the next 12 months is recognised. Where the asset has experienced significant increase in credit risk then the lifetime losses are estimated and recognised.

Council uses the simplified approach for trade receivables where the expected lifetime credit losses are recognised on day 1.

There has been no change in the estimation techniques or significant assumptions made during the current reporting period.

The Council writes off a trade receivable when there is information indicating that the debtor is in severe financial difficulty and there is no realistic prospect of recovery, e.g. when the debtor has been placed under liquidation or has entered into bankruptcy proceedings.

### C1-4 Receivables (continued)

Where the Council renegotiates the terms of receivables due from certain customers, the new expected cash flows are discounted at the original effective interest rate and any resulting difference to the carrying value is recognised in profit or loss.

Rates and annual charges outstanding are secured against the property.

### C1-5 Inventories

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024 Current</b>	<b>2024 Non-current</b>	<b>2023 Current</b>	<b>2023 Non-current</b>
<b>(i) Inventories at cost</b>				
Stores and materials	73	–	65	–
<b>Total inventories at cost</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total inventories</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>–</b>

#### Material accounting policy information

##### Raw materials and stores, work in progress and finished goods

Raw materials and stores, work in progress and finished goods are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned to individual items of inventory on the basis of weighted average costs. Costs of purchased inventory are determined after deducting rebates and discounts. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

## C1-6 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

By aggregated asset class	At 1 July 2023			Asset movements during the reporting period								At 30 June 2024		
	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount	Additions renewals <sup>1</sup>	Additions new assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	WIP transfers	Adjustments and transfers (WIP to Exp)	Revaluation increments / (decrements) to equity (ARR)		Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
\$ '000														
Capital work in progress	9,563	–	9,563	3,372	–	–	–	(8,107)	(531)	–		4,295	–	4,295
Plant and equipment	10,184	(6,846)	3,338	1,674	–	(165)	(1,168)	–	–	–		10,819	(7,140)	3,679
Office equipment	6,697	(4,458)	2,239	–	354	–	(534)	–	–	–		5,350	(3,292)	2,058
<b>Land:</b>														
– Operational land	77,592	–	77,592	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		77,592	–	77,592
– Community land	49,503	–	49,503	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		49,503	–	49,503
Land improvements – non-depreciable	–	–	–	–	42	–	–	799	–	–		841	–	841
<b>Infrastructure:</b>														
– Buildings and other structures	76,418	(22,346)	54,072	680	5,600	(429)	(1,227)	1,911	–	6,445		90,791	(23,740)	67,051
– Roads	196,494	(83,160)	113,334	3,797	110	(700)	(2,619)	–	–	12,102		217,327	(91,302)	126,025
– Bridges	9,458	(3,483)	5,975	268	122	(15)	(91)	1,943	–	(287)		11,106	(3,190)	7,916
– Footpaths	41,263	(16,433)	24,830	3,455	–	(858)	(534)	–	–	1,856		45,684	(16,936)	28,748
– Bulk earthworks (non-depreciable)	36,841	–	36,841	–	–	–	–	–	–	1,989		38,830	–	38,830
– Stormwater drainage	93,143	(37,503)	55,640	–	37	–	(931)	–	–	3,847		129,696	(71,104)	58,592
– Car parks	7,203	(1,621)	5,582	188	–	(63)	(73)	–	–	304		7,654	(1,716)	5,938
– Other open space / recreational assets	60,911	(18,026)	42,885	14	218	(21)	(2,153)	3,454	–	(11,363)		43,694	(10,659)	33,035
<b>Other assets:</b>														
– Library books	2,272	(1,936)	336	90	–	–	(118)	–	–	–		2,362	(2,054)	308
<b>Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>677,542</b>	<b>(195,812)</b>	<b>481,730</b>	<b>13,538</b>	<b>6,483</b>	<b>(2,251)</b>	<b>(9,448)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(531)</b>	<b>14,893</b>		<b>735,544</b>	<b>(231,133)</b>	<b>504,411</b>

(1) Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

## C1-6 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

By aggregated asset class	At 1 July 2022			Asset movements during the reporting period						At 30 June 2023		
	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount	Additions renewals <sup>1</sup>	Additions new assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	WIP transfers	Revaluation increments / (decrements) to equity (ARR)	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
\$ '000												
Capital work in progress	6,644	–	6,644	5,175	1,104	–	–	(3,360)	–	9,563	–	9,563
Plant and equipment	9,536	(5,971)	3,565	1,378	–	(393)	(1,211)	–	–	10,184	(6,846)	3,338
Office equipment	6,658	(3,718)	2,940	–	39	–	(741)	–	–	6,697	(4,458)	2,239
<b>Land:</b>												
– Operational land	68,890	–	68,890	–	–	–	–	–	8,702	77,592	–	77,592
– Community land	49,503	–	49,503	–	–	–	–	–	–	49,503	–	49,503
<b>Infrastructure:</b>												
– Buildings and other structures	68,617	(21,534)	47,083	119	677	(200)	(812)	2,100	5,105	76,418	(22,346)	54,072
– Roads	195,617	(42,229)	153,388	2,246	187	(1,579)	(2,311)	69	(38,666)	196,494	(83,160)	113,334
– Bridges	14,181	(4,421)	9,760	–	–	–	(123)	–	(3,662)	9,458	(3,483)	5,975
– Footpaths	45,614	(9,453)	36,161	698	–	(307)	(546)	–	(11,176)	41,263	(16,433)	24,830
– Bulk earthworks (non-depreciable)	38,641	–	38,641	–	–	–	–	–	(1,800)	36,841	–	36,841
– Stormwater drainage	86,727	(36,710)	50,017	28	170	(7)	(793)	–	6,225	93,143	(37,503)	55,640
– Car parks	2,760	(473)	2,287	–	–	–	(213)	–	3,508	7,203	(1,621)	5,582
– Other open space / recreational assets	55,825	(16,051)	39,774	211	–	(2)	(1,975)	1,191	3,686	60,911	(18,026)	42,885
<b>Other assets:</b>												
– Library books	2,152	(1,827)	325	119	–	–	(109)	–	–	2,272	(1,936)	336
<b>Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>651,365</b>	<b>(142,387)</b>	<b>508,978</b>	<b>9,974</b>	<b>2,177</b>	<b>(2,488)</b>	<b>(8,834)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(28,078)</b>	<b>677,542</b>	<b>(195,812)</b>	<b>481,730</b>

(1) Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).



## C1-6 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

### Material accounting policy information

#### Initial recognition of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)

IPPE is measured initially at cost. Cost includes the fair value of the consideration given to acquire the asset (net of discounts and rebates) and any directly attributable cost of bringing the asset to working condition for its intended use (inclusive of import duties and taxes).

When infrastructure, property, plant and equipment is acquired by Council at significantly below fair value, the assets are initially recognised at their fair value at acquisition date.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the Income Statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

#### Useful lives of IPPE

Land is not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Class of IPPE	Useful Lives
Plant and equipment (inc. office equipment)	5 - 20 years
Buildings and other structures	20 - 150 years
Roads, bridges and footpaths	20 - 155 years
Stormwater drainage	100 - 150 years
Car parks	35 - 100 years and infinite base
Other open space / recreational assets	10 - 100 years
Library books	5 years

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

#### Revaluation model

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are held at fair value. Comprehensive valuations are performed at least every five (5) years, however the carrying amount of assets is assessed by Council at each reporting date to confirm that it is not materially different from current fair value.

Increases in the carrying amounts arising on revaluation are credited to the IPPE revaluation reserve. To the extent that the increase reverses a decrease previously recognising profit or loss relating to that asset class, the increase is first recognised as profit or loss. Decreases that reverse previous increases of assets in the same class are first charged against IPPE revaluation reserve to the extent of the remaining reserve attributable to the class; all other decreases are charged to the Income Statement.

#### Land under roads

Land under roads is land under roadways and road reserves including land under footpaths, nature strips and median strips.

Council has elected not to recognise land under roads acquired before 1 July 2008. Land under roads acquired after 1 July 2008 is recognised in accordance with the IPPE accounting policy. Council does not have any land under road that were acquired after 1 July 2008.

#### Crown reserves

Crown reserves under Council's care and control are recognised as assets of the Council categorised within community land. While ownership of the reserves remains with the Crown, Council retains operational control of the reserves and is responsible for their maintenance and use in accordance with the specific purposes to which the reserves are dedicated.

Improvements on Crown reserves are also recorded as assets, while maintenance costs incurred by Council and revenues relating to the reserves are recognised within Council's Income Statement.

## C1-7 Intangible assets

Intangible assets are as follows:

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Software</b>		
<b>Opening values at 1 July</b>		
Gross book value	<b>3,609</b>	3,609
Accumulated amortisation	<b>(1,739)</b>	(1,292)
<b>Net book value – opening balance</b>	<b>1,870</b>	2,317
<b>Movements for the year</b>		
Amortisation charges	<b>(523)</b>	(447)
<b>Closing values at 30 June</b>		
Gross book value	<b>3,609</b>	3,609
Accumulated amortisation	<b>(2,262)</b>	(1,739)
<b>Total software – net book value</b>	<b>1,347</b>	1,870
<b>Total intangible assets – net book value</b>	<b>1,347</b>	1,870

### Material accounting policy information

#### IT development and software

Software development costs include only those costs directly attributable to the development phase (including external direct costs of materials and services, direct payroll, and payroll-related costs of employees' time spent on the project) and are only recognised following completion of technical feasibility, and where the Council has an intention and ability to use the asset. Amortisation is calculated on a straight-line basis over periods generally ranging from three to five years.

## C2 Leasing activities

### C2-1 Council as a lessee

#### (i) Council as a lessee

Council has leases over office equipment. Information relating to the leases in place and associated balances and transactions is provided below.

#### Terms and conditions of leases

##### Office and IT equipment

Leases for office and IT equipment are generally for the threshold for low value assets, except for significant items (such as photocopiers). The leases for Council's photocopiers are on a rolling 12 month basis and the payments are fixed, however certain variable payments apply based on usage.

#### (a) Income Statement

\$ '000	2024	2023
Expenses relating to short-term leases	3	28
	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>

#### (b) Statement of Cash Flows

Total cash outflow for leases	3	28
	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>

#### (c) Leases at significantly below market value – concessionary / peppercorn leases

Council has leases at significantly below market value for land which are used for parks and open space.

The leases of these types are generally for terms between 2 and 10 years and require payments of nominal amounts not exceeding \$1,000 per annum.

The use of the right-of-use asset is restricted by the lessors to specified community services which Council must provide, these services are detailed in the leases.

None of the leases in place are individually material from a Statement of Financial Position or Performance perspective.

#### Material accounting policy information

At inception of a contract, Council assesses whether a lease exists – i.e. does the contract convey the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration?

Council has elected not to separate non-lease components from lease components for any class of asset and has accounted for payments as a single component.

At the lease commencement, Council recognises a right-of-use asset and associated lease liability for the lease term. The lease term includes extension periods where Council believes it is reasonably certain that the option will be exercised.

The right-of-use asset is measured using the cost model where cost on initial recognition comprises: the lease liability, initial direct costs, prepaid lease payments, estimated cost of removal and restoration, less any lease incentives received. The right-of-use asset is depreciated over the lease term on a straight-line basis and assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of asset accounting policy.

The lease liability is initially recognised at the present value of the remaining lease payments at the commencement of the lease. The discount rate is the rate implicit in the lease, however where this cannot be readily determined then the Council's incremental borrowing rate for a similar term with similar security is used.

Subsequent to initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The lease liability is re-measured when there is a lease modification, or change in estimate of the lease term or index upon which the lease payments are based (e.g. CPI).

## C2-1 Council as a lessee (continued)

Where the lease liability is re-measured, the right-of-use asset is adjusted to reflect the re-measurement.

### Exceptions to lease accounting

Council has applied the exceptions to lease accounting for both short-term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low-value assets. Council recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

### Leases at significantly below market value / Concessionary leases

Council has elected to measure the right of use asset arising from the concessionary leases at cost which is based on the associated lease liability at initial recognition.

## C2-2 Council as a lessor

\$ '000	2024	2023
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### Maturity analysis of undiscounted lease payments to be received after reporting date for all operating leases:

Maturity analysis of future lease income receivable showing the undiscounted lease payments to be received after reporting date for operating leases:

< 1 year	1,030	760
1–2 years	680	662
2–3 years	552	572
3–4 years	482	501
4–5 years	435	297
> 5 years	2,828	2,472
<b>Total undiscounted lease payments to be received <sup>a</sup></b>	<b>6,007</b>	<b>5,264</b>

(a) These leases relate to council owned properties that are leased to external parties and community groups.

### Material accounting policy information

When Council is a lessor, the lease is classified as either an operating or finance lease at inception date, based on whether substantially all of the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the asset have been transferred to the lessee. If the risks and rewards have been transferred then the lease is classified as a finance lease, otherwise it is an operating lease.

When Council has a sub-lease over an asset and is the intermediate lessor then the head lease and sub-lease are accounted for separately. The classification of the sub-lease is based on the right-of-use asset which arises from the head lease rather than the useful life of the underlying asset.

If the lease contains lease and non-lease components then the non-lease components are accounted for in accordance with AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*.

The lease income is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

### C3 Liabilities of Council

#### C3-1 Payables

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024 Current</b>	<b>2024 Non-current</b>	<b>2023 Current</b>	<b>2023 Non-current</b>
<b>Payables</b>				
Goods and services – operating expenditure	1,623	–	1,746	–
Accrued expenses:				
– Salaries and wages	513	–	223	–
– Other expenditure accruals	478	–	1,108	–
Security bonds, deposits and retentions	13,719	–	12,956	–
Prepaid rates	361	–	394	–
Other	152	–	–	–
<b>Total payables</b>	<b>16,846</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>16,427</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total payables</b>	<b>16,846</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>16,427</b>	<b>–</b>

#### Current payables not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
The following liabilities, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.		
Payables – security bonds, deposits and retentions	13,719	12,956
<b>Total payables</b>	<b>13,719</b>	<b>12,956</b>

#### Material accounting policy information

Council measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transaction costs, subsequently financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

The financial liabilities of the Council comprise trade payables.

#### Payables

Payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to Council prior to the end of financial year that are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

**C3-2 Contract Liabilities**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024 Current</b>	<b>2024 Non-current</b>	<b>2023 Current</b>	<b>2023 Non-current</b>
<b>Grants and contributions received in advance:</b>				
Unexpended grants (received prior to performance obligation being satisfied) <sup>1</sup>	5,403	—	8,354	—
<b>Total grants received in advance</b>	<b>5,403</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>8,354</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>User fees and charges received in advance:</b>				
Other <sup>2</sup>	313	—	378	—
<b>Total user fees and charges received in advance</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Total contract liabilities</b>	<b>5,716</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>8,732</b>	<b>—</b>

(1) Council receives funding to construct assets including sporting facilities, bridges, library and other infrastructure. The funds received are under an enforceable contract which require Council to construct an identified asset which will be under Council's control on completion. The revenue is recognised as Council constructs the asset and the contract liability reflects the funding received which cannot yet be recognised as revenue. The revenue is expected to be recognised in the next 12 months. The contract liability relates to grants received prior to the revenue recognition criteria being satisfied since the performance obligations are ongoing.

(2) This includes fees received in advance for development applications that were not determined as at balance date.

**Material accounting policy information**

Contract liabilities are recorded when consideration is received from a customer / fund provider prior to Council transferring a good or service to the customer, Council presents the funds which exceed revenue recognised as a contract liability.

**C3-3 Borrowings**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024 Current</b>	<b>2024 Non-current</b>	<b>2023 Current</b>	<b>2023 Non-current</b>
Loans – secured <sup>1</sup>	548	6,452	—	—
<b>Total borrowings</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>6,452</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

(1) Loans are secured over the general rating income of Council.

Disclosures on liability interest rate risk exposures, fair value disclosures and security can be found in Note 20.

**Current borrowings not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months**

The following borrowings, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.

**(a) Changes in liabilities arising from financing activities**

	2023		Non-cash movements				2024
	Opening Balance	Cash flows	Acquisition	Fair value changes	Acquisition due to change in accounting policy	Other non-cash movement	Closing balance
<b>\$ '000</b>							
Loans – secured	—	7,000	—	—	—	—	7,000
<b>Total liabilities from financing activities</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7,000</b>

**(b) Financing arrangements**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Total facilities</b>		

Page 42 of 62

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

**C3-3 Borrowings (continued)**

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Total financing facilities available to Council at the reporting date are:		
Credit cards/purchase cards	<b>70</b>	70
<b>Total financing arrangements</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Drawn facilities</b>		
Financing facilities drawn down at the reporting date are:		
<b>Undrawn facilities</b>		
Undrawn financing facilities available to Council at the reporting date are:		
– Credit cards/purchase cards	<b>61</b>	13
<b>Total undrawn financing arrangements</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>13</b>

### C3-4 Employee benefit provisions

\$ '000	2024 Current	2024 Non-current	2023 Current	2023 Non-current
Annual leave	1,523	–	1,498	–
Sick leave	15	–	16	–
Long service leave	2,241	560	1,832	458
ELE on-costs	417	51	439	–
<b>Total employee benefit provisions</b>	<b>4,196</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>3,785</b>	<b>458</b>

#### Current employee benefit provisions not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months

\$ '000	2024	2023
The following provisions, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.		
Provisions – employees benefits	2,204	1,642
	<b>2,204</b>	<b>1,642</b>

#### Material accounting policy information

Employee benefit provisions are presented as current liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position if Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur and therefore all annual leave and vested long service leave (or that which vests within 12 months) is presented as current.

#### Short-term obligations

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulating sick leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service) are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liability for annual leave and accumulating sick leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

#### Other long-term employee benefit obligations

The liability for long-service leave and annual leave that is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

#### On-costs

The employee benefit provisions include the aggregate on-cost liabilities that will arise when payment of current employee benefits is made in future periods.

These amounts include superannuation, payroll tax and workers compensation expenses which will be payable upon the future payment of certain leave liabilities which employees are entitled to at the reporting period.

## C4 Reserves

### C4-1 Nature and purpose of reserves

#### Revaluation reserve

The infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE) revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements in the revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.



## D Risks and accounting uncertainties

### D1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held

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Council's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks including credit risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk.

The Council's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Council.

Council does not engage in transactions expressed in foreign currencies and is therefore not subject to foreign currency risk.

Council's objective is to maximise its return on cash and investments whilst maintaining an adequate level of liquidity and preserving capital. The finance team manages the cash and Investments portfolio with the assistance of independent advisors. Council has an investment policy which complies with the s 625 of the Act and the Ministerial Investment Order. The policy is regularly reviewed by Council and a monthly investment report is provided to Council setting out the make-up performance of the portfolio as required by local government regulations.

Financial risk management is carried out by Council's finance section under policies approved by the Council.

The fair value of Council's financial assets and financial liabilities approximates their carrying amount.

#### (a) Credit risk

Council's major receivables comprise rates, annual charges, and user charges and fees.

Council manages the credit risk associated with these receivables by monitoring outstanding debt and employing stringent debt recovery procedures. Council also encourages ratepayers to pay their rates by the due date through certain incentives.

The credit risk for liquid funds and other short-term financial assets is considered negligible, since the counterparties are reputable financial institutions with high quality external credit ratings.

There are no significant concentrations of credit risk to Council due to the nature of Council operations.

The level of outstanding receivables is reported to Council periodically and benchmarks are set and monitored for acceptable collection performance. The balances of receivables that remain within initial trade terms are considered to be of high credit quality.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the carrying amount of each class of receivable in the financial statements.

There are no material receivables that have been subjected to a re-negotiation of repayment terms.

**D1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)****Credit risk profile****Receivables – rates and annual charges**

Credit risk on rates and annual charges is minimised by the ability of Council to recover these debts as a secured charge over the land; that is, the land can be sold to recover the debt. Council is also able to charge interest on overdue rates and annual charges at higher than market rates which further encourages payment.

\$ '000	Not yet overdue	overdue rates and annual charges		Total
		< 5 years	≥ 5 years	
<b>2024</b>				
Gross carrying amount	623	1,606	–	2,229
<b>2023</b>				
Gross carrying amount	–	1,566	–	1,566

**Receivables - non-rates and annual charges and contract assets**

Council applies the simplified approach for non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets to provide for expected credit losses, which permits the use of the lifetime expected loss provision at inception. To measure the expected credit losses, non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and the days past due.

The loss allowance provision is determined as follows. The expected credit losses incorporate forward-looking information.

\$ '000	Not yet overdue	Overdue debts				Total
		0 - 30 days	31 - 60 days	61 - 90 days	> 91 days	
<b>2024</b>						
Gross carrying amount	2,947	14	2	3	77	3,043
Expected loss rate (%)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	87.50%	2.21%
<b>ECL provision</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>2023</b>						
Gross carrying amount	1,532	42	20	53	152	1,799
Expected loss rate (%)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	87.50%	7.39%
<b>ECL provision</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>133</b>

## D1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

### (b) Liquidity risk

Payables are subject to liquidity risk; that is, the risk that insufficient funds may be on hand to meet payment obligations as and when they fall due.

Council manages this risk by monitoring its cash flow requirements and liquidity levels, and by maintaining an adequate cash buffer. Payment terms can be extended, and overdraft facilities drawn upon in extenuating circumstances.

Borrowings are also subject to interest rate risk: the risk that movements in interest rates could adversely affect funding costs. Council manages this risk through diversification of borrowing types, maturities and interest rate structures.

The timing of cash flows presented in the table below to settle financial liabilities reflects the earliest contractual settlement dates. The timing of expected outflows is not expected to be materially different from contracted cashflows.

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>Weighted average interest rate</b>	<b>Subject to no maturity</b>	<b>payable in: ≤ 1 Year</b>	<b>1 - 5 Years</b>	<b>&gt; 5 Years</b>	<b>Total cash outflows</b>	<b>Actual carrying values</b>
<b>2024</b>							
<b>Payables (excluding prepaid rates)</b>	0.00%	—	16,485	—	—	16,485	16,485
<b>Borrowings</b>	5.24%	—	548	2,499	3,953	7,000	7,000
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		—	17,033	2,499	3,953	23,485	23,485
<b>2023</b>							
<b>Payables (excluding prepaid rates)</b>	0.00%	—	16,033	—	—	16,033	16,033
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		—	16,033	—	—	16,033	16,033

## D2-1 Fair value measurement

The Council measures the following asset and liability classes at fair value on a recurring basis:

– Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

The fair value of assets and liabilities must be estimated in accordance with various accounting standards for either recognition and measurement requirements or for disclosure purposes.

AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement requires all assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be assigned to a 'level' in the fair value hierarchy as follows:

**Level 1:** Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

**Level 2:** Inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

**Level 3:** Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

		Fair value measurement hierarchy					
\$ '000	Notes	Level 2 Significant observable inputs		Level 3 Significant unobservable inputs		Total	
		2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Recurring fair value measurements							
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-6						
Plant & equipment		–	–	3,679	3,338	3,679	3,338
Office equipment		–	–	2,058	2,239	2,058	2,239
Operational land		77,592	77,592	–	–	77,592	77,592
Community land		–	–	49,503	49,503	49,503	49,503
Land improvements (non-depreciable)		–	–	841	–	841	–
Buildings		5,600	–	61,451	54,072	67,051	54,072
Roads		–	–	126,025	113,334	126,025	113,334
Bridges		–	–	7,916	5,975	7,916	5,975
Footpaths		–	–	28,748	24,830	28,748	24,830
Bulk earthworks (non-depreciable)		–	–	38,830	36,841	38,830	36,841
Stormwater drainage		–	–	58,592	55,640	58,592	55,640
Car parks		–	–	5,938	5,582	5,938	5,582
Other open space / recreational assets		–	–	33,035	42,885	33,035	42,885
Library books		–	–	308	336	308	336
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		83,192	77,592	416,924	394,575	500,116	472,167

### Valuation techniques

Where Council is unable to derive fair valuations using quoted market prices of identical assets (ie. level 1 inputs) Council instead utilises a spread of both observable inputs (level 2 inputs) and unobservable inputs (level 3 inputs).

The fair valuation techniques Council has employed while utilising level 2 and level 3 inputs are as follows:

#### Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)

##### Plant & Equipment and Office Equipment

The purchase cost of Plant & Equipment and Office Equipment are taken as their fair value. There has been no change to the valuation techniques during the reporting period.

##### Operational Land

A comprehensive valuation of Council's operational land was undertaken at 30 June 2022 by an external valuer and further followed up with a desktop assesment at 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2024.

## D2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Operational land has been valued at market value, having regard to the "highest and best use", after identifying all elements that would be taken into account by buyers and sellers in settling the price.

There has been no change to the valuation techniques during the reporting period.

### Community Land

Council's community land was valued based on the Land Value (LV) provided by Valuer-General valuation.

Where the Valuer-General did not provide LV an average unit rate based on the LV for similar community land was used, having regard to the highest and best use for the land.

### Land Under Roads

Council has elected not to recognise land under roads acquired before 1 July 2008 in accordance with AASB 1051.

### Buildings

Council's buildings were valued utilising the current replacement cost approach by an external valuer at 30 June 2024.

The approach estimated the replacement cost of each building and componentising of significant parts with different useful lives and taking into account a range of factors. The unit rates could be supported by market evidence and other inputs (such as estimates of residual value, useful life and asset condition) required extensive professional judgement and impacted significantly on the final determination of fair value.

As such, these assets have been valued using Level 2 and 3 inputs. There has been no change to the valuation techniques during the reporting period.

### Roads, Bridges, Footpaths

A full external revaluation of Council's transport assets (including roads, bridges, footpaths) were undertaken by an external valuers as at 30 June 2023. An independent firm was engaged to undertake condition assessments prior to the valuation date.

Roads include carriageway, roadside shoulders, kerbs and gutters, and roadside assets such as bus shelters, round-a-bouts, signs and street furniture. The cost approach using level 3 inputs was used to value this asset class. As no market based evidence (Level 2) inputs are available therefore Level 3 valuation inputs were used for this asset class.

There has been no change to the valuation methodology during the reporting period.

### Stormwater Drainage

Assets within this class comprise pits, pipes, open channels, headwalls and other water quality devices. The "cost approach" estimates the replacement cost for each asset by componentising the assets into significant parts with different useful lives and taking into account a range of factors. While the unit rates based on linear metres or certain diameter pipes and prices per pit or similar could be supported from extensive professional judgement and market evidence.

A revaluation was undertaken as at 30 June 2024 by an external valuer.

### Car Parks

Car parks include surface area and pavement, kerbs and gutters, layback and landscaping. The cost approach using level 3 inputs was used to value this asset class. An external revaluation was undertaken as at 30 June 2023.

### Other Open Space and Recreational Assets

Assets within this class have been valued by an external valuer at fair value comprising of regional sporting and recreational facilities and playgrounds, park furniture, amenities and fittings (picnic tables, shelters, seats, bollards, fences, BBQ's, etc).

Extensive professional judgement has been required to determine the final fair value of assets. Valuation of Council's other open space and recreational assets was undertaken as at 30 June 2024 by an external valuer.

### Library Books

Library Books are valued at cost. The carrying amounts of these assets are assumed to approximate fair value due to the nature of the items. There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

## Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (level 3)

## D2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

A reconciliation of the movements in recurring fair value measurements allocated to Level 3 of the hierarchy is provided below:

\$ '000	2024	2023
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>394,575</b>	433,445
Total gains or (losses) for the period - Revaluation surplus / (decrement)	<b>15,722</b>	(36,780)
<b>Other movements</b>		
Additions (Purchases) (GBV)	<b>11,017</b>	5,872
Disposals (WDV)	<b>(2,251)</b>	(2,488)
Depreciation and impairment	<b>(9,447)</b>	(8,834)
Other movement - Transfers from WIP	<b>7,308</b>	3,360
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>416,924</b>	<b>394,575</b>

### Highest and best use

All of Council's non-financial assets, except community land, are considered as being utilised for their highest and best use.

Community land is being utilised in a manner that differs from its highest and best use due to standing legal restrictions on the permissible usage of the land based on the Local Government Act 1993.

## D3-1 Contingencies

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position, but their knowledge and disclosure is considered relevant to the users of Council's financial report.

### LIABILITIES NOT RECOGNISED

#### 1. Guarantees

##### (i) Defined benefit superannuation contribution plans

Council is party to an Industry Defined Benefit Plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, named The Local Government Superannuation Scheme – Pool B (the Scheme) which is a defined benefit plan that has been deemed to be a 'multi-employer fund' for purposes of AASB119 Employee Benefits for the following reasons:

- Assets are not segregated within the sub-group according to the employees of each sponsoring employer.
- The contribution rates have been the same for all sponsoring employers. That is, contribution rates have not varied for each sponsoring employer according to the experience relating to the employees of that sponsoring employer.
- Benefits for employees of all sponsoring employers are determined according to the same formulae and without regard to the sponsoring employer.
- The same actuarial assumptions are currently used in respect of the employees of each sponsoring employer.

Given the factors above, each sponsoring employer is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers, and hence shares in the associated gains and losses (to the extent that they are not borne by members).

*A description of the funding arrangements, including the method used to determine the entity's rate of contributions and any minimum funding requirements.*

Pooled Employers are required to pay future service employer contributions and past service employer contributions to the Fund.

The future service employer contributions were determined using the new entrant rate method under which a contribution rate sufficient to fund the total benefits over the working life-time of a typical new entrant is calculated. The current future service employer contribution rates are:

Division B	1.9 times member contributions for non-180 Point Members; Nil for 180 Point Members*
Division C	2.5% salaries
Division D	1.64 times member contributions

*\* For 180 Point Members, Employers are required to contribute 8.5% of salaries for the year ending 30 June 2024 (increasing to 9.0% in line with the increase in the Superannuation Guarantee) to these members' accumulation accounts, which are paid in addition to members' defined benefits.*

The past service contribution for each Pooled Employer is a share of the total past service contributions of \$20.0 million per annum for 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024, apportioned according to each employer's share of the accrued liabilities as at 30 June 2023. These past service contributions are used to maintain the adequacy of the funding position for the accrued liabilities.

The adequacy of contributions is assessed at each triennial actuarial investigation and monitored annually between triennials.

*A description of the extent to which the entity can be liable to the plan for other entities' obligations under the terms and conditions of the multi-employer plan:*

As stated above, each sponsoring employer is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers and hence shares in the associated gains and losses.

However, there is no relief under the Fund's trust deed for employers to walk away from their defined benefit obligations. Under limited circumstances, an employer may withdraw from the plan when there are no active members, on full payment of outstanding past service contributions. There is no provision for allocation of any surplus which may be present at the date of withdrawal of the entity.

*(c) a description of any agreed allocation of a deficit or surplus on:*

##### (i) wind-up of the plan

There are no specific provisions under the Fund's trust deed dealing with deficits or surplus on wind-up.

##### (ii) the entity's withdrawal from the plan

There is no provision for allocation of any surplus which may be present at the date of withdrawal of an employer.

### D3-1 Contingencies (continued)

The amount of employer contributions to the defined benefit section of the Fund and recognised as an expense for the year ending 30 June 2024 was \$134,018.10. The last formal valuation of the Fund was undertaken by the Fund Actuary, Richard Boyfield FIAA as at 30 June 2023.

The amount of past service contributions in the total employer contribution advised above is \$42,835.59. The expected contributions to the Fund for the next annual reporting period are \$91,308.99.

The estimated employer reserves financial position for the Pooled Employers at 30 June 2024 is:

Defined Benefit Reserves Only*	\$ Millions	Asset Coverage
Assets	2,237.5	
Past Service Liabilities	2,141.9	104.5%
Vested Benefits	2,159.8	103.6%

\* excluding other accumulation accounts and reserves in both assets and liabilities

The key economic assumptions used to calculate the present value of accrued benefits are:

Investment Return	6.0% per annum
Salary Inflation	3.5% per annum
Increase in CPI	3.5% for FY23/24 2.5% per annum thereafter

The contribution requirements may vary from the current rates if the overall sub-group experience is not in line with the actuarial assumptions in determining the funding program; however, any adjustment to the funding program would be the same for all sponsoring employers in the Pooled Employers group. Please note that the estimated employer reserves financial position above is a preliminary calculation, and once all the relevant information has been received by the Funds Actuary, the final end of year review will be completed by December 2024.

#### (ii) Statewide Limited

Council is a member of Statewide Mutual, a mutual pool scheme providing liability insurance to local government.

Membership includes the potential to share in either the net assets or liabilities of the fund depending on its past performance. Council's share of the net assets or liabilities reflects Council's contributions to the pool and the result of insurance claims within each of the fund years.

The future realisation and finalisation of claims incurred but not reported to 30 June this year may result in future liabilities or benefits as a result of past events that Council will be required to fund or share in respectively.

#### (iii) StateCover Limited

Council is a member of StateCover Mutual Limited and holds a partly paid share in the entity.

StateCover is a company providing workers compensation insurance cover to the NSW local government industry and specifically Council.

Council has a contingent liability to contribute further equity in the event of the erosion of the company's capital base as a result of the company's past performance and/or claims experience or as a result of any increased prudential requirements from APRA.

These future equity contributions would be required to maintain the company's minimum level of net assets in accordance with its licence requirements.

#### (iv) Other guarantees

Council has provided no other guarantees other than those listed above.

### 2. Other liabilities

#### (i) Third party claims

The Council is involved from time to time in various claims incidental to the ordinary course of business including claims for damages relating to its services.



### D3-1 Contingencies (continued)

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Council believes that it is appropriately covered for all claims through its insurance coverage and does not expect any material liabilities to eventuate.

#### **(ii) Potential land acquisitions due to planning restrictions imposed by Council**

Council has classified a number of privately owned land parcels as local open space or bushland.

As a result, where notified in writing by the various owners, Council will be required to purchase these land parcels.

At reporting date, reliable estimates as to the value of any potential liability (and subsequent land asset) from such potential acquisitions has not been possible.

#### **ASSETS NOT RECOGNISED**

##### **(i) Land under roads**

As permitted under AASB 1051, Council has elected not to bring to account land under roads that it owned or controlled up to and including 30 June 2008.

## E People and relationships

### E1 Related party disclosures

#### E1-1 Key management personnel (KMP)

Key management personnel (KMP) of the council are those persons having the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the council, directly or indirectly.

The aggregate amount of KMP compensation included in the Income Statement is:

\$ '000	2024	2023
<b>Compensation:</b>		
Short-term benefits	1,157	728
Post-employment benefits	109	70
Other long-term benefits	36	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>822</b>

#### Other transactions with KMP and their related parties

Council has determined that transactions at arm's length between KMP and Council as part of KMP using Council services (e.g. access to library or Council swimming pool) will not be disclosed. There are no other transactions between the Council and the KMP's and their related parties.

#### E1-2 Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses

\$ '000	2024	2023
The aggregate amount of Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses included in materials and services expenses in the Income Statement are:		
Mayoral fee	53	53
Councillors' fees	164	157
Other Councillors' expenses (including Mayor)	38	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>257</b>

## E2 Other relationships

### E2-1 Audit fees

\$ '000	2024	2023
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During the year, the following fees were incurred for services provided by the auditor of Council, related practices and non-related audit firms

#### Auditors of the Council - NSW Auditor-General:

##### (i) Audit services

Audit of financial statements

	140	270
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<b>Remuneration for audit services</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>270</b>
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<b>Total Auditor-General remuneration</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>270</b>
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#### Non NSW Auditor-General audit firms:

##### (i) Audit and other assurance services

Internal audit

	175	130
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<b>Remuneration for audit and other assurance services</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>130</b>
--	------------	------------

<b>Total remuneration of non NSW Auditor-General audit firms</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>130</b>
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<b>Total audit fees</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>400</b>
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## F Other matters

### F1-1 Statement of Cash Flows information

#### Reconciliation of Operating Result

\$ '000	2024	2023
<b>Net operating result from Income Statement</b>	<b>15,418</b>	<b>3,898</b>
<b>Add / (less) non-cash items:</b>		
Depreciation and amortisation	9,971	9,282
(Gain) / loss on disposal of assets	1,674	1,905
Non-cash capital grants and contributions	(5,600)	–
<b>Movements in operating assets and liabilities and other cash items:</b>		
(Increase) / decrease of receivables	(1,907)	1,167
Increase / (decrease) in provision for impairment of receivables	(54)	104
(Increase) / decrease of inventories	(8)	26
(Increase) / decrease of other current assets	(188)	98
Increase / (decrease) in payables	419	1,024
Increase / (decrease) in contract liabilities	(3,016)	2,544
Increase / (decrease) in employee benefit provision	564	(577)
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>17,273</b>	<b>19,471</b>

### F2-1 Commitments

#### Capital commitments (exclusive of GST)

\$ '000	2024	2023
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:		
<b>Property, plant and equipment</b>		
Road infrastructure	3,798	2,395
Buildings	219	306
Plant and equipment	813	162
Other community infrastructure	203	208
Other	63	–
<b>Total commitments</b>	<b>5,096</b>	<b>3,071</b>
<b>These expenditures are payable as follows:</b>		
Within the next year	5,096	3,071
<b>Total payable</b>	<b>5,096</b>	<b>3,071</b>

#### Details of capital commitments

Capital commitments represent the committed but unspent component of capital projects that are currently in progress.

### F3-1 Events occurring after the reporting date

Council is unaware of any material or significant 'non-adjusting events' that should be disclosed.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

## F4 Statement of developer contributions

## F4-1 Summary of developer contributions

\$ '000	Opening balance at 1 July 2023	Contributions received during the year			Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2024	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
		Cash	Non-cash Land	Non-cash Other					
Parking	426	–	–	–	17	(9)	–	434	–
Community facilities	(537)	1,085	–	–	22	–	–	570	–
Roads and traffic facilities	749	315	–	–	39	(83)	–	1,020	–
Major open space	1,531	4,785	–	–	253	–	–	6,569	–
Local open space	4,799	2,872	–	–	307	–	–	7,978	–
Administration	341	103	–	–	14	(100)	–	358	–
<b>S7.11 contributions – under a plan</b>	<b>7,309</b>	<b>9,160</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>(192)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>16,929</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>S7.12 levies – under a plan</b>	<b>8,797</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>10,563</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total S7.11 and S7.12 revenue under plans</b>	<b>16,106</b>	<b>10,520</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>(192)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>27,492</b>	<b>–</b>
S7.11 not under plans	890	–	–	–	36	–	–	926	–
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>16,996</b>	<b>10,520</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1,094</b>	<b>(192)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>28,418</b>	<b>–</b>

Under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, Council has significant obligations to provide Section 7.11 (contributions towards provision or improvement of amenities or services) infrastructure in new release areas. It is possible that the funds contributed may be less than the cost of this infrastructure, requiring Council to borrow or use general revenue to fund the difference.

Strathfield Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

## F4-2 Developer contributions by plan

	Opening balance at 1 July 2023	Contributions received during the year			Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2024	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
\$ '000		Cash	Non-cash Land	Non-cash Other					
CONTRIBUTION PLAN 2010 – DIRECT									
Community facilities	(537)	1,085	–	–	22	–	–	570	–
Administration	341	103	–	–	14	(100)	–	358	–
Roads and traffic facilities	749	315	–	–	39	(83)	–	1,020	–
Major open space	1,531	4,785	–	–	253	–	–	6,569	–
Local open space	4,799	2,872	–	–	307	–	–	7,978	–
Total	6,883	9,160	–	–	635	(183)	–	16,495	–
CONTRIBUTION PLAN 1993									
Parking	426	–	–	–	17	(9)	–	434	–
Total	426	–	–	–	17	(9)	–	434	–

## S7.12 Levies – under a plan

## INDIRECT DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN – 2010

General levy	8,797	1,360	–	–	406	–	–	10,563	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,797</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>10,563</b>	<b>–</b>

## F4-3 Contributions not under plans

## CONTRIBUTIONS – NOT UNDER A PLAN

Parking	890	–	–	–	36	–	–	926	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>–</b>

## F4-4 S7.4 planning agreements

## Voluntary Planning Agreements

Other	–	681	–	5,600	7	–	–	688	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>–</b>

## F5 Statement of performance measures

### F5-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results

\$ '000	Amounts 2024	Indicator 2024	Indicators 2023	Indicators 2022	Benchmark
<b>1. Operating performance ratio</b>					
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions less operating expenses <sup>1,2</sup>	(5,906)	(11.57)%	(16.23)%	(7.87)%	> 0.00%
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions <sup>1</sup>	51,056				
<b>2. Own source operating revenue ratio</b>					
Total continuing operating revenue excluding all grants and contributions <sup>1</sup>	48,206	65.14%	72.40%	76.88%	> 60.00%
Total continuing operating revenue <sup>1</sup>	73,999				
<b>3. Unrestricted current ratio</b>					
Current assets less all external restrictions	30,693	5.13x	4.32x	3.31x	> 1.50x
Current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities	5,981				
<b>4. Debt service cover ratio</b>					
Operating result before capital excluding interest and depreciation/impairment/amortisation <sup>1</sup>	4,065	∞	∞	∞	> 2.00x
Principal repayments (Statement of Cash Flows) plus borrowing costs (Income Statement)	—				
<b>5. Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage</b>					
Rates and annual charges outstanding	2,435	6.28%	4.86%	4.39%	< 5.00%
Rates and annual charges collectable	38,787				
<b>6. Cash expense cover ratio</b>					
Current year's cash and cash equivalents plus all term deposits	62,544	17.30	12.77	13.30	> 3.00
Monthly payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities	3,616	months	months	months	months
<p>(1) Excludes fair value increments on investment properties, reversal of revaluation decrements, reversal of impairment losses on receivables, net gain on sale of assets and net share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method and includes pensioner rate subsidies</p> <p>(2) Excludes impairment/revaluation decrements of IPPE, fair value decrements on investment properties, net loss on disposal of assets and net loss on share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method</p>					

End of the audited general purpose financial statements

## G Additional Council disclosures (unaudited)

### G1-1 Council information and contact details

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**Principal place of business:**

65 Homebush Rd  
Strathfield NSW 2135

**Contact details****Mailing Address:**

PO Box 120  
Strathfield NSW 2135

**Telephone:** (02) 9748 9999

**Facsimile:** (02) 9764 1034

**Opening hours:**

10:00am - 4:00pm  
Monday to Friday

**Internet:** [www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au](http://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au)

**Email:** [council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au)

**Officers****General Manager**

Michael Mamo

**Responsible Accounting Officer**

Rodney Sanjivi

**Public Officer**

Melissa Mallos

**Auditors**

Audit Office NSW  
Level 19, Darling Park Tower 2,  
201 Sussex Street, Sydney NSW 2000

**Elected members****Elected Members (During the Financial Year)**

- Karen Pensabene (Mayor)
- Sandy Reddy (Deputy Mayor)
- Benjamin Cai
- Raj Datta
- Nella Hall
- Sharangan Maheswaran
- Matthew Blackmore

**Elected Members at the Date of Approval of Financial Statements:**

- John-Paul Baladi (Mayor)
- Benjamin Cai (Deputy Mayor)
- Sandy Reddy
- Esther Kim
- Matthew Blackmore
- Karen Pensabene
- Rory Nosworthy

**Other information**

**ABN:** 52 719 940 263





## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### Report on the general purpose financial statements

#### Strathfield Municipal Council

To the Councillors of Strathfield Municipal Council

#### Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Strathfield Municipal Council (the Council), which comprise the Statement by Councillors and Management, the Income Statement and Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2024, the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2024, the Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information and other explanatory information.

In my opinion:

- the Council's accounting records have been kept in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2 (the Division)
- the financial statements:
  - have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of this Division
  - are consistent with the Council's accounting records
  - present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2024, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards
- all information relevant to the conduct of the audit has been obtained
- no material deficiencies in the accounting records or financial statements have come to light during the audit.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

#### Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

### **Other Information**

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 includes other information in addition to the financial statements and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the special purpose financial statements and Special Schedules (the Schedules).

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the special purpose financial statements and Special Schedule - Permissible income for general rates.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

### **The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements**

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1993* and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: [www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- on the Original Budget information included in the Income Statement, Statement of Cash Flows, and Note B5-1 'Material budget variations
- on the Special Schedules. A separate opinion has been provided on Special Schedule - Permissible income for general rates
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.



Karen Taylor  
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

30 October 2024  
SYDNEY



Cr John-Paul Baladi  
Mayor  
Strathfield Municipal Council  
PO Box 120  
STRATHFIELD NSW 2135

Contact: Karen Taylor  
Phone no: 02 9275 7311  
Our ref: R008-2124742775-8228

30 October 2024

Dear Mayor

**Report on the Conduct of the Audit  
for the year ended 30 June 2024  
Strathfield Municipal Council**

I have audited the general purpose financial statements (GPFS) of the Strathfield Municipal Council (the Council) for the year ended 30 June 2024 as required by section 415 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act).

I expressed an unmodified opinion on the Council's GPFS.

This Report on the Conduct of the Audit (the Report) for the Council for the year ended 30 June 2024 is issued in accordance with section 417 of the Act. This Report should be read in conjunction with my audit opinion on the GPFS issued under section 417(2) of the Act.

## INCOME STATEMENT

### Operating result

	2024	2023	Variance
	\$m	\$m	%
Rates and annual charges revenue	36.9	33.6	↑ 9.8
Grants and contributions revenue	25.8	16.6	↑ 55.4
Operating result from continuing operations	15.4	3.9	↑ 295
Net operating result before capital grants and contributions	(7.5)	(9.6)	↑ 2.2

Rates and annual charges revenue (\$36.9 million) increased by \$3.3 million (9.8%) in 2023–24 due to special rate variation increase of 35.1%, which was off-set by reduction in the domestic waste management annual charges (DWM).

Grants and contributions revenue (\$25.8 million) increased by \$9.2 million (55.4%) in 2023–24 mainly due to increase of \$9.6 million of developer contributions recognised during the year, which included an in-kind contribution of \$5.6 million relating to eight affordable housing units.

Council's operating result from continuing operations (\$15.4 million including depreciation, amortisation expense of \$10.0 million) was \$11.5 million higher than the 2022–23 result. The improved operating result was mainly attributable to the increase to capital grants and contributions.

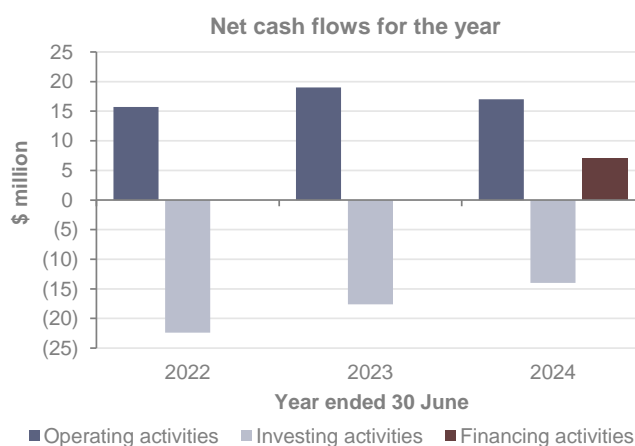
The net operating result before capital grants and contributions (\$7.5 million deficit) was \$2.1 million lower than the 2022–23 deficit, mainly due to increase in rates and annual charges.

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

No significant movement in the net cash flows generated from operating activities compared to the prior year.

Net cash used in investing activities decreased by \$3.3 million from 2022–23, primarily due to less investment in term deposits.

Net cash flows from financing activities increased by \$7.0 million due to borrowing made during 2023–24.



## FINANCIAL POSITION

### Cash and investments

Cash and investments	2024	2023	Commentary
	\$m	\$m	
<b>Total cash, cash equivalents and investments</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>51.6</b>	Externally restricted balances comprise mainly of developer contributions, stormwater and domestic waste funds. These funds increased by \$8.3 million mainly due to higher level of developer contributions collected during the year.
Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments:			Internal allocations are determined by council policies or decisions, which are subject to change. The allocations increased by \$3.1 million mainly due to increase in funds allocated to capital works and vehicle replacements.
• External restrictions	37.7	29.4	
• Internal allocations	24.8	21.7	

## Debt

At 30 June 2024, Council had \$7.0 million in secured loans (Nil in 2022–23). There was also \$9,000 used from a \$70,000 credit card facility.

## PERFORMANCE

### Performance measures

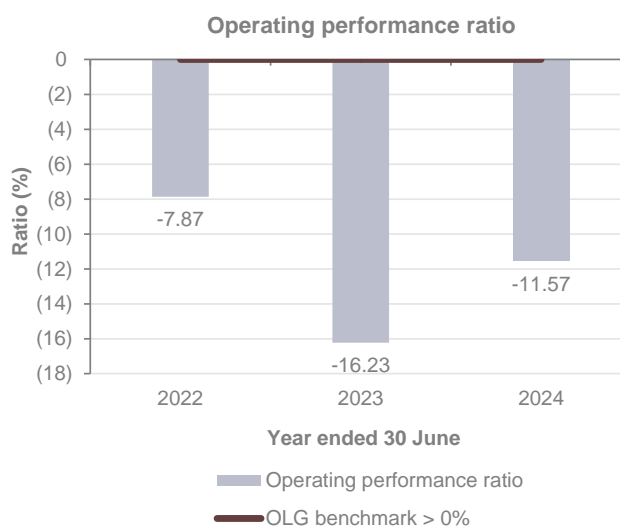
The following section provides an overview of the Council's performance against the performance measures and performance benchmarks set by the Office of Local Government (OLG) within the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

#### Operating performance ratio

Council continues to not meet this benchmark for the current reporting period.

The 2024 operating performance ratio has been improved compared to 2022–23 due to special rate variation increasing rates income.

The 'operating performance ratio' measures how well council contained operating expenditure within operating revenue (excluding capital grants and contributions, fair value adjustments, and reversal of revaluation decrements). The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 0%.



#### Own source operating revenue ratio

Council continued to exceed the benchmark for the current reporting period.

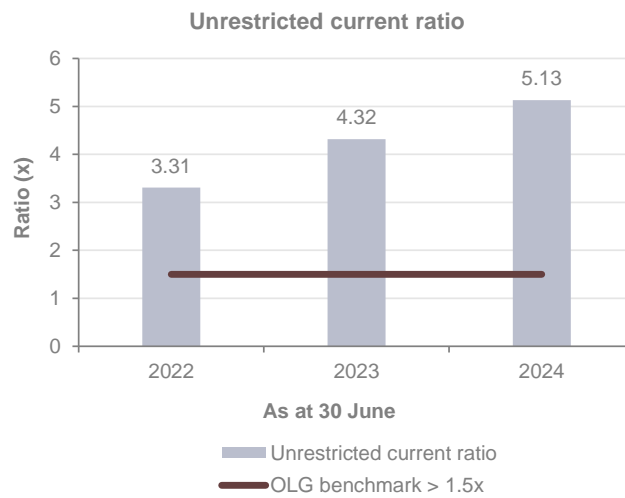
The 'own source operating revenue ratio' measures council's fiscal flexibility and the degree to which it relies on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 60%.



**Unrestricted current ratio**

Council continues to exceed the benchmark for the current reporting period.

The 'unrestricted current ratio' is specific to local government and represents council's ability to meet its short-term obligations as they fall due. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 1.5 times.

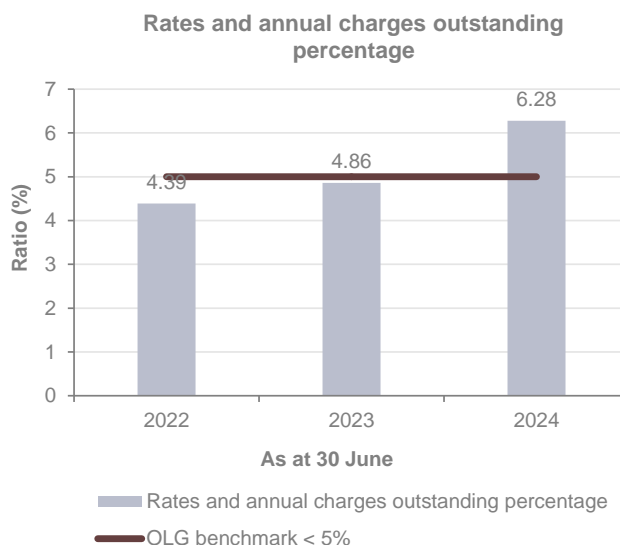
**Debt service cover ratio**

Council borrowed \$7 million at end of the financial year 2023–24 and no repayments were made during the year so there is no reported ratio. This ratio measures the operating cash to service debt including interest, principal, and lease payments.

### Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage

Council did not meet the benchmark for the current reporting period. More can be done to improve debt collection. Some of the increase can be attributed to the higher rates income.

The 'rates and annual charges outstanding percentage' assesses the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on council's liquidity and the adequacy of debt recovery efforts. The benchmark set by OLG is less than 5% for metropolitan councils.

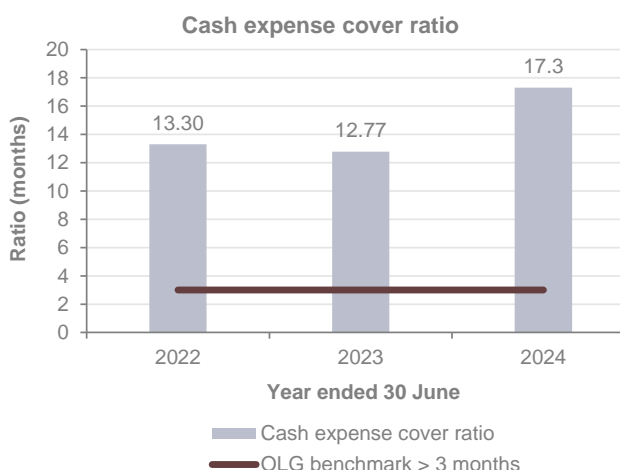


### Cash expense cover ratio

Council continues to exceed the benchmark for the current reporting period.

The ratio indicates the Council holds enough cash to meet expenditure for the next 17.3 months without additional cash inflow.

This liquidity ratio indicates the number of months the council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 3 months.



### Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment renewals

Council renewed \$13.5 million of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment during the 2023–24 financial year, primarily related to roads and footpaths renewal projects.



## OTHER MATTERS

### Legislative compliance

My audit procedures did not identify any instances of material non-compliance with the financial reporting requirements in Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2 of the LG Act and the associated regulation or a material deficiency in the Council's accounting records or financial statements. The Council's:

- accounting records were maintained in a manner and form to allow the GPFS to be prepared and effectively audited
- staff provided all accounting records and information relevant to the audit.



Karen Taylor  
Director, Financial Audit

Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

# Strathfield Municipal Council

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2024

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## Strathfield Municipal Council

### Special Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Contents	Page
<b>Statement by Councillors and Management</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Special Purpose Financial Statements:</b>	
Income Statement of the Hudson Park Driving Range	4
Statement of Financial Position of the Hudson Park Driving Range	5
<b>Note – Material accounting policy information</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Auditor's Report on Special Purpose Financial Statements</b>	<b>8</b>

#### Background

- i. These Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared for the use by both Council and the Office of Local Government in fulfilling their requirements under National Competition Policy.
- ii. The principle of competitive neutrality is based on the concept of a 'level playing field' between persons/entities competing in a market place, particularly between private and public sector competitors.

Essentially, the principle is that government businesses, whether Commonwealth, state or local, should operate without net competitive advantages over other businesses as a result of their public ownership.

- iii. For Council, the principle of competitive neutrality and public reporting applies only to declared business activities.

These include **(a)** those activities classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as business activities being water supply, sewerage services, abattoirs, gas production and reticulation, and **(b)** those activities with a turnover of more than \$2 million that Council has formally declared as a business activity (defined as Category 1 activities).

- iv. In preparing these financial statements for Council's self-classified Category 1 businesses and ABS-defined activities, councils must **(a)** adopt a corporatisation model and **(b)** apply full cost attribution including tax-equivalent regime payments and debt guarantee fees (where the business benefits from Council's borrowing position by comparison with commercial rates).

## Strathfield Municipal Council

### Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

The attached special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

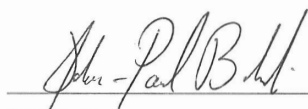
- the NSW Government Policy Statement, 'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government',
- the Division of Local Government Guidelines, 'Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses: A Guide to Competitive Neutrality',
- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the operating result and financial position for each of Council's declared business activities for the year, and
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 22 October 2024.



John-Paul Baladi  
Mayor  
22 October 2024



Benjamin Cai  
Deputy Mayor  
22 October 2024



Michael Mamo  
General Manager  
22 October 2024



Rodney Sanjivi  
Responsible Accounting Officer  
22 October 2024

Strathfield Municipal Council | Income Statement of the Hudson Park Driving Range | for the year ended 30 June 2024

**Strathfield Municipal Council****Income Statement of the Hudson Park Driving Range**

for the year ended 30 June 2024

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024 Category 1</b>	<b>2023 Category 1</b>
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>		
User fees and charges	1,977	1,794
Other income	7	7
<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>	<b>1,984</b>	<b>1,801</b>
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>		
Employee benefits and on-costs	599	516
Materials and services	185	260
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	231	78
<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>854</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>947</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>947</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>947</b>
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	(242)	(237)
<b>Surplus (deficit) after tax</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>710</b>
<b>Plus opening accumulated surplus</b>	<b>5,542</b>	<b>4,595</b>
<b>Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:</b>		
– Corporate taxation equivalent	242	237
<b>Add:</b>		
<b>Less:</b>		
– Surplus dividend paid	(279)	–
<b>Closing accumulated surplus</b>	<b>6,232</b>	<b>5,542</b>
<b>Return on capital %</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	<b>17.0%</b>

Strathfield Municipal Council | Statement of Financial Position of the Hudson Park Driving Range | as at 30 June 2024

**Strathfield Municipal Council****Statement of Financial Position of the Hudson Park Driving Range**

as at 30 June 2024

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2024 Category 1</b>	<b>2023 Category 1</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Inventories	7	5
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	6,333	5,573
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>6,333</b>	<b>5,573</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>6,340</b>	<b>5,578</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Employee benefit provisions	49	36
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>6,291</b>	<b>5,542</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Accumulated surplus	6,232	5,542
IPPE revaluation reserves	59	—
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>6,291</b>	<b>5,542</b>

## Note – Material accounting policy information

These special purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2024 were authorised for issue by Council on 22 October 2024. Council has the power to amend and reissue these special purpose financial statements in cases where critical information is received from public submissions or where the OLG directs Council to amend the special purpose financial statements.

A statement summarising the supplemental accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the special purpose financial statements (SPFS) for National Competition Policy (NCP) reporting purposes follows.

These financial statements are SPFS prepared for use by Council and the Office of Local Government. For the purposes of these statements, the Council is a non-reporting not-for-profit entity.

The figures presented in these special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement criteria of relevant Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and Australian Accounting Interpretations.

The disclosures in these special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act), the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (Regulation) and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

The statements are prepared on an accrual basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, fair value of non-current assets. Certain taxes and other costs, appropriately described, have been imputed for the purposes of the National Competition Policy.

The Statement of Financial Position includes notional assets/liabilities receivable from/payable to Council's general fund. These balances reflect a notional intra-entity funding arrangement with the declared business activities.

### National Competition Policy

Council has adopted the principle of 'competitive neutrality' in its business activities as part of the National Competition Policy which is being applied throughout Australia at all levels of government. The framework for its application is set out in the June 1996 NSW Government Policy statement titled 'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government'. *The Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality* issued by the Office of Local Government in July 1997 has also been adopted.

The pricing and costing guidelines outline the process for identifying and allocating costs to activities and provide a standard for disclosure requirements. These disclosures are reflected in Council's pricing and/or financial reporting systems and include taxation equivalents, Council subsidies, and returns on investments (rate of return and dividends paid).

### Declared business activities

In accordance with Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality, Council has declared that the following are to be considered as business activities:

#### Category 1

(where gross operating turnover is over \$2 million)

##### Hudson Park Golf Driving Range

A business activity involves the supply of goods and services for a fee or charge for the purposes of making a profit.

#### Category 2

(where gross operating turnover is less than \$2 million)

Nil

### Taxation equivalent charges

Council is liable to pay various taxes and financial duties. Where this is the case, they are disclosed as a cost of operations just like all other costs. However, where Council does not pay some taxes which are generally paid by private sector businesses, such as income tax, these equivalent tax payments have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities and are reflected in Special Purpose Financial Statements. For the purposes of disclosing comparative information relevant to the private sector equivalent, the following taxation equivalents have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities (this does not include Council's non-business activities):

#### Notional rate applied (%)

Corporate income tax rate – 25%

## Note – Material accounting policy information (continued)

### Income tax

An income tax equivalent has been applied on the profits of the business activities.

Whilst income tax is not a specific cost for the purpose of pricing a good or service, it needs to be taken into account in terms of assessing the rate of return required on capital invested.

Accordingly, the return on capital invested is set at a pre-tax level - gain/(loss) from ordinary activities before capital amounts, as would be applied by a private sector competitor. That is, it should include a provision equivalent to the corporate income tax rate, currently 25%.

Income tax is only applied where a gain/ (loss) from ordinary activities before capital amounts has been achieved.

Since the taxation equivalent is notional – that is, it is payable to Council as the 'owner' of business operations - it represents an internal payment and has no effect on the operations of the Council. Accordingly, there is no need for disclosure of internal charges in the SPFS.

The rate applied of 25% is the equivalent company tax rate prevalent at reporting date. No adjustments have been made for variations that have occurred during the year.

### Local government rates and charges

A calculation of the equivalent rates and charges for all Category 1 businesses has been applied to all assets owned, or exclusively used by the business activity.

### Loan and debt guarantee fees

The debt guarantee fee is designed to ensure that Council business activities face 'true' commercial borrowing costs in line with private sector competitors. In order to calculate a debt guarantee fee, Council has determined what the differential borrowing rate would have been between the commercial rate and Council's borrowing rate for its business activities.

#### (i) Subsidies

Government policy requires that subsidies provided to customers, and the funding of those subsidies, must be explicitly disclosed. Subsidies occur where Council provides services on a less than cost recovery basis. This option is exercised on a range of services in order for Council to meet its community service obligations. The overall effect of subsidies is contained within the Income Statements of business activities.

#### (ii) Return on investments (rate of return)

The NCP policy statement requires that councils with Category 1 businesses 'would be expected to generate a return on capital funds employed that is comparable to rates of return for private businesses operating in a similar field'.

Funds are subsequently available for meeting commitments or financing future investment strategies. The rate of return is disclosed for each of Council's business activities on the Income Statement.

The rate of return is calculated as follows:

**Operating result before capital income + interest expense**

**Written down value of I,PP&E as at 30 June**

As a minimum, business activities should generate a return equal to the Commonwealth 10 year bond rate which is 4.30% at 30/6/24.

#### (iii) Dividends

Council is not required to pay dividends to either itself (as owner of a range of businesses) or to any external entities.



Strathfield Municipal Council | Special Purpose Financial Statements 2024

## Strathfield Municipal Council

### Special Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### Report on the special purpose financial statements

#### Strathfield Municipal Council

To the Councillors of Strathfield Municipal Council

### Opinion

I have audited the accompanying special purpose financial statements (the financial statements) of Strathfield Municipal Council's (the Council) Declared Business Activities, which comprise the Statement by Councillors and Management, the Income Statement of each Declared Business Activity for the year ended 30 June 2024, the Statement of Financial Position of each Declared Business Activity as at 30 June 2024 and the Material accounting policy information note.

The Declared Business Activities of the Council are:

- Hudson Park Driving Range.

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council's declared Business Activities as at 30 June 2024, and their financial performance for the year then ended, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards described in the Material accounting policy information note and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting 2023–24 (LG Code).

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

### Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as the auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

**Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting**

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to the Material accounting policy information note to the financial statements which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's financial reporting responsibilities under the LG Code. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.

**Other Information**

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 includes other information in addition to the financial statements and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the general purpose financial statements and Special Schedules (the Schedules).

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the general purpose financial statements and Special Schedule 'Permissible income for general rates'.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

**The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements**

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and for determining that the accounting policies, described in the Material accounting policy information note to the financial statements, are appropriate to meet the requirements in the LG Code. The Councillors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: [www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.



Karen Taylor  
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

30 October 2024  
SYDNEY

# Strathfield Municipal Council

SPECIAL SCHEDULES  
for the year ended 30 June 2024

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## Strathfield Municipal Council

### Special Schedules

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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#### Contents

#### Page

#### **Special Schedules:**

Permissible income for general rates

3

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

4

Strathfield Municipal Council | Permissible income for general rates | for the year ended 30 June 2024

## Strathfield Municipal Council

## Permissible income for general rates

\$ '000	Notes	Calculation 2023/24	Calculation 2024/25
<b>Notional general income calculation <sup>1</sup></b>			
Last year notional general income yield	a	19,903	<b>27,003</b>
Plus or minus adjustments <sup>2</sup>	b	62	<b>405</b>
<b>Notional general income</b>	c = a + b	<b>19,965</b>	<b>27,408</b>
<b>Permissible income calculation</b>			
Percentage increase	d	35.10%	<b>14.11%</b>
Plus percentage increase amount <sup>3</sup>	f = d x (c + e)	7,008	<b>3,867</b>
<b>Sub-total</b>	g = (c + e + f)	<b>26,973</b>	<b>31,275</b>
Plus (or minus) last year's carry forward total	h	—	<b>2</b>
Less valuation objections claimed in the previous year	i	—	<b>(32)</b>
<b>Sub-total</b>	j = (h + i)	<b>—</b>	<b>(30)</b>
<b>Total permissible income</b>	k = g + j	<b>26,973</b>	<b>31,245</b>
Less notional general income yield	l	27,003	<b>31,331</b>
<b>Catch-up or (excess) result</b>	m = k - l	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(86)</b>
Plus income lost due to valuation objections claimed <sup>4</sup>	n	32	<b>45</b>
<b>Carry forward to next year <sup>6</sup></b>	p = m + n + o	<b>1</b>	<b>(41)</b>

**Notes**

- (1) The notional general income will not reconcile with rate income in the financial statements in the corresponding year. The statements are reported on an accrual accounting basis which include amounts that relate to prior years' rates income.
- (2) Adjustments account for changes in the number of assessments and any increase or decrease in land value occurring during the year. The adjustments are called 'supplementary valuations' as defined in the *Valuation of Land Act 1916 (NSW)*.
- (3) The 'percentage increase' is inclusive of the rate-peg percentage, and/or special variation and/or Crown land adjustment (where applicable).
- (4) Valuation objections are unexpected changes in land values as a result of land owners successfully objecting to the land value issued by the Valuer General. Councils can claim the value of the income lost due to valuation objections in any single year.
- (6) Carry-forward amounts which are in excess (an amount that exceeds the permissible income) require Ministerial approval by order published in the *NSW Government Gazette* in accordance with section 512 of the Act. The OLG will extract these amounts from Council's Permissible income for general rates Statement in the financial data return (FDR) to administer this process.



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### Special Schedule – Permissible income for general rates

#### Strathfield Municipal Council

To the Councillors of Strathfield Municipal Council

### Opinion

I have audited the accompanying Special Schedule – Permissible income for general rates (the Schedule) of Strathfield Municipal Council (the Council) for the year ending 30 June 2025.

In my opinion, the Schedule is prepared, in all material respects in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting 2023–24 (LG Code) and is in accordance with the books and records of the Council.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

### Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

### Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to the special purpose framework used to prepare the Schedule. The Schedule has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's reporting obligations under the LG Code. As a result, the Schedule may not be suitable for another purpose.



**Other Information**

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 includes other information in addition to the Schedule and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the general purpose financial statements, special purpose financial statements and Special Schedule 'Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024.

My opinion on the Schedule does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the general purpose financial statements and the special purpose financial statements.

In connection with my audit of the Schedule, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the Schedule or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

**The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Schedule**

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation of the Schedule in accordance with the LG Code. The Councillors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the Schedule that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the Schedule, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule**

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance whether the Schedule as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the Schedule.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the Schedule is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: [www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar8.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar8.pdf). The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited Schedule on any website where it may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the Schedule.



Karen Taylor  
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

30 October 2024  
SYDNEY

Strathfield Municipal Council | Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

## Strathfield Municipal Council

## Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

Asset Class	Asset Category	Estimated cost to bring assets to satisfactory standard		Estimated cost to bring assets to agreed level of service set by Council		2023/24 Required maintenance <sup>a</sup>	2023/24 Actual maintenance	Net carrying amount	Gross replacement cost (GRC)	Assets in condition as a percentage of gross replacement cost				
		\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000									
		1	2	3	4					5				
Buildings	Buildings and other structures	5,435	8,578	1,100	1,586	67,051	90,791	41.2%	23.8%	28.5%	3.7%	2.8%		
	Sub-total	5,435	8,578	1,100	1,586	67,051	90,791	41.2%	23.8%	28.5%	3.7%	2.8%		
Roads & Car Parks	Roads, bridges, footpaths, kerb & gutter, bulk earthworks (non-depreciable).	10,636	32,526	2,740	1,606	207,457	325,004	17.4%	28.4%	44.2%	9.3%	0.7%		
	Sub-total	10,636	32,526	2,740	1,606	207,457	325,004	17.4%	28.4%	44.2%	9.3%	0.7%		
Stormwater drainage	Stormwater drainage (Pits, Pipes, & Conduits)	20,878	54,797	1,370	107	58,592	129,697	6.2%	16.0%	35.5%	33.7%	8.6%		
	Sub-total	20,878	54,797	1,370	107	58,592	129,697	6.2%	16.0%	35.5%	33.7%	8.6%		
Open Space & Recreational Assets	Other open space / recreational assets	1,186	1,981	1,020	3,354	33,035	43,694	33.0%	45.8%	18.5%	2.5%	0.2%		
	Swimming pools	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
	Sub-total	1,186	1,981	1,020	3,354	33,035	43,694	33.0%	45.8%	18.5%	2.5%	0.2%		
	Total – all assets	38,135	97,882	6,230	6,653	366,135	589,186	19.8%	26.3%	38.0%	13.3%	2.6%		

<sup>(a)</sup> Required maintenance is the amount identified in Council's asset management plans.

## Infrastructure asset condition assessment 'key'

#	Condition	Integrated planning and reporting (IP&R) description
1	Excellent/very good	No work required (normal maintenance)
2	Good	Only minor maintenance work required
3	Satisfactory	Maintenance work required
4	Poor	Renewal required
5	Very poor	Urgent renewal/upgrading required

Strathfield Municipal Council | Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

## Strathfield Municipal Council

## Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

## Infrastructure asset performance indicators (consolidated) \*

\$ '000	Amounts 2024	Indicator 2024	Indicators 2023      2022		Benchmark
Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio					
Asset renewals <sup>1</sup>	8,402	110.15%	48.75%	70.18%	> 100.00%
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	7,628				
Infrastructure backlog ratio					
Estimated cost to bring assets to a satisfactory standard	38,135	10.29%	6.69%	4.21%	< 2.00%
Net carrying amount of infrastructure assets	370,430				
Asset maintenance ratio					
Actual asset maintenance	6,653	106.79%	69.31%	126.09%	> 100.00%
Required asset maintenance	6,230				
Cost to bring assets to agreed service level					
Estimated cost to bring assets to an agreed service level set by Council	97,882	16.61%	12.37%	11.15%	
Gross replacement cost	589,186				

(\*) All asset performance indicators are calculated using classes identified in the previous table.

(1) Asset renewals represent the replacement and/or refurbishment of existing assets to an equivalent capacity/performance as opposed to the acquisition of new assets (or the refurbishment of old assets) that increases capacity/performance.

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CCS2                      QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT (QBRS) FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30  
SEPTEMBER 2024

AUTHOR:                Rodney Sanjivi, Chief Financial Officer

APPROVER:            Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

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RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. The Quarterly Budget Review Statement and associated budget adjusted for the quarter ending 30 September 2024 be approved and adopted by Council, including the deferral of the asset renewal projects identified in this report and associated reduction of \$2.15 million in planned loan borrowings for the 2024/2025 Financial Year.
2. That Council approves the borrowing of the following funds for Financial Year 2024-2025:
  - i. That Council approves the following loans making of an application to borrow Five Million Eight Hundred and Fifty Thousand dollars (\$5,850,000) via an external loan for the purposes **of funding it's infrastructure asset renewal program as adopted in Council's 2024/2025** Annual Budget and as amended via the QBRS for 30 September 2024 (per recommendation 1 above).
  - ii. That Council approves the making of an application to borrow Two Million dollars (\$2,000,000) via an external loan for the purposes of funding remediation works at Councils **Golf Driving Range at Hudson Park as adopted in Council's 2024-2025** Operational Plan and Annual Budget.
  - iii. That the external loans be secured for a draw down date prior to 31 December 2024.
  - iv. That the General Manager be given delegated authority to determine the final lending institution(s) to borrow from, having regard to the most favourable outcome for Council with regards to the rate, repayment term, loan tenure and other conditions on the date of making the loan applications(s).
  - v. That the General Manager be given delegated authority to execute the Loan Agreement(s) and affix the Council Seal if required.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To submit the Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRS) for quarter ended 30 September 2024 as per Clause 203 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

Clause 203 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* requires that the Responsible Accounting Officer (RAO) submit to the Council, a Quarterly Budget Review Statement within two (2) months of the close of each quarter, except the June quarter.

## REPORT

The Quarterly Budget Review Statement as required under Clause 203 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* for the quarter ending 30 September 2024 is set out in attachment 1.

The Chief Financial Officer, as Council's Responsible Accounting Officer, is of the opinion that the Budget Review Statement for the quarter ended 30 September 2024 indicates that the projected financial position of Council for the year ending 30 June 2025 will remain satisfactory, having regard to the original and revised estimates of income and expenditure.

### Capital Works Deferral and Reduction in Loan Borrowing

The QBRs includes the below budget deferrals of asset renewal expenditure into future years. The total capital works deferral amounts to \$2.15 million with an equivalent reduction in loan borrowings for the year. The budgets for these works have been reduced and are to be deferred to future years to reduce the borrowing requirements for the 2024/2025 financial year.

Project	\$
Gateway Signage	150,000
Line Marking Renewal	100,000
Madeline Street Works	200,000
Solar Lighting Along Cooks River (grant)	150,000
Road Renewal - Resheeting Program	400,000
Townhall Renewal and Renovations	700,000
Traffic Facilities Renewal	250,000
Parks, Open Space & Recreation - Renewal Program	100,000
Bridge Renewal Program	100,000
<b>Total Capital Works Deferral</b>	<b>2,150,000</b>

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications have been identified within the report and in the attachment.

## ATTACHMENTS

- [1. Quarterly Budget Review Statement - 30 September 2024](#)

**Strathfield Municipal Council**

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the Quarter Ended 30 September 2024

**Report by Responsible Accounting Officer**

The following statement is made in accordance with Clause 203(2) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021:

The Chief Financial Officer, as Council's Responsible Accounting Officer, is of the opinion that the Budget Review Statement as at 30 September 2024 indicates that the projected financial position of Council as at 30 June 2025 will remain satisfactory, having regard to the original and revised estimates of income and expenditure.

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "RS", written over a horizontal line.

**Rodney Sanjivi**

*Responsible Accounting Officer (RAO)*

**Strathfield Municipal Council**

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the Quarter Ended 30 September 2024

**Cash Budget Result**

Nb: The numbers presented in the table are rounded to the nearest thousands.

	2024/2025 Original Budget (\$ 000's)	2023/2024 Carryovers into 2024/2025 (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Sep Qtr Variations (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Dec Qtr Variations (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Mar Qtr Variations (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Projected Year End Result (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Year-to-Date Actuals (\$ 000's)
<b>Operating Budget Summary</b>							
Total Income from Continuing Operations <sup>1</sup>	64,867		7,516			72,383	46,100
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	61,374		126			61,500	16,445
<b>Net Operating Result</b>	<b>3,493</b>		<b>7,390</b>			<b>10,883</b>	<b>29,655</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>26,903</b>	<b>7,358</b>	<b>5,577</b>			<b>39,838</b>	<b>3,601</b>
<b>Funding</b>							
Transfer to Reserves	-36,700					-36,700	
Transfer from Reserves	39,847	7,358	337			47,542	
Repayment of Borrowings (Principal)	-240					-240	
Proceeds from Borrowings	10,000		-2,150			7,850	
<b>Net Funding</b>	<b>12,907</b>	<b>7,358</b>	<b>-1,813</b>			<b>18,452</b>	
<b>Add Back: Non Cash Items</b>	<b>10,506</b>					<b>10,506</b>	
<b>Cash Budget Result</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>0</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>26,054</b>

**Notes:**<sup>1</sup> - Total income from continuing operations include income from capital Grants and contributions which can only be used to fund capital works and not operational expenditure.



**Strathfield Municipal Council**

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the Quarter Ended 30 September 2024

## Operating Budget Summary



Nb: The numbers presented in the table are rounded to the nearest thousands.

	2024/2025 Original Budget (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Carryovers into 2024/2025 (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Sep Qtr Variations (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Dec Qtr Variations (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Mar Qtr Variations (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Projected Year End Result (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Year-to-Date Actuals (\$ 000's)
<b>Income from Continuing Operations</b>							
Rates and Annual Charges	40,989					40,989	41,912
User Charges and Fees	5,057					5,057	1,376
Interest and Investment Income	2,524					2,524	1,085
Other Revenues	2,696					2,696	615
Other Income	1,201					1,201	390
Operating Grants and Contributions	2,467		74			2,541	161
Capital Grants and Contributions	9,483		7,442			16,925	316
Net Gain from Disposal of Assets	450					450	244
<b>Total Income from Continuing Operations</b>	<b>64,867</b>		<b>7,516</b>			<b>72,383</b>	<b>46,100</b>
<b>Expenses from Continuing Operations</b>							
Employee Benefits and On-costs	26,236					26,236	6,554
Materials and Services	22,635		126			22,761	6,681
Depreciation and Amortisation	10,506					10,506	2,626
Borrowing Costs	518					518	226
Other Expenses	1,479					1,479	357
<b>Total Expenses from Continuing Operations</b>	<b>61,374</b>		<b>126</b>			<b>61,500</b>	<b>16,445</b>
<b>Net Operating Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>3,493</b>		<b>7,390</b>			<b>10,883</b>	<b>29,655</b>
<b>Net Operating Surplus / (Deficit) before Capital Grants and Contributions</b>	<b>-5,990</b>		<b>-52</b>			<b>-6,042</b>	<b>29,338</b>

**Strathfield Municipal Council**

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the Quarter Ended 30 September 2024

Operation Budget Variations



Division	Description	Type	Operating Revenue	Operating Expenditure
Office of the General Manager	Festivals & Events - Open Streets - Festival 2140 Events	Increase in Expense		74,099
Office of the General Manager	Festivals & Events - Open Streets - Festival 2140 Events	Increase in Income	74,099	
Planning & Environment	DWM Waste Education Program	Increase in Expense		5,000
Engineering & Operations	Street Lighting Operations & Maintenance	Increase in Expense		47,017
Engineering & Operations	PRUAIP - Active Transport Grant	Increase in Income	7,200,000	
Engineering & Operations	Roads to Recovery Grant (RTR Grant Funded)	Increase in Income	56,291	
Engineering & Operations	LRCI Grant Funding (Phase 4)	Increase in Income	185,608	
	<b>Total:</b>		<b>7,515,998</b>	<b>126,116</b>

**Strathfield Municipal Council**

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the Quarter Ended 30 September 2024

**Capital Budget Summary**

Nb: The numbers presented in the table are rounded to the nearest thousands.

	2024/2025 Original Budget (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Carryovers into 2024/2025 (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Sep Qtr Variations (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Dec Qtr Variations (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Mar Qtr Variations (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Projected Year End Result (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Year-to-Date Actuals (\$ 000's)
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>							
Roads, Bridges and Footpaths	10,160	3,596	6,306			20,062	2,568
Traffic Management		519	-250			269	
Stormwater Drainage	1,700	1,665				3,365	224
Buildings	2,545	530	-652			2,424	171
Parks and Reserves	6,725	758	136			7,618	120
Land							
Plant and Equipment	4,773	265				5,038	452
Information Technology		24	37			61	49
Other	1,000					1,000	18
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>26,903</b>	<b>7,358</b>	<b>5,577</b>			<b>39,838</b>	<b>3,601</b>
<b>Funding Sources</b>							
Capital Grants and Contributions	3,753	2,979	7,442			14,174	583
Developer Contributions	1,520	404	200			2,124	196
DWM reserve	1,600					1,600	
Externally Restricted Reserves	3,142		48			3,190	113
Internally Restricted Reserves	3,353	549	37			3,939	608
Internal Borrowings	450					450	
Loan Proceeds	10,000		-2,150			7,850	1,658
General Funds	3,085	3,426				6,511	443
<b>Total Capital Funding</b>	<b>26,903</b>	<b>7,358</b>	<b>5,577</b>			<b>39,838</b>	<b>3,601</b>
<b>Net Capital Funding - Surplus/(Deficit)</b>							

**Strathfield Municipal Council**

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the Quarter Ended 30 September 2024

Capital Budget Variations



Division	Program	Capital Project Description	Estimate - Increase / (Reduction)
Corporate & Community	Information Technology	Council IT Computer Capital Replacement (IT reserve)	37,000
Engineering & Operations	Roads, Bridges and Footpaths	Roads to Recovery Grant (RTR Grant Funded)	56,291
Engineering & Operations	Parks and Reserves	Solar Lighting Along Cooks River (grant)	185,608
Engineering & Operations	Roads, Bridges and Footpaths	PRUAIP - additional funding	7,200,000
Engineering & Operations	Parks and Reserves	Mason Park (s7.11 funded)	200,000
Engineering & Operations	Buildings	Homebush West Community Centre Acoustics (unexpended grant)	48,089
Engineering & Operations	Roads, Bridges and Footpaths	Gateway Signage	-150,000
Engineering & Operations	Roads, Bridges and Footpaths	Line Marking Renewal	-100,000
Engineering & Operations	Roads, Bridges and Footpaths	Madeline Street Works	-200,000
Engineering & Operations	Parks and Reserves	Solar Lighting Along Cooks River (grant)	-150,000
Engineering & Operations	Roads, Bridges and Footpaths	Road Renewal - Resheeting Program	-400,000
Engineering & Operations	Buildings	Townhall Renewal and Renovations	-700,000
Engineering & Operations	Traffic Management	Traffic Facilities Renewal	-250,000
Engineering & Operations	Parks and Reserves	Parks, Open Space & Recreation - Renewal Program	-100,000
Engineering & Operations	Roads, Bridges and Footpaths	Bridge Renewal Program	-100,000
<b>Total:</b>			<b>5,576,988</b>

## Strathfield Municipal Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the Quarter Ended 30 September 2024

Cash and Investments Summary



Nb: The numbers presented in the table are rounded to the nearest thousands.

	2024/2025 Opening Balance	Transfer to Reserve	Transfer from Reserve	2024/2025 Revotes	2024/2025 Carryovers into 2024/2025	Transfer to Reserve	Transfer from Reserve	2024/2025 Net Sep Qtr Movements	2024/2025 Net Dec Qtr Movements	2024/2025 Net Mar Qtr Movements	2024/2025 Projected Year End Balance	2024/2025 Year-to-Date Actuals
	(\$ 000's)				(\$ 000's)			(\$ 000's)	(\$ 000's)	(\$ 000's)	(\$ 000's)	(\$ 000's)
<b>Externally Restricted Reserves</b>												
Developer Contributions	28,418	6,347	-2,096	-404	3,847		-200	-200			32,065	28,222
Domestic Waste Management	3,286	10,062	-11,888		-1,826		-5	-5			1,455	(4,757)
Stormwater Management	589	312			312						901	589
Special Purpose Unexpended Grants	5,402		-3,142		-3,142		-48	-48			2,212	2,325
<b>Total Externally Restricted Reserves</b>	<b>37,695</b>	<b>16,721</b>	<b>-17,126</b>	<b>-404</b>	<b>-809</b>		<b>-253</b>	<b>-253</b>			<b>36,633</b>	<b>26,379</b>
<b>Internally Restricted Reserves</b>												
Plant and Fleet Replacement	2,230	958	-3,273	265	-2,050						180	(391)
Employee Leave Entitlement	1,200										1,200	1,200
Carryover Works	3,426		-80	-3,346	-3,426						0	(0)
Deposits, Retentions and Bonds	12,347										12,347	12,347
Adshel (Bus Shelters)	270										270	270
Council Election	350	100	-350		-250						100	100
Strategic Priorities	688	159			159						847	847
Infrastructure Maintenance and Replacement	2,082										2,082	2,082
Risk, Audit and Legal	400		-65		-65						335	335
Hudson Park Golf Driving Range	195										195	195
Information Management and Technology (IMT)	140						-37	-37			103	103
Advance Financial Assistance Grant	1,437										1,437	1,437
SRV Funding		8,742	-8,503		239						239	239
Loans unspent		10,000	-10,000			-2,150	2,150				-	-
Internal borrowings			-450		-450		-47	-47			-497	(497)
Business Improvement and Innovation		20			20						20	20
Contributions towards works	20										20	20
<b>Total Internally Restricted Reserves</b>	<b>24,785</b>	<b>19,979</b>	<b>-22,721</b>	<b>-3,081</b>	<b>-5,823</b>	<b>-2,150</b>	<b>2,066</b>	<b>-84</b>			<b>18,878</b>	<b>18,307</b>
<b>Total Cash Restrictions</b>	<b>62,480</b>	<b>36,700</b>	<b>-39,847</b>	<b>-3,485</b>	<b>-6,632</b>	<b>-2,150</b>	<b>1,813</b>	<b>-337</b>			<b>55,511</b>	<b>44,685</b>
Unrestricted Cash	64				3			0			67	
<b>Total Cash and Investments</b>	<b>62,544</b>	<b>36,700</b>	<b>-39,847</b>	<b>-3,485</b>	<b>-6,629</b>	<b>-2,150</b>	<b>1,813</b>	<b>-337</b>			<b>55,578</b>	<b>44,685</b>

**Strathfield Municipal Council**

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the Quarter Ended 30 September 2024  
Consultancies and Legal Expenses Summary



	Actual	Budget	Budgeted
Consultancies	200,310	1,116,737	Y
Legal Fees	144,908	834,275	Y

Definition of a consultant:

A consultant is a person or organisation engaged under contract on a temporary basis to provide recommendations or high level specialist or professional advice to assist decision making by management. Generally it is the advisory nature of the work that differentiates a consultant from other contractors.

**Strathfield Municipal Council**

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the Quarter Ended 30 September 2024

Contracts entered into for the period

Supplier	Contract detail & purpose	Contract Value	Contract Duration	Budgeted
Wilken Service Pty Ltd	Installation of streetlight / floodlight at pedestrian crossing, Oxford Rd	114,110		Y
Green Options Pty Limited	Cooke Park sports field upgrades works	220,342		Y
Teleo Design Pty Ltd	PRUIAP - George Street Pedestrian Bridge - Design and Construction	394,132		Y
Country Club International Pty Ltd	Hudson Park Golf Range - Safety Screen netting height extension	1,892,172		Y
Ally Civil	Hudson Park West East Tunnel Upgrade: Design and Construction	542,665		Y
Studio Chris Fox Pty Ltd	George Street Bridge Artwork - Powells Creek	230,981		Y
Stefan Consulting Pty Ltd	Stefan Consulting Tender 04/2023 Business Improvement Panel	153,318		Y
MU Group Consulting Pty Ltd	Design of Drainage and Irrigation for Begnell Park	96,672		Y

Note:

1. Minimum reporting level is 1% of estimated income from operations of Council or \$50,000 - whichever is the lesser.
2. Contracts listed are those entered into during the quarter being reported and exclude contractors on Council's Preferred Supplier List and Government Contracts.
3. Contracts for employment are not required to be included.

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CCS3                      DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE - BUDGET REVIEW AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (BRFC)  
AUTHOR:                Rodney Sanjivi, Chief Financial Officer  
APPROVER:            M Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

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## RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. The Draft Terms of Reference for the Budget Review and Finance Committee (BRFC) be adopted.
2. In adopting the Draft Terms of Reference, Council confirms the current Mayor, Councillor Baladi as the Chair and Councillor Blackmore as the Deputy Chair of the BRFC as per the resolution of Council dated 8 October 2024 (Resolution 223/24).
3. The following meeting schedule of the BRFC be adopted for the remainder of financial year 2024-2025, with the meetings commencing at 2pm:
  - 11 February 2025 - Ordinary Meeting
  - 8 April 2025 - Extraordinary Meeting
  - 13 May 2025 - Ordinary Meeting
  - 10 June 2025 - Extraordinary Meeting

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present to Council, the Draft Terms of Reference for a Budget Review and Finance Committee (BRFC) for adoption.

## REPORT

### Section 1 - Draft Terms of Reference:

At the Council Meeting on 8 October 2024, Council resolved:

*"223/24*

*RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)*

*That Council:*

- 1. Appoint Councillor Kim to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee as a non-voting member.*
- 2. Appoint Councillor Reddy as a voting member and Councillor Kim an alternate representative to the Cooks River Alliance Management Committee.*
- 3. Appoint Councillor Cai as a voting member of the Parramatta River Catchment Group.*



4. *Note that the Mayor is a voting member, and the Deputy Mayor is an alternate voting member, of the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC).*
5. *Note that interested Councillors can attend meetings of the local Traffic Committee and Councillor Blackmore be nominated Chair for the meetings and be voting delegate.*
6. *That Councillor Reddy be appointed Chair for the Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee and that the Local Economic Development Committee be disbanded.*
7. *That a Budget Review and Finance Committee be established, Chaired by the Mayor and Deputy Chair by Councillor Blackmore. Terms of Reference are to be brought to a future Councillor Workshop.*

*For the Motion:* Councillors Blackmore, Cai, Reddy, Baladi, Nosworthy and Kim

*Against the Motion:* Nil"

Accordingly, Council Officers have prepared a Draft Terms of Reference, attached to this report which was presented to a Councillor Workshop on 12 November 2024. Following feedback received at the Workshop, the Draft Terms of Reference are now being presented to Council for adoption.

## **Section 2 - Proposed Meeting Schedule for Financial Year 2024/2025:**

The following meeting schedule for the BRFC if proposed, which aligns the quarterly ordinary meeting cycle with the statutory adoption deadlines for the Quarterly Budget Review Statements (QBRs) and two extraordinary meetings for the review of the Annual Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP):

- 11 February 2025 - Ordinary Meeting
- 8 April 2025 - Extraordinary Meeting
- 13 May 2025 - Ordinary Meeting
- 10 June 2025 - Extraordinary Meeting

It is proposed that the meetings of the BRFC commence at 2pm on the above-mentioned dates.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no immediate financial implications.


## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. [Draft Terms of Reference - Budget Review and Finance Committee \(BRFC\)](#)

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

# BUDGET REVIEW AND FINANCE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE 2024



 <b>STRATHFIELD COUNCIL</b>		<b>Budget Review and Finance Committee</b>		
<b>DETAILS</b>				
Version Number		1		
Authoriser		Council		
Date		26 November 2024 [Minute xx/xxxx]		
Review Timeframe:		Annually		
Owner:		Chief Financial Officer (CFO)		
CM10 Document #		TBC		
<b>VERSION HISTORY</b>				
Version No	Date	Revision details	Modified by	Amendments made
1	November 2024	New	Rodney Sanjivi (CFO)	

## 1.0 Purpose

The Budget Review and Finance Committee (BRFC) is established as an advisory committee to support Council in achieving its financial management functions and obligations under the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act).

The Committee's role is to provide strategic oversight, advice, and recommendations on the Council's budgetary planning, review processes, financial sustainability, and resource allocation to ensure alignment with Council priorities and sound financial stewardship.

## 2.0 Authority

The Committee is authorised by Council to investigate any matters within its Terms of Reference and to make recommendations to Council. The Committee is not a decision-making body but operates to advise Council on budgetary and financial matters.

## 3.0 Membership

### 3.1 Committee Members

- Chair: A Nominated Councillor
- Deputy Chair: A Nominated Councillor
- The General Manager (GM)
- The Director Corporate and Community (DCC)
- The Director of Engineering and Operations (DEO)
- The Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
- Other relevant Council officers as required
- External advisors may be invited to provide expertise or guidance on specific matters

## 4.0 Roles and Responsibilities

The Committee shall:

### 4.1 Review and Advise on Budget Preparation

- Oversee the development of the Annual Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP).
- Ensuring alignment of Council's Budget and LTFP with the Council's strategic goals and principles of sound financial management under the Act.
- Advise on revenue strategies, including rates, fees and charges, and other income sources.
- Review proposed budget allocations for adequacy, priority alignment, and fiscal responsibility.

### 4.2 Monitor Financial Performance

- Review Annual Financial Statements and Quarterly Budget Review Statements (QBRs) to monitor Council's performance.

### 4.3 Oversee Capital Expenditure and Projects

- Review and monitor capital projects and budget allocations.
- Review and monitor key infrastructure asset indicators to ensure that adequate funding is available and allocated to renew and replace essential community infrastructure as and when required.

#### **4.4 Ensure and Secure Council's Long Term Financial Sustainability**

- Monitor the financial sustainability indicators and key financial performance measures.
- Review and support strategies to ensure Council's long-term financial sustainability and viability of services including essential community infrastructure.

### **5.0 Meetings**

- **Frequency:** The Committee will meet quarterly, with additional meetings convened as required.
- **Quorum:** A quorum shall consist of the Chair, Deputy Chair, and at least two other Committee members.
- **Minutes:** Meeting minutes shall be recorded and distributed to all members. Approved minutes will be shared with the Council as part of the Committee's reporting duties.

### **6.0 Review and Amendment**

- These Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually by the Committee to ensure ongoing relevance and effectiveness.
- Amendments to the Terms of Reference may be recommended by the Committee and are subject to approval by Council.

CCS4 INVESTMENT REPORT - OCTOBER 2024  
AUTHOR: Rodney Sanjivi, Chief Financial Officer  
APPROVER: Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

## RECOMMENDATION

That the record of cash investments as at 31 October 2024 be received and noted.

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

To submit Council's record of cash investments as at 31 October 2024 pursuant to Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

### Investment Allocation and Performance

Investment Portfolio as at 31 October 2024:

Call Accounts	Allocation (%)	Amount (\$)
Term Deposits	72	47,000,000
Cash At Bank and At Call Investment	28	18,561,063
<b>Total Investments</b>		<b>65,561,063</b>

*Note: Investment Portfolio details are listed in the attachment*

As at the end of October 2024, the portfolio was mainly directed to fixed term deposits (72%). The remaining portfolio is directed to various cash accounts (28%) for current liquidity needs.

Council's performance for the month ending 31 October 2024 is summarised as follows:

### Performance

Council's performance for the month ending October 2024 is summarised as follows:

Performance (Actual)	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year
Official Cash Rate	0.36%	1.08%	2.17%	1.45%	4.36%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	0.37%	1.12%	2.23%	1.49%	4.45%
<b>Council's T/D Portfolio<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>0.37%</b>	<b>1.06%</b>	<b>2.11%</b>	<b>1.41%</b>	<b>4.10%</b>
<b>Rel. Performance</b>	<b>-0.01%</b>	<b>-0.05%</b>	<b>-0.12%</b>	<b>-0.08%</b>	<b>-0.35%</b>

<sup>^</sup>Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings.

Performance (Annualised)	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year
Official Cash Rate	4.35%	4.35%	4.35%	4.35%	4.36%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	4.50%	4.50%	4.47%	4.50%	4.45%
<b>Council's T/D Portfolio<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>4.39%</b>	<b>4.28%</b>	<b>4.23%</b>	<b>4.26%</b>	<b>4.10%</b>
<b>Rel. Performance</b>	<b>-0.11%</b>	<b>-0.22%</b>	<b>-0.24%</b>	<b>-0.24%</b>	<b>-0.35%</b>

<sup>^</sup>Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings.

For the month of October 2024, the total investment portfolio (excluding cash) provided a return of +0.37% (actual) or +4.39% p.a. (annualised), slightly underperforming the benchmark AusBond Bank Bill Index return of +0.37% (actual) or +4.50% p.a. (annualised). This relative underperformance is due to the aggressive rate hikes undertaken by the RBA when Council continues to hold several long-term TDs at lower interest rates. This underperformance will continue in the short-term.

Council's deposit portfolio was yielding 4.60% p.a. (up 35bp from the previous month), with a weighted average duration of 299 days (~10 months).

Council has earned interest revenue totalling \$881,014 as at 31 October 2024, being 36% of the full year projected budget of \$2,450,000.

Cash Restrictions as at 31 October 2024:

	31 October 2024
<b>Externally Restricted Cash</b>	
Specific purpose unexpended grants - general fund	\$ 5,402,000
Developer contributions	\$ 28,418,000
Stormwater management	\$ 589,000
Domestic waste management	\$ 3,286,000
<b>Total External Restrictions</b>	<b>\$ 37,695,000</b>
<b>Internally Restricted Cash</b>	
Plant and vehicle replacement	\$ 2,230,000
Employees leave entitlement	\$ 1,200,000
Carry over works	\$ 3,426,000
Deposits, retentions and bonds	\$ 12,347,000
Adshel (bus shelters)	\$ 270,000
Council elections	\$ 350,000
Future major expenditure	\$ 2,082,000
Hudson Park Golf Driving Range	\$ 195,000
Planning agreements	\$ 688,000
Risk management	\$ 400,000
Technology	\$ 140,000
Contributions towards works	\$ 20,000
Financial Assistance Grant - paid in advance	\$ 1,437,000
<b>Total Internal Restrictions</b>	<b>\$ 24,785,000</b>
Unrestricted Cash	\$ 3,081,063
<b>Total Cash and Investments</b>	<b>\$ 65,561,063</b>

#### Certification – Responsible Accounting Officer

The Chief Financial Officer as the Responsible Accounting Officer hereby certifies that the investments listed above have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and Council's Investment Policy.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. [Download](#) October 2024 - Investments Report





# Investment Report

01/10/2024 to 31/10/2024



## Portfolio Valuation as at 31/10/2024

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	07/08/2024	07/11/2024	5.0000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	23,561.64	8,493.15
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	08/08/2024	08/11/2024	5.0400	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	11,736.99	4,280.55
BOQ	A-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	08/03/2023	04/12/2024	4.9300	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	163,162.74	8,374.25
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	07/06/2023	15/01/2025	5.1700	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	217,989.86	13,172.88
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	29/08/2023	05/02/2025	5.1800	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	122,049.32	8,798.90
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	05/09/2023	05/03/2025	5.1000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	118,208.22	8,663.01
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	06/09/2023	16/04/2025	5.0800	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	117,466.30	8,629.04
Suncorp Bank	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	25/09/2024	15/05/2025	5.0000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	10,136.99	8,493.15
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	18/05/2021	19/05/2025	1.0000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	4,520.55	849.32
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	26/10/2023	04/06/2025	5.3800	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	1,179.18	1,179.18
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	26/10/2023	16/07/2025	5.3800	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	1,179.18	1,179.18
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	24/07/2024	24/07/2025	5.3500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	14,657.53	4,543.84
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	07/08/2024	07/08/2025	5.0500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	11,898.63	4,289.04
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	11/12/2023	13/08/2025	5.2000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	92,887.67	8,832.88
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	11/12/2023	10/09/2025	5.1500	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	91,994.52	8,747.95
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	27/10/2021	29/10/2025	1.5900	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	348.49	348.49
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	31/10/2024	31/10/2025	5.1700	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	283.29	283.29
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2024	14/11/2025	4.9600	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	21,470.68	8,425.21



Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	04/09/2024	04/12/2025	4.8400	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	15,381.92	8,221.37
BOQ	A-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	26/03/2024	21/01/2026	4.8700	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	58,706.85	8,272.33
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2024	13/02/2026	4.8100	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	20,821.37	8,170.41
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	26/03/2024	18/03/2026	4.8000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	86,794.52	12,230.14
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	18/05/2021	15/05/2026	1.3000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	5,876.71	1,104.11
Bank of Us	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	14/08/2024	14/08/2026	4.7000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	20,345.21	7,983.56
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	27/10/2021	28/10/2026	1.8200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	398.90	398.90
Macquarie Bank	A+	CASH	GENERAL	Monthly	31/10/2024	31/10/2024	4.6500	1,272,524.88	1,272,524.88	5,006.52	5,006.52
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	GENERAL	Monthly	31/10/2024	31/10/2024	4.1000	8,122,779.82	8,122,779.82	27,852.75	27,852.75
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	GENERAL	Monthly	31/10/2024	31/10/2024	4.3500	9,165,758.48	9,165,758.48	33,863.08	33,863.08
<b>TOTALS</b>								<b>65,561,063.18</b>	<b>65,561,063.18</b>	<b>1,299,779.61</b>	<b>220,686.46</b>



## Portfolio by Asset as at 31/10/2024

### Asset Type: CASH

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
Macquarie Bank	A+	CASH	GENERAL	Monthly	31/10/2024	31/10/2024	4.6500	1,272,524.88	1,272,524.88	5,006.52	5,006.52
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	GENERAL	Monthly	31/10/2024	31/10/2024	4.1000	8,122,779.82	8,122,779.82	27,852.75	27,852.75
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	GENERAL	Monthly	31/10/2024	31/10/2024	4.3500	9,165,758.48	9,165,758.48	33,863.08	33,863.08
<b>CASH SUBTOTALS</b>								<b>18,561,063.18</b>	<b>18,561,063.18</b>	<b>66,722.35</b>	<b>66,722.35</b>

### Asset Type: TD

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	07/08/2024	07/11/2024	5.0000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	23,561.64	8,493.15
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	08/08/2024	08/11/2024	5.0400	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	11,736.99	4,280.55
BOQ	A-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	08/03/2023	04/12/2024	4.9300	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	163,162.74	8,374.25
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	07/06/2023	15/01/2025	5.1700	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	217,989.86	13,172.88
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	29/08/2023	05/02/2025	5.1800	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	122,049.32	8,798.90
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	05/09/2023	05/03/2025	5.1000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	118,208.22	8,663.01
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	06/09/2023	16/04/2025	5.0800	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	117,466.30	8,629.04
Suncorp Bank	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	25/09/2024	15/05/2025	5.0000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	10,136.99	8,493.15
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	18/05/2021	19/05/2025	1.0000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	4,520.55	849.32



Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	26/10/2023	04/06/2025	5.3800	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	1,179.18	1,179.18
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	26/10/2023	16/07/2025	5.3800	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	1,179.18	1,179.18
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	24/07/2024	24/07/2025	5.3500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	14,657.53	4,543.84
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	07/08/2024	07/08/2025	5.0500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	11,898.63	4,289.04
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	11/12/2023	13/08/2025	5.2000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	92,887.67	8,832.88
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	11/12/2023	10/09/2025	5.1500	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	91,994.52	8,747.95
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	27/10/2021	29/10/2025	1.5900	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	348.49	348.49
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	31/10/2024	31/10/2025	5.1700	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	283.29	283.29
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2024	14/11/2025	4.9600	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	21,470.68	8,425.21
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	04/09/2024	04/12/2025	4.8400	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	15,381.92	8,221.37
BOQ	A-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	26/03/2024	21/01/2026	4.8700	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	58,706.85	8,272.33
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2024	13/02/2026	4.8100	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	20,821.37	8,170.41
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	26/03/2024	18/03/2026	4.8000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	86,794.52	12,230.14
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	18/05/2021	15/05/2026	1.3000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	5,876.71	1,104.11
Bank of Us	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	14/08/2024	14/08/2026	4.7000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	20,345.21	7,983.56
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	27/10/2021	28/10/2026	1.8200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	398.90	398.90
<b>TD SUBTOTALS</b>								<b>47,000,000.00</b>	<b>47,000,000.00</b>	<b>1,233,057.26</b>	<b>153,964.11</b>



## Portfolio by Asset Totals as at 31/10/2024

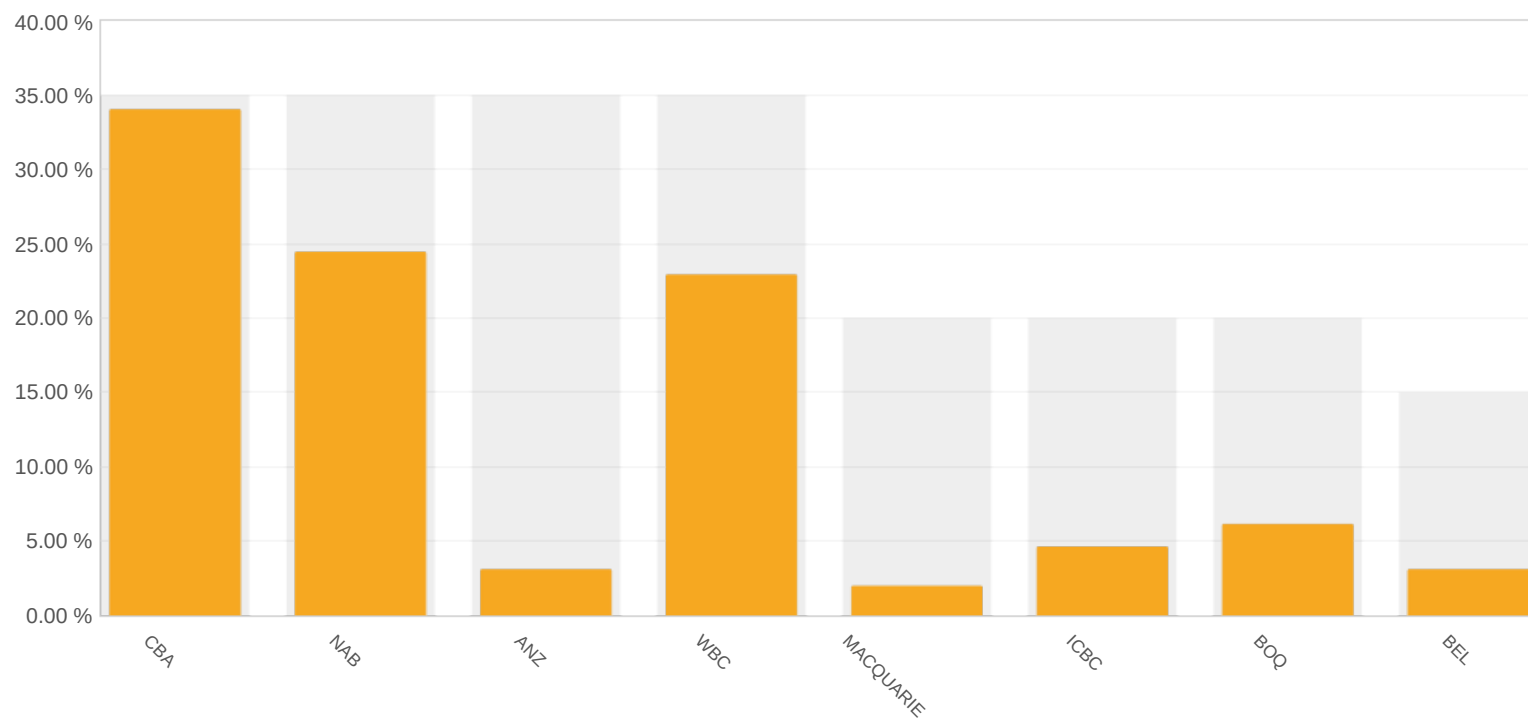
Type	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
CASH	18,561,063.18	18,561,063.18	66,722.35	66,722.35
TD	47,000,000.00	47,000,000.00	1,233,057.26	153,964.11
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>65,561,063.18</b>	<b>65,561,063.18</b>	<b>1,299,779.61</b>	<b>220,686.46</b>



## Counterparty Compliance as at 31/10/2024

### Long Term Investments

Compliant	Bank Group	Term	Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Limit (\$)	Available (\$)
✓	Commonwealth Bank	Long	AA-	22,288,538.30	34.00	35.00	-	657,833.81
✓	NAB	Long	AA-	16,000,000.00	24.41	35.00	-	6,946,372.11
✓	ANZ Bank	Long	AA-	2,000,000.00	3.05	35.00	-	20,946,372.11
✓	Westpac	Long	AA-	15,000,000.00	22.88	35.00	-	7,946,372.11
✓	Macquarie Bank	Long	A+	1,272,524.88	1.94	20.00	-	11,839,687.76
✓	ICBC Sydney Branch	Long	A	3,000,000.00	4.58	20.00	-	10,112,212.64
✓	BOQ	Long	A-	4,000,000.00	6.10	20.00	-	9,112,212.64
✓	Bank of Us	Long	BBB+	2,000,000.00	3.05	15.00	-	7,834,159.48
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>65,561,063.18</b>	<b>100.00</b>			

**Counterparty Compliance - Long Term Investments**



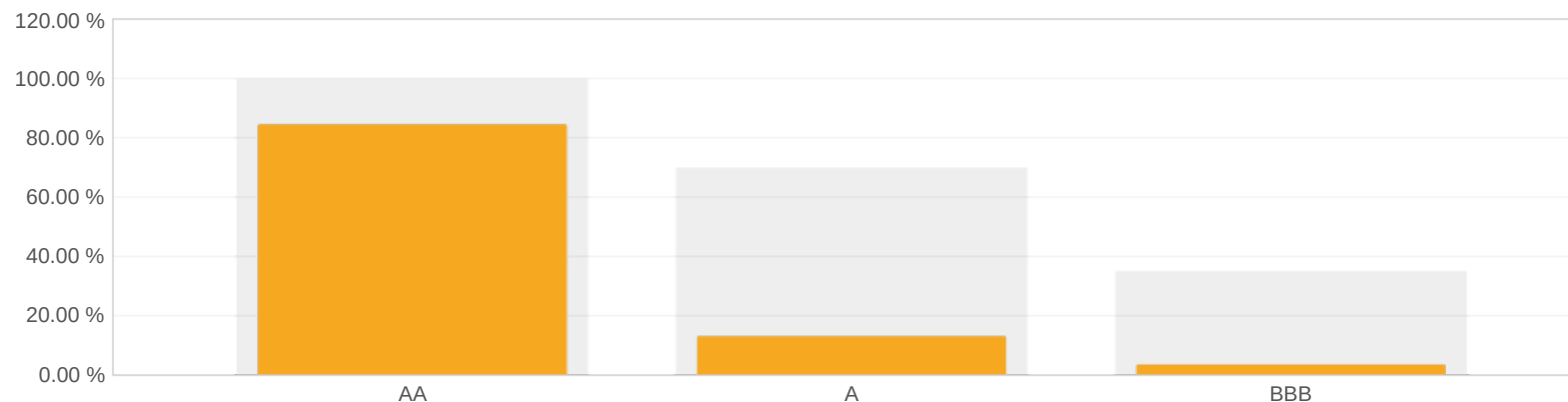


## Credit Quality Compliance as at 31/10/2024

### Long Term Investments

Compliant	Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	AA	55,288,538.30	84.33	100.00	10,272,524.88
✓	A	8,272,524.88	12.62	70.00	37,620,219.35
✓	BBB	2,000,000.00	3.05	35.00	20,946,372.11
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>65,561,063.18</b>	<b>100.00</b>		

### Credit Quality Compliance - Long Term Investments

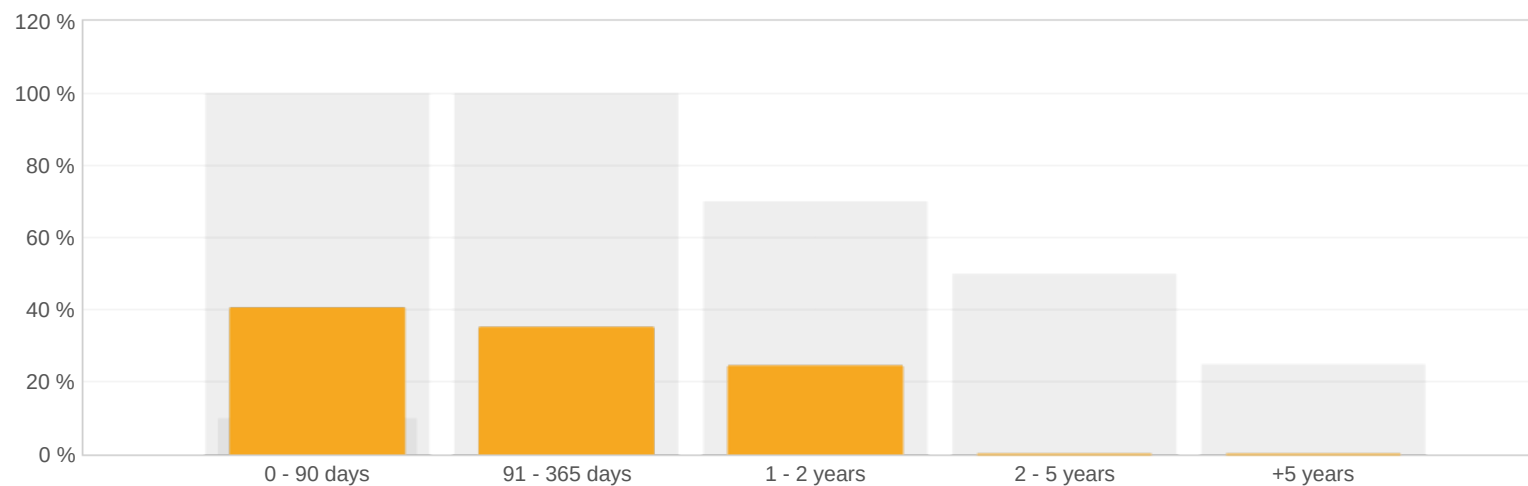




## Maturity Compliance as at 31/10/2024

Compliant	Term	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Min Limit (%)	Max Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	0 - 90 days	26,561,063.18	40.51	10.00	100.00	39,000,000.00
✓	91 - 365 days	23,000,000.00	35.08	0.00	100.00	42,561,063.18
✓	1 - 2 years	16,000,000.00	24.41	0.00	70.00	29,892,744.23
✓	2 - 5 years	-	0.00	0.00	50.00	32,780,531.59
✓	+5 years	-	0.00	0.00	25.00	16,390,265.80
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>65,561,063.18</b>	<b>100.00</b>			

## Maturity Compliance



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CCS5                      CURRENT STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS  
AUTHOR:                Gina Nobrega, Governance and Corporate Support Officer  
APPROVER:             Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

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#### RECOMMENDATION

That the report on the status of Council resolutions be noted.

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report on the current status of Council resolutions.

#### REPORT

Attached is a summary of the outstanding and acquitted Council resolutions.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding will be reviewed in line with the approved budget as actions progress.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. [Outstanding Council Resolutions](#)

**Outstanding Council Resolution Actions**

Meeting Date	Resolution	Subject	Comments
22 October 2024	261/24	Review of the Return & Earn in the Strathfield Town Centre	Ongoing
22 October 2024	255/24	Rescission Motion - 215/24 PE6 Draft Proposal - Strathfield Medium Density Housing Strategy	Presented to Councillor Workshop 12 November 2024
22 October 2024	254/24	Report on Possible Geographical Names Board Application	To be presented at Council Meeting 10 December 2024
22 October 2024	253/24	Loading Zone in Burlington Road, Homebush	To be presented at Traffic Committee Meeting December 2024
22 October 2024	252/24	Plaques, Memorials and Statue Policy and Review	To be presented to Council Meeting February 2025
22 October 2024	250/24	Strathfield Connector Bus	To be presented to Councillor Workshop 3 December 2024
22 October 2024	245/24	Post Exhibition Report - Amendment to Part P - Heritage of Strathfield DCP 2005	On public exhibition
22 October 2024	244/24	Homebush Movement and Place Connectivity and Streetscape Upgrade	Public exhibition feedback to be considered at Council Meeting 10 December 2024
22 October 2024	235/24	Strathfield Council Events Committee	Presented at Councillor Workshop 12 November 2024
22 October 2024	234/24	Alteration of Parking Provisions for Shared Vehicles such as GoGet and Uber CarShare	To be presented at Councillor Workshop 3 December and to go to Council Meeting 10 December 2024
22 October 2024	233/24	Extension of the Inner West BRIDJ On-Demand Bus Service	Letter to be sent
22 October 2024	232/24	Installation of Gym Equipment in Ismay Reserve	To be presented at Councillor Workshop 3 December 2024
22 October 2024	231/24	Busking in Strathfield Square	To be presented at Council Meeting 10 December 2024
22 October 2024	230/24	Review of Fencing and Hoarding Rules During Building Works	To be presented at Councillor Workshop 3 December 2024 and to go to Council Meeting 10 December 2024
22 October 2024	229/24	Strathfield Owned Automatic External Defibrillators	To be presented at Councillor Workshop February 2025 and to go to Council Meeting February 2025
22 October 2024	228/24	Status of Council Licenses and Leases	To be presented at Councillor Workshop 3 December 2024
22 October 2024	226/24	Mayoral Minute 07/24 – Long Term Financial Planning	Additional Workshops being run over November and December 2024 ensuring Councillors make informed decisions on the Draft Budget 2025/26

1 of 3

Meeting Date	Resolution	Subject	Comments
13 August 2024	196/24	Proposal for Strathfield (Bay) Run along the Cooks River	To be presented at Councillor Workshop February 2025 and to go to Council Meeting February 2025
13 August 2024	215/24	Draft Planning Proposal Strathfield Medium Density Housing Strategy	Item Rescinded and considered at the Councillor Workshop 12 November. To go to Council Meeting 26 November 2024
13 August 2024	206/24	Building Certification	Included in Fees & Charges - Planning & Environment report at Council Meeting 26 November 2024
23 July 2024	191/24	Battle of Kapyong	Presented at Councillor Workshop 12 November 2024 and to be presented at the November Council Meeting
23 July 2024	189/24	Report on the Feasibility of Establishing a Dog Park Near Long Street	Awaiting feedback from Sydney Water
23 July 2024	188/24	Report on Council Resolutions that are Considered in Development Application Recommendations in the Planning Process	To be presented at Council Meeting 10 December 2024
23 July 2024	183/24	Homebush West and Strathfield South Centres - Proposed Review of Centres	To be presented at Councillor Workshop 3 December 2024 and to go to Council Meeting 10 December 2024
25 June 2024	152/24	Lighting Proposal for Fitzgerald Reserve	In progress
25 June 2024	142/24	Mayoral Minute 04/24 - Provision of Additional Recycle and Waste Education Programs for 2024/2025	To be presented at Council Meeting 10 December 2024
28 May 2024	109/24	Special Meeting for the Organisation of Council's ANZAC Day Celebration	Meeting to be organised in 2025
23 April 2024	101/24	Strathfield Council Land and Property Strategy (LAPS) Tender T12-2023	Draft to be presented at Councillor Workshop 3 December 2024
23 April 2024	81/24	Community Energy Upgrades Grant	Following up
14 November 2023	287/23	Review of Part A – Dwelling Houses and Ancillary Structures Amendment of the Strathfield Consolidated Development Control Plan 2005	To be presented at Council Meeting February 2025
14 November 2023	289/23	Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012: Amendments Planning Proposal	Presented at Council Meeting 26 November 2024
6 December 2022	257/22	Mayoral Minute 27/22 - Resilient Sydney Mayoral Summit on Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing and Contributions Strategies being developed
1 November 2022	237/22	Community Garden in Strathfield South	Matter to be considered as part of the Recreation and Wellness Strategy
1 November 2022	239/22	Shade Covers Over Playgrounds	Matter to be considered as part of the Recreation and Wellness Strategy
4 October 2022	245/22	DCP Environmental Changes	Part P Heritage update exhibition period complete and update presented Councillor Workshop 15 October 2024

2 of 3

**Acquitted Council Resolutions**

Meeting Date	Resolution	Subject	Comments
23 July 2024	168/24	Management of Foliage Overhanging Solar Panels	To be considered with Tree Management Policy
22 October 2024	260/24	Cooks River and Strathfield Golf Club Open Space Proposal	No further action required
22 October 2024	251/24	Commitment to Residents in Relation to Council's Red Bin Service	No further action required at this stage
13 August 2024	209/24	Adequate Remuneration for Local Government Representatives	Letter has been sent and to be considered as part of the Budget Review Process in March 2025
13 August 2024	197/24	Legal Advice for the Amendment of Council Minutes	Legal advice presented to Councillor Workshop 12 November 2024
23 July 2024	169/24	Review of the Return & Earn in the Strathfield Town Centre	Presented to Council Meeting 22 October 2024
26 March 2024	63/24	Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Audit	Exhibition period closed 27 September 2024. Expression Of Interest developed and uploaded onto TenderLink on 1/10/24
26 March 2024	62/24	Draft Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy	Adopted by Council 22 October 2024
22 October 2024	236/24	State of the City Report	Adopted by Council 22 October 2024
22 October 2024	255/24	Rescission Motion - 215/24 PE6 Draft Proposal - Strathfield Medium Density Housing Strategy	Presented to Councillor Workshop 12 November 2024
22 October 2024	257/24	NSW Public Libraries Association Nomination of Councillor Representative	NSW Public Libraries Association notified. Budget to be amendment at quarter 1 budget review
13 August 2024	195/24	Review of Tree Management Policy	Presented at Councillor Workshop 15 October 2024. Further reviews of Part of the Strathfield Consolidated DCP 2005 to be undertaken
13 August 2024	198/24	Naturalising the Cooks River, Improving Water Quality, and Opening New Open Space	Presented at Councillor Workshop 15 October 2024

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CCS6                      TENDERS ADVERTISED AND AWARDED NOVEMBER 2024  
AUTHOR:                Amanda Rutherford, Manager, Governance & Procurement  
APPROVER:             Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

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## RECOMMENDATION

That Council tenders advertised and awarded in the months of November 2024 be received and noted.

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report details Council tenders advertised and awarded in November 2024.

## REPORT

### Tenders advertised in November 2024

Nil

### Tenders awarded in November 2024

Date Awarded	Tender Description	Successful Tenderer
31/10/2024	Management of Strathfield Councils' Affordable Housing Portfolio	Independent Community Living Australia (ICLA)

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

## ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report

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CCS7                    SOUTHERN SYDNEY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (SSROC) - TWO  
ADDITIONAL DELEGATES AS ALTERNATES REQUIRED

AUTHOR:             Amanda Rutherford, Manager, Governance & Procurement

APPROVER:         Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

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## RECOMMENDATION

That Council appoint two additional delegates as alternates to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC).

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

To appoint two additional delegates as alternates to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, to the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC).

## REPORT

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor's appointments as voting delegates to (SSROC) was confirmed at the first meeting of the new Council on 8 October 2024. It has now come to Council's attention that there is an option to have two additional Councillors nominated as alternates.

## SSROC

The (SSROC) is an incorporated association of 12 local Councils, originally established in 1986. Strathfield joined SSROC in the last term of Council.

SSROC provides a forum through which our member Councils can interact, exchange ideas and work collaboratively to solve regional issues and contribute to the future sustainability of the region. They advocate on behalf of our region to ensure that the major issues are addressed by all levels of government.

SSROC meets quarterly in the evening, generally from 6:00pm.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

## ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report



CCS8                      ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING, COMMITTEE AND COUNCILLOR WORKSHOP  
SCHEDULE 2025

AUTHOR:                Amanda Rutherford, Manager, Governance & Procurement

APPROVER:            Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

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RECOMMENDATION

1. That the 2025 Ordinary Council Meetings be held as per the attached schedule at 6:30pm (and generally on the fourth Tuesday of each month excepting January and December each year) in the Council Chambers, 65 Homebush Road, Strathfield, or as resolved by Council, in accordance with Clause 3.1 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice and section 365 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
2. That Councillor Workshops be held in accordance with the attached schedule and generally on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:30pm (excepting January and December) or as required by the General Manager with agreement from the Mayor in the Community Meeting Room, 65 Homebush Road, Strathfield and by audio visual link.
3. That the Committee schedule be received and noted.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to present the 2025 Council Meeting, and Councillor Workshop schedule and note the Committee schedule and relationship to Conferences.

REPORT

Section 365 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to meet at least ten (10) times each year, each time in a different month. Pursuant to clause 3.1 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, and as an outcome of Council's decision in November 2023, Ordinary Council Meetings are to be held on the fourth Tuesday of every month except January and December at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers, 65 Homebush Road, Strathfield.

The proposed meeting schedule has been prepared generally in accordance with the Council's Code of Meeting Practice (i.e. fourth Tuesday of each month) however some exceptions to the policy have been made and are noted as per below:

2025 Council Meetings

- January – no meeting scheduled
- December – no meeting scheduled

2025 Councillor Workshops

Councillor Workshops are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:30pm or as required by the General Manager with agreement from the Mayor in the Community Meeting Room, 65 Homebush Road, Strathfield and by audio visual link.

Councillor Workshops are held for the purpose of conducting in-depth discussions on certain topics and developing Councillor knowledge and expertise. Councillor Workshops are not used for debate or advanced discussions where an agreement or preliminary decision is reached. Any debate or decision making must be left to a formal Council or Committee Meeting.

### **2025 Council Committees**

Council Committees managed and hosted by Council will occur throughout the calendar year depending on each Committee's Terms of Reference. The Cooks River Alliance, Parramatta River Catchment Group, Local Area Command, and Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils are managed externally and the 2025 schedule for each is to be determined.

### **Conferences**

Councillors have the opportunity of attending the 2025 National Generally Assembly (in Canberra) (dates yet to be announced) or the 2025 Local Government NSW Annual Conference held in Penrith from Sunday 23 November to Tuesday 25 November.

The adopted meeting schedule has been prepared without knowing the date the ALGA Conference therefore a Council resolution to alter a meeting date may be required should it conflict with that conference.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. [2025 Council Meeting and Workshop Schedule](#)

## 2025 Council Meeting and Councillor Workshop Schedule

### **Council Meetings** – fourth Tuesday of each month from 6.30 pm

- 25 February
- 25 March
- 22 April
- 27 May
- 24 June
- 22 July
- 26 August
- 23 September
- 28 October
- 25 November

### **Councillor Workshops** – second Tuesday of each month from 4.30 pm

- 11 February
- 11 March
- 8 April
- 13 May
- 10 June
- 8 July
- 12 August
- 9 September
- 14 October
- 11 November

### **Council Committees**

Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee – Wednesdays quarterly from 2 pm

- 5 March
- 4 June
- 3 September
- 3 December

Traffic Committee – generally the third Tuesday of every month except January

Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee – at least four occasions per year

Strathfield Local Planning Panel – generally the second Thursday of every month except January

*Note: The Cooks River Alliance, Parramatta River Catchment Group, Local Area Command, and Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils are managed externally and 2025 schedule to be determined*

CCS9 COUNCILLOR WORKSHOP 12 NOVEMBER 2024  
AUTHOR: David McQuade, Senior Governance Officer  
APPROVER: Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

## RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and noted.

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to present a summary to Council of the items discussed at the Councillor Workshop held on Tuesday 12 November 2024 and follow up action required.

## REPORT

### Attendees

Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Kim, Nosworthy and Reddy (arrived at 5:30pm).

### Apologies

Councillors Pensabene and Reddy (arrived at 5:30pm).

### Declarations of Interest

Nil.

The Councillor Workshop commenced at 4:30pm and closed 7:32pm.

The following items were discussed at the Councillor Workshop held on 12 November 2024:

Item	Title	Attendance	Summary	Follow Up Action
GMU2	2024 Strathfield Christmas Decorations	Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Kim and Nosworthy	A summary of Christmas decorations to be installed across the Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) presented to Councillors	No further action required
GMU4	Draft Events Committee Terms of Reference	Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Kim and Nosworthy	The Draft Events Committee Terms of Reference had been issued to Councillors and Council officers invited feedback. Councillors discussed other options, such as whether the Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee would be a better forum for the format of upcoming events to be considered as opposed to establishing a formal Events Committee.	To go to a <b>future</b> Council Meeting
CCS4	Statistics on	Councillors Baladi,	Statistics for the period 1 August	To go to

Item	Title	Attendance	Summary	Follow Up Action
	Calls, Complaints, Queries, Suggestions etc. Received by the Council Service Desk	Blackmore, Cai, Kim and Nosworthy	2024 to 31 October 2024 were presented to Councillors with a total of 1,361 enquiries, 4 complaints and 3 compliments. The distinction between a Councillor request and complaint was defined by Council officers	Council Meeting 26 November 2024
CCS1	Draft Finance Committee Terms of Reference	Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Kim and Nosworthy	The Draft Finance Committee Terms of Reference had been issued to Councillors and Council officers invited feedback. The committee is expected to hold 4 meetings per year that align with the quarterly budget review and extraordinary meetings to be scheduled as and when necessary. Councillors would prefer the committee to be held on Tuesdays	To go to Council Meeting 26 November 2024
CCS3	Draft Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) – September 2024	Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Kim, Nosworthy and Reddy (arrived at the meeting during discussion of this item, the time being 5:30pm)	Council officers completed the quarter 1 budget review for 2024/2025 and major budget variations were presented to Councillors	To go to Council Meeting 26 November 2024
PE1	Draft Planning Proposal – Strathfield Local Environment Plan 2012: Housekeeping	Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Kim, Nosworthy and Reddy	Council officers went through the 8 proposed changes to the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012. Amendments to the LEP are considered of a minor nature	To go to Council Meeting 26 November 2024
PE2	Medium Density Housing Strategy Planning Proposal Review	Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Kim, Nosworthy and Reddy  Councillor Nosworthy left the meeting, the time being 5:57pm.  Councillor Nosworthy returned to the meeting, the time being 6pm.	Council officers delivered a confidential presentation on the Strathfield Medium Density Housing Strategy. Council have considered feedback from the community and are committed to working with the State Government to meet housing targets whilst preserving the unique character areas of the LGA, retaining heritage conservation areas and identifying positive development solutions	To go to Council Meeting 26 November 2024

Item	Title	Attendance	Summary	Follow Up Action
		<p>Councillor Blackmore left the meeting, the time being 6:08pm.</p> <p>Councillor Blackmore returned to the meeting, the time being 6:09pm.</p> <p>Councillor Reddy left the meeting, the time being 6:19pm.</p> <p>Councillor Reddy returned to the meeting, the time being 6:21pm</p>		
PE3	Proposed Amendments to Fees and Charges for Planning and Environment Directorate	Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Kim, Nosworthy and Reddy	Councillors received and noted the report on the proposed amendments to fees and charges for the Planning and Environment Directorate	To go to Council Meeting 26 November 2024
GMU1	Confidential Legal Advice – Amendment of Minutes	Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Kim, Nosworthy and Reddy	Legal advice on item CCS2 Amendment of Minutes for Council Meeting on 6 December 2022 from Ordinary Council Meeting 28 May 2024 was issued to Councillors under legal privilege	No further action required
CCS2	2025 Ordinary Council Meeting and Councillor Workshop Schedule	<p>Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Kim, Nosworthy and Reddy</p> <p>Councillor Cai left the meeting, the time being 6:48pm</p>	The proposed 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting and Councillor Workshop Schedule was presented to Councillors including the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee, Traffic Committee, Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee and the Strathfield Local Planning Panel	To go to Council Meeting 26 November 2024
GMU3	Community Strategic Plan – Themes and Goals	<p>Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Kim, Nosworthy and Reddy</p> <p>Councillor Cai</p>	Council staff provided an overview of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and Councillors were encouraged to consider themes, goals and strategies they would like to include. It was agreed by	Draft CSP to be prepared for Council to consider for exhibition in early 2025.

Item	Title	Attendance	Summary	Follow Up Action
		returned to the meeting, the time being 6:51pm	Councillors that the update for this term would be refresh as opposed to a rewrite of the current CSP as they current CSP is a good reflection of the current priorities for the community.	
EO1	The Battle of Kapyong Memorial	Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Kim, Nosworthy and Reddy  Councillor Baladi left the meeting, the time being 7:12pm	Council officers presented memorial design to Councillors including wording and proposed location. Proposal will be presented to the next Council Meeting	To go to Council Meeting 26 November 2024
EO2	20-34 Albert Road – Parking Spaces	Councillors Blackmore, Cai, Kim, Nosworthy and Reddy	Councillors were briefed on Development Application 96/58 at property 20-34 Albert Road that requires the owner to provide 55 parking spaces to the public. Council officers are working with Strata Management to enforce this condition and ensure standard is to <b>Council's satisfaction</b>	No further action required
EO3	A Parklet Policy for Strathfield Council	Councillors Blackmore, Cai, Kim, Nosworthy and Reddy  Councillor Blackmore left the meeting, the time being 7:25pm.  Councillor Blackmore returned to the meeting, the time being 7:32pm	A summary of the Parklet Policy was presented to Councillors by Council officers highlighting benefits, design, safety implications and proposed fees across the LGA	To go to Council Meeting 26 November 2024

**Mayor's Update**

- The Mayor has attended many events recently including the Strathfield Council Australian Citizenship Ceremony and 120-year anniversary of the Strathfield Croquet Club
- Exhibition Back to Black: The David Jones Family in Strathfield at the Strathfield Library and Innovation Hub is underway and due to popular demand, Ms Cathy Jones will again be speaking on 17 November 2024
- Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Kim and Nosworthy attended the Remembrance Day service on 11 November 2024 at the Davey Square Reserve
- The Mayor has received many invitations to speak at schools in the Local Government Area recently

Item	Title	Attendance	Summary	Follow Up Action
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Councillor Workshop scheduled for 3 December 2024 will commence from 4pm instead of 4:30pm</li></ul>	
	<b><u>General Manager's Update</u></b>			
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Audit report for Annual Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024 was received and the audited statements were submitted to the Office of Local Government on 31 October 2024</li><li>• Works at the Hudson Park Driving Range including increase of nets height expected to be complete by Friday 15 November 2024</li><li>• Black Friday will take place on 28 November 2024 and more Regulatory Officers will be deployed to DFO Homebush to manage expected spike in visitors to shopping centre</li><li>• Strathfield Council have held 6 Citizenship Ceremonies in 2024 with 376 new Australian citizens. The next Citizenship Ceremony will be held on Australia Day on 26 January 2025. There are currently 59 people on the waiting list</li><li>• The George Street Bridge is expected to be installed by Christmas although artwork may be completed in early 2025</li><li>• Artworks around Homebush Station are now complete</li><li>• Christmas decorative lights are currently being fixed to the Town Hall Building</li><li>• Gateway signage to the Strathfield Local Government Area at three locations have now been erected</li><li>• Councillors were reminded that the Annual Conference hosted by Local Government NSW will be held from 12:30pm Sunday 17 November 2024 to Tuesday 19 November 2024 at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre</li><li>• Share the Dignity – “It’s in the bag” will take place on 21 November 2024 at the Strathfield Town Hall</li><li>• The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on 26 November 2024 at the Council Chamber</li><li>• The Community Christmas Party will take place on 28 November 2024</li><li>• Councillor Finance Workshops will be held on 14 November 2024, 21 November 2024, 25 November 2024 and 17 December 2024</li></ul>	

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

## ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report



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CCS10                      COUNCILLOR WORKSHOP 14 NOVEMBER 2024  
AUTHOR:                Liberty Chung, Executive Assistant  
APPROVER:            Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

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## RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and noted.

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to present a summary to Council of the items discussed at the Councillor Workshop held on Thursday 14 November 2024 in response to the Mayoral Minute 07/24 of the Council Meeting of the 22 October 2024.

Councillors were provided with a briefing on:

- Financial Sustainability challenges facing Strathfield Council
- Why Council previously decided to apply to the Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal for a Special Rate Variation which is to be implemented over a 4 year period
- Why Council has a plan to borrow funds in the short term to reduce our asset renewal backlog with the borrowings to be repaid from the Special Rate Variation over the next 10 years
- What the financial position, operational health and organisational culture was at Strathfield Council in December 2022, and a detailed overview of the changes that have been made so far as part of Strathfield Councils financial and organisational improvement program to achieve long term financial sustainability.
- Councillors were provided with a comprehensive overview of the key LTFP objectives being:
  - Achieve financial sustainability
  - **To transition from operating deficits to sustained operating surplus'**
  - To provide and maintain existing levels of service for the community
  - To manage our asset renewal backlog to reduce it over the next 10 years towards the benchmark of less than 2%
  - To have sufficient available unrestricted cash to deliver services, manage our assets and produce sustained annual operating surplus results over the long term.
- Councillors were also provided with a comprehensive overview of each budget, including staff resources for all of the operational business units at Council, identifying the services provided by each business unit, the risks that are being managed and the requirement for each service to be provided, whether it be a regulatory requirement, community benefit or a discretionary service Council currently provides to the community.

## REPORT

### Attendees

Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai (via audio-visual link), Kim, Nosworthy and Reddy.

Apologies

Councillors Pensabene.

Declarations of Interest

Nil.

The Councillor Workshop commenced at 4:43pm and closed 7:45pm.

Title	Attendance	Presentation by
Delivery of Council services, organisational structure and financial sustainability	<p>Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.</p> <p>Councillor Cai left the meeting during the discussion of this item, the time being 5:02pm.</p> <p>Councillor Cai returned to the meeting during the discussion of this item, the time being 5:05pm.</p> <p>Councillor Cai left the meeting during the discussion of this item, the time being 5:17pm.</p> <p>Councillor Cai returned to the meeting during the discussion of this item, the time being 5:21pm.</p> <p>Councillor Cai left the meeting during the discussion of this item, the time being 5:44pm.</p> <p>Councillor Cai returned to the meeting during the discussion of this item, the time being 5:49pm.</p>	Michael Mamo, General Manager
Corporate & Community Directorate overview	<p>Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.</p> <p>Councillor Blackmore left the meeting during the break and returned during the discussion of this item, the time being 5:54pm.</p>	Nichole Edsall, Acting Director Corporate & Community and Rodney Sanjivi, Chief Financial Officer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governance &amp; Procurement</li> </ul>	Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.	Amanda Rutherford, Manager Governance & Procurement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corporate &amp; Community Administration</li> </ul>	<p>Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.</p> <p>Councillor Cai left the meeting at during the discussion of this item, the time being 6:22pm.</p>	Nichole Edsall, Acting Director Corporate & Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business Performance &amp; Improvement</li> </ul>	Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.	Executive Officer Business Performance

Title	Attendance	Presentation by
	<p>Councillor Cai returned to the meeting during the discussion of this item, the time being 6:20pm.</p> <p>Councillor Blackmore asked a question during this item:  <i>"Do you look for grants that align with the CSP or do you just look for a grant to get money?"</i></p> <p>Executive Officer Business Performance &amp; Improvement Nicholas Coghlan provided a response:  <i>"The Executive team and I meet to discuss the grant opportunities and objectives and funding available and if there is any contribution required from Council. If the grant is still viable, we then consider the Community Strategic Plan and other strategic documents before choosing a project for application."</i></p>	& Improvement Nicholas Coghlan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital, Information &amp; Customer</li> </ul>	<p>Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.</p> <p>Councillor Cai left the meeting during the discussion of this item, the time being 6:23pm.</p> <p>Councillor Cai returned to the meeting during the discussion of this item, the time being 6:25pm.</p>	Nichole Edsall, Acting Director Corporate & Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Library &amp; Community</li> </ul>	Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.	Kathryn Fayle, Manager Library & Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety &amp; Risk</li> </ul>	Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.	Raymond Parkinson, Chief Safety & Risk Officer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial Services</li> </ul>	<p>Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.</p> <p>Councillor Cai left the meeting during the discussion of this item, the time being 6:40pm.</p>	Rodney Sanjivi, Chief Financial Officer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People &amp; Culture</li> </ul>	<p>Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.</p> <p>Councillor Cai returned during the discussion of this item, the time being 6:44pm.</p>	Nichole Edsall, Acting Director Corporate & Community

Title	Attendance	Presentation by
	Councillor Cai left the meeting during the discussion of this item, the time being 6:46pm.	
General Manager's Unit	Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.	Michael Mamo, General Manager
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Counsel</li> </ul>	<p>Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.</p> <p>Councillor Cai returned during the discussion of this item, the time being 6:51pm.</p> <p>Councillor Baladi left the meeting during the discussion of this item, the time being 6:56pm.</p>	Melissa Mallos, General Counsel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corporate Strategy</li> </ul>	<p>Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.</p> <p>Councillor Reddy left the meeting during the discussion of this item, the time being 6:57pm.</p> <p>Councillor Cai left the meeting during the discussion of this item, the time being 6:58pm.</p> <p>Councillor Baladi &amp; Reddy returned during the discussion of this item, the time being 6:51pm.</p>	Cathy Jones, Chief Strategy Officer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communications &amp; Events</li> </ul>	<p>Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.</p> <p>Councillor Cai returned during the discussion of this item, the time being 7:01pm.</p>	Ayla Karabulut, Acting Manager Communications & Events
Engineering & Operations Directorate	Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.	Cathy Edwards-Davis, Director Engineering & Operations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operations</li> </ul>	<p>Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.</p> <p>Councillor Cai left the meeting during the discussion of this item, the time being 7:12pm.</p> <p>Councillor Cai returned during the discussion of this item, the time being 7:14pm.</p>	Robert Cranmer, Acting Manager Operations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engineering</li> </ul>	Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.	Ben Michel, Acting Manager Engineering

Title	Attendance	Presentation by
	<p>Councillor Cai left the meeting during the discussion of this item, the time being 7:15pm.</p> <p>Councillor Cai returned during the discussion of this item, the time being 7:18pm.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital Works</li> </ul>	<p>Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.</p> <p>Councillor Cai left the meeting during the discussion of this item, the time being 7:21pm.</p> <p>Councillor Cai returned during the discussion of this item, the time being 7:23pm.</p>	Ray Saleam, Manager Capital Works
Planning & Environment Directorate	Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.	Clare Harley, Director Planning & Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning &amp; Place</li> </ul>	<p>Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Cai, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.</p> <p>Councillor Cai left the meeting during the discussion of this item, the time being 7:29pm.</p>	Dylan Porter, Manager Planning & Place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resilience, Compliance &amp; Commercial</li> </ul>	Councillors Baladi, Blackmore, Nosworthy, Kim and Reddy.	Paul Reid, Manager Resilience, Compliance & Commercial

General Manager closed the meeting at 7:45pm remarking that a lot of information was provided during the presentations and invited Councillors to send in questions and nominate areas to focus on for the upcoming workshops.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

## ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report

CCS11            STATISTICS ON CALLS, COMPLAINTS, QUERIES, SUGGESTIONS ETC RECEIVED BY THE  
COUNCIL SERVICE DESK

AUTHOR:        David Vien, Manager Digital, Information and Customer

APPROVER:     Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

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## RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and noted.

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update on information in relation to customer statistics on compliments and complaints received by Council.

## REPORT

The Council is committed to providing excellent cost-effective services both legislated and those requested by the Strathfield community (the Community).

Compliments and complaints provide unique information about the quality of our services – what is going well and opportunities for improvement.

**We value the community's feedback on our services, decisions, actions, and officers and are committed to treating compliments and complaints sincerely, impartially, and promptly.**

Compliments and complaints are considered in the context of all customer service desk interactions to enable continuous evaluation of our own performance. Customer Service Desk interactions include visitation to our Customer Service Desk and phone calls made to our Customer Service Team.

Statistics for the period from 1 August 2024 – 31 October 2024 are presented as an attachment to this report.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

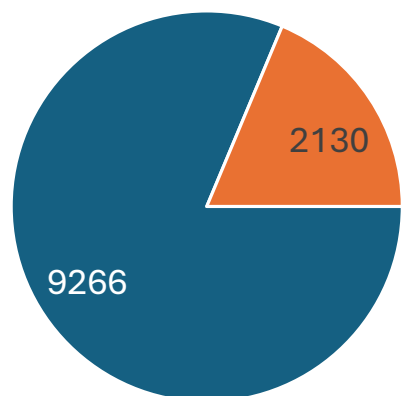
## ATTACHMENTS

1. [↓](#)     Statistics on Customer Service Enquiries, Compliments and Complaints

## Customer Service Statistics

1 Aug – 31 Oct 2024

### Total Enquiries by Channel



■ Calls ■ Face-to-face

11365 Total Enquiries

**1361**

Enquiries led to Customer Service direct actions

**97%**

Of phone enquiries are resolved without escalation

**4**

Complaints have been formally raised

**3**

Compliments have been registered with the team

## Compliments and Complaints Summary

1 Aug – 31 Oct 2024

### Compliments

Resident had recently moved into our area from Canterbury Bankstown and can see the difference in how clean we maintain our Streets and Area. Resident said that it reminds her of how Australia used to be.

“I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Strathfield Council for providing us with the venue for our Nepali school every Sunday”

We are very grateful to the Cleansing Team for being so hardworking maintaining the cleanliness of the rotunda.

### Complaints

Penalty Infringement Notice - Albert Road Car Park

Conduct of Staff behaviour (garbage truck driver)

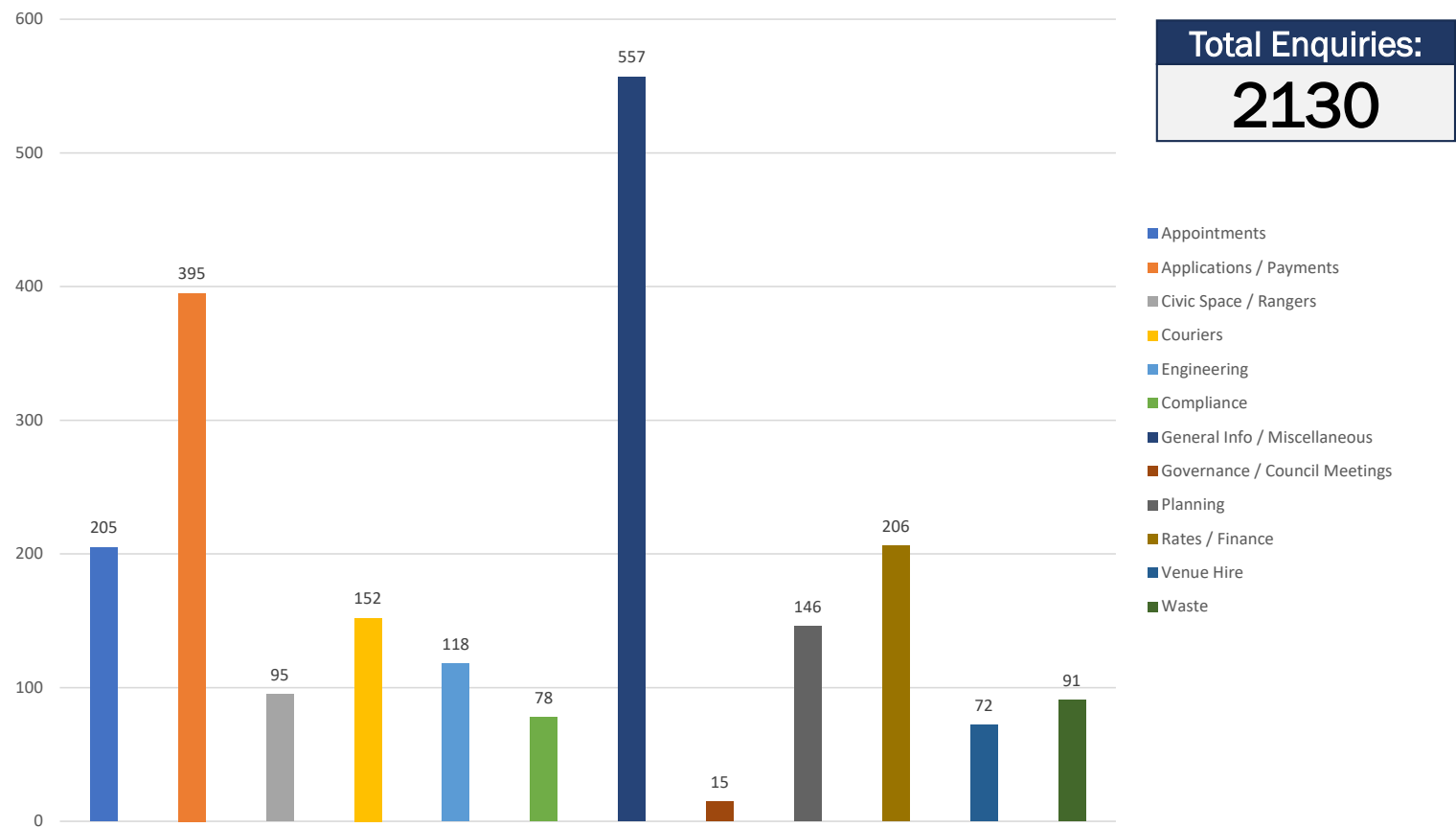
Local government election candidates - campaigning behaviour

Late bond release



## Face-to-face Interactions by Enquiry Topic

1 Aug – 31 Oct 2024



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CCS12                      MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

AUTHOR:                Kathryn Fayle, Manager, Library & Community Services

APPROVER:            Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

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## RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council receive and note the Multicultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.
2. That Council adopt the Multicultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.
3. That Council endorse an Expression of Interest process for Community representatives to be selected for the Committee.

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

As per resolution 223/24 at Council Meeting on 8 October 2024, the Multicultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference have been reviewed for consideration by Council and for adoption. Subject to the adoption of the Terms of Reference an Expression of Interest is to be advertised in January 2025 for a 28 day period to select the community representatives.

## REPORT

The purpose of the Multicultural Advisory Committee is to provide guidance to Council on diversity issues impacting the Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA).

The Committee will have the following objectives:

- To advise Council on issues affecting multicultural communities in the Strathfield LGA
- To provide advice to Council on its policies, plans and services that impact our multicultural communities
- To liaise with other organisations and networks that have a direct interest of multicultural communities including health, social services, police, and relevant government and community organisations
- To assist Council to promote the benefits of cultural diversity, social cohesion and inclusion for all residents within the Strathfield LGA
- To provide advice to Council with its communication, engagement and consultation with multicultural communities
- To provide advice to Council in relation to multicultural events as required

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council staff members to be convenors and provide secretariat support to the committee (i.e. develop the agenda, manage minute taking and reporting to Council) calculated to be 20 hours per annum.

**Multicultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (Cont'd)**

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. [Download](#) Multicultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference - Final



# **Multicultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference**

## 1. Name

Multicultural Advisory Committee

## 2. Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the Multicultural Advisory Committee is to provide guidance to Council on diversity issues impacting Strathfield area.

The Committee will have the following objectives:

- to advise Council on issues affecting multicultural communities in the Strathfield LGA
- to provide advice to Council on its policies, plans and services that impact our multicultural communities
- to liaise with other organisations and networks that have a direct interest of multicultural communities including health, social services, police, and relevant government and community organisations
- to assist Council to promote the benefits of cultural diversity, social cohesion and inclusion for all residents within the Strathfield LGA
- to provide advice to Council with its communication, engagement and consultation with multicultural communities
- to provide advice to Council in relation to multicultural events as required

## 3. Membership and Roles

The committee will consist of up to nine (9) members including:

- a) two Councillors
- b) up to seven Community representatives

Committee membership is selected by a panel of Council officers following an Expression of Interest process

One or more Council staff members, determined by the Director of Corporate and Community, will be appointed to be convenors and provide secretariat support to the committee (i.e. develop the agenda, manage minute taking and reporting to Council)

Members term of appointment will align with the Council terms unless:

- they resign or vacate their position
- they have missed three (3) consecutive appointments or missed 50% of the total number of meetings in a calendar year without giving acceptable reasons
- they cease to be a member of the organisation which they represent
- they are subject to a serious breach of the Code of Conduct or are charged with an indictable offence.

#### 4. Eligibility

All Councillors are eligible to nominate for membership on the Committee. Appointments will be determined and endorsed by Council.

Council will invite representation from stakeholder groups/representatives of peak agencies with experience and expertise to contribute to the Committee purpose and objectives.

The selection of community members will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Expression of Interest process.

A person appointed to the Committee will continue as a member for the period outlined in in the Term of Office.

Should a representative vacancy occur during the terms of appointment a new representative will be sought from the stakeholder group. If close to end of term of office, a replacement may not be sought as determined by the Chair.

Membership will be reviewed annually and if necessary, adjusted with recommendation from the Committee.

#### 5. Terms of Office

The term for Councillors on the Committee is four (4) years following election of a new Council

The term for other members is from commencement of the Committee to the end of the term of Council.

The Committee will conclude and all memberships cease by day prior to election caretaker period.

#### 6. Quorum

The quorum for each meeting will be one half of membership plus the Chair or their nominated representative.

Although advisory committees are not decision-making bodies, a quorum is required for the meeting to proceed with recommendations.

If insufficient members in attendance, minutes will reflect that no quorum has been reached and no meeting will progress.

## 7. Meeting Schedule

The Committee is to meet quarterly (four times per year).

A meeting will be limited to a maximum of two (2) hours duration unless the group resolves to a particular time or until the completion of business.

The schedule of meeting dates will be provided to the members in advance and an agenda will be provided at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

## 8. Attendance at Meetings

All members are expected to attend the meetings, or otherwise tender their apologies to the Chair or Lead Council Officer

If unable to attend, members of an organisation can delegate their position to another member of their organisation, in consultation with the Chair or Lead Council Officer to ensure appropriate representation of stakeholders:

- Members representing an interagency or organisation may delegate to another member of that Interagency or organisation only.
- Members of Parliament may delegate to a member of their electoral office only.

No member should be absent for more than two (2) consecutive meetings without first seeking and being granted leave by the Chair or Lead Council Officer. Without being granted such leave in these circumstances, the person's membership will be reevaluated.

While other Councillors may attend Committee meetings as observers, the meetings will not be open to other members of the public.

On the invitation of the Chair or Lead Officer, individuals or organisational representatives may be invited to attend a meeting in a one off guest capacity for the purposes of giving presentations or providing specific advice or expertise.

## 9. Meeting Practices and Procedures

The Council will ensure that each meeting is properly recorded with the use of minutes

Meeting minutes will be reported to the next available Council meeting.

The Chair of the Committee will be determined and endorsed by Council.

The quorum for each meeting will be one half of membership plus the Chair or their nominated representative.

The Chair directs the progress of the Committee meeting. Subject to any determination of the Chair, each item is dealt with in the order that it appears on the agenda.

## **10. Code of Conduct**

All members of the Committee are required to observe Council's Code of Conduct and any other policy or requirement applicable to the proper functioning of the Committee.

Members shall act in a professional and responsible manner with the information they obtain.

Members must respect each other and work together to create an open and trusting atmosphere. Members should feel free to express their opinions without fear or recrimination.

A breach of the Terms of Reference may lead to a member being removed from the Committee by the Chair.

Members of the Committee do not have the authority to act or speak on behalf of Council, including representations to the media on Council or the Committee's behalf.

Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest, both pecuniary and non-pecuniary need to be made by members and recorded in the minutes in accordance with the Council Code of Conduct

Members are required to maintain Confidentiality and Privacy in relation to any confidential or personal information that may be discussed at the meeting.

## **11. Dissolution of the Committee**

Unless otherwise dissolved by Council, the Committee shall dissolve on the day before the election caretaker period.

## **12. Next Review Date**

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed prior to the establishment of a new Committee

Amendments to this Term of Reference may only be determined by Council



CCS13            SMALL GRANT APPLICATION SECOND QUARTER 2024/2025

AUTHOR:        Kathryn Fayle, Manager, Library & Community Services

APPROVER:     Michael Mamo, General Manager

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## RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council receives and notes the report.
2. That Council approves the one (1) grant recommended by the Small Grants evaluation panel.

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise Council of the panel review of the Small Grants applications for the second quarter of the 2024/2025 financial year.

## REPORT

Council received three (3) applications for the small grants round that closed on 31 October 2024. Only one application from Multicultural Seniors Association was eligible and reviewed against the evaluation criteria.

One application (1) application from an individual was evaluated as ineligible as applicant not a resident of Strathfield and the other application from Tamil Seniors was withdrawn by the applicant.

The only eligible application from Multicultural Seniors Association is recommended for funding as requested.

Name	Overview of application
Multicultural Seniors Association	Application meets criteria, aligned to Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and outlines how budget to be spent on activities to support healthy ageing

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The below budget has been included in Council's current 2024/2025 Budget for this purpose.

Applicant	Recommendation
Multicultural Seniors Association	\$2,500
Total Budget Requested	\$2,500

## ATTACHMENTS

1. [Small Grant Application](#)



## Small Grants Application Form – Groups and Organisations

### Eligibility and conditions

Strathfield Council's Small Grants Policy provides amounts up to \$2,500 to eligible individuals or groups, subject to approval and provision of supporting documentation. If your organisation is granted financial assistance, the grant must be acquitted eg provide evidence in form of receipts to Council. Failure to provide this information may result in Council excluding your organisation from future grants.

Eligibility for groups and organisations is limited to those community groups, not for profit organisations, schools and/or registered charitable organisations that are located in the Strathfield Council area and/or provides services to the Strathfield Council area.

A group or organisation is not eligible if they have:

- outstanding or non-acquitted grants with Strathfield Council
- are not located and/or providing services within the Strathfield Council area
- seeking retrospective funding or the request is generated via bulk mail.

Council does not provide financial assistance for commercial or profit-driven entities, including registered clubs or State or Federal Government departments or agencies

Grants are only available to the following:

- community organisations requiring financial assistance to provide a service or activity of benefit to the Strathfield community where no alternative grant program is available
- request for a donation or support for a fundraising event for a registered charity or not for profit organisation

The Small Grants Policy is available at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/council/policies-plans-and-regulations/policies/>

For further information, please contact Council at 9748 9999 or email: [council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au).

**About your organisation or group**Name of group or organisation Multicultural Seniors Association IncAddress 24/31 - 41 Freeman Av Canley Vale 2166Contact name and title of position Tracy Wu (Secretary)Contact number(s) 0416 196362Email tracywu2011@hotmail.com

Is your organisation a charitable organisation or Incorporated? Please provide registration details and ensure copies of your registration or Incorporation are attached to the application.

Multicultural Seniors Association Inc (MSA)  
has been registered the "Australian Charities  
and Not-for-profits Commission on 1/7/2020.

Describe your organisation and its key objectives (Attach additional information to the application if there is insufficient space)

MSA was incorporated in May 2012 and aims to  
help seniors from culturally and linguistically  
diverse backgrounds through providing skills  
to help them navigate day to day life. The  
organisation is run by a team of dedicated  
volunteers who help ensure the success of  
the programs offered.

## About your proposal

Amount Requested \$ 2,500.00

Purpose of the grant eg description of the project or activity in which assistance is sought and how the funds will be spent. *(Attach additional information to the application if there is insufficient space)*

- 1) Physical fitness through dancing which encourages the seniors involve their body movement do simple exercise.
- 2) Provided safe spaces for mingle socialise and make new friends.
- 3) Improve confidence and self safe.

## Funds spending:

- 1) Venue hire for class, \$1250 in-kind
- 2) Instructor/dancing teacher, \$2625 (\$125 in-kind, see the quotation attached)



Australian Government



Australian  
**Charities** and  
Not-for-profits  
Commission



THIS CERTIFIES THAT

**MULTICULTURAL SENIORS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**

ABN: 56472137029

HAS BEEN REGISTERED BY THE

**Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission**

ON THE DATE OF

**01/07/2020**

CERTIFIED BY

**Sue Woodward AM**

**Commissioner**

Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission

For information about the current registration status of this charity,  
check the ACNC Charity Register at [acnc.gov.au/charity](http://acnc.gov.au/charity)



## Quotation

Date:12<sup>th</sup> July 2024

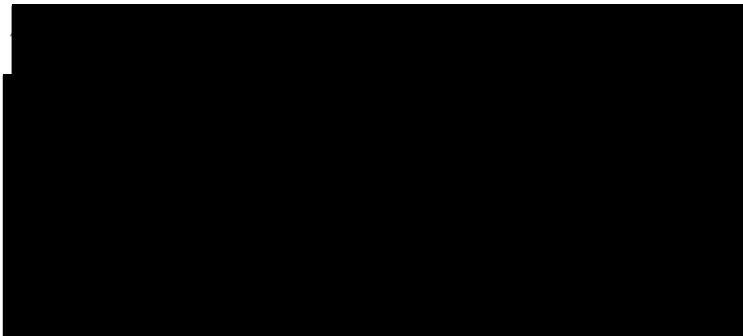
To: Multicultural Seniors Association Inc

To be Multicultural Seniors Association 's dancing teacher, from August 2024 to August 2025,  
I'm quoting one and have per weeks at \$50.00 for weeks. Total:2625.00.

Any question please contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Full name of the Teacher: Yu mei Guo



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PE1                      DRAFT PLANNING PROPOSAL - STRATHFIELD LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2012 -  
HOUSEKEEPING AMENDMENT 2024

AUTHOR:              Rita Vella, Executive Planner, Strategic Planning

APPROVER:          Clare Harley, Director Planning and Environment

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## RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council notes the advice provided by the Strathfield Local Planning Panel on 10 October 2024 regarding the draft Planning Proposal for a housekeeping amendment to the *Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012*.
2. That Council forward the Planning Proposal – Housekeeping Amendment 2024 included at **Attachment 1** to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure under Section 3.34 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* for Gateway determination.
3. That Council delegates authority to the General Manager to make necessary amendments to the Planning Proposal and supporting documents arising from a Gateway Determination and prior to public exhibition.
4. That Council endorse public exhibition of the Planning Proposal in accordance with the terms of the Gateway Determination issued by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.
5. That a further report be brought back to Council following the exhibition of the Planning Proposal.

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks Council's endorsement to forward a draft Planning Proposal, Strathfield Local Environmental Plan (SLEP) 2012 - Housekeeping Amendment 2024 (Attachment 1), to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) and Environment (DPE) for a Gateway Determination.

The Planning Proposal seeks to amend the SLEP 2012 to respond to a range of administrative and housekeeping issues to the instrument and accompanying mapping which were identified as part of a previous Planning Proposal, which was subsequently withdrawn by Council.

The objective of the Planning Proposal is to amend the SLEP 2012:

- To improve its operation and accuracy by correcting identified anomalies and inconsistencies to existing provisions and maps,
- By implementing the outcomes of Council's endorsed Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030,
- By responding to a request by Sydney Water to rezone existing Sydney Water infrastructure from R2 Low Density Residential to SP2 to better reflect their current and future use of the land,
- To expand the permitted uses in the E4 General Industrial zone to enable limited non-industrial land uses that provide facilities and services to meet the needs of businesses and workers, consistent with the objectives of the zone, and
- To ensure that heritage items and significant properties are correctly identified and protected.

The Planning Proposal was considered by the Strathfield Local Planning Panel (LPP) at its meeting on 10 October 2024. The LPP supported the Planning Proposal to be forwarded to the DPHI for a Gateway Determination.

Specifically, the Planning Proposal seeks to amend Strathfield LEP 2012 as follows:

- Amend the Land Use Table for the E4 General Industrial zone under Item 3 – Permitted with consent to include *recreation facility (indoor)*
- Amend Clause 4.1 – Minimum subdivision lot size
- Amend Clause 4.1A Minimum lot size for dual occupancies, multi dwelling housing and residential flat buildings
- Amend *Clause 6.11 Terrestrial biodiversity*
- Amend *Schedule 2 Exempt development*
- Amend *Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage – Part 1 Heritage*
- Amending *Schedule 5 – Environmental Heritage – Part 2 Heritage Conservation Areas*
- Amend the zoning of Sydney Water land from R2 Low Density to SP2 – Infrastructure and update the LZN map to reflect the change
- Introduce a Terrestrial Biodiversity Map
- Amend the Heritage Map

## REPORT

### BACKGROUND

In 2021, Council lodged a draft Planning Proposal with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) for the preparation of a new Strathfield Local Environmental Plan (Strathfield LEP 2021). The draft Planning Proposal included a long list of items for consideration.

On 29 April 2022, DPE issued a Gateway Determination which identified an extensive list of matters that should not be progressed, or required significant, additional work.

On 4 April 2023, Council resolved to withdraw the Comprehensive LEP 2021 Planning Proposal (PP-2021-3803). Council also resolved that it:

*Be provided with a briefing, at a Councillor Workshop, to confirm next steps for progressing key components contained within the draft Local Environmental Plan 2021, in a new Planning Proposal to amend the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012.*

On 6 April 2023, a letter was sent to the DPE requesting the formal withdrawal of the Planning Proposal. The reasons for withdrawal can be broadly summarised as follows:

1. More evidence base needed
2. Non-compliances with Ministerial Direction requirements

On 24 October 2023, a Councillor Workshop was held to brief the Councillors on a way forward to progress several amendments to the Strathfield LEP.



On 14 November 2023, Council considered a report that outlined several amendments to the Strathfield LEP 2012 that could be progressed as a Housekeeping Amendment following the withdrawal of the Comprehensive LEP 2021 Planning Proposal (PP-2021-3803).

In this regard, Council resolved in part the following (289/23):

*That:*

1. *In accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, Council endorse the preparation of a draft Planning Proposal to amend the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 in relation to the following eight (8) items:*
  - a) *Exclusion of access handles when calculating site area for battle-axe lot or any lot with an access handle for the purposes of minimum subdivision lot size*
  - b) *Introduction of 'Creative Industries' as Permitted with Consent in E4 General Industrial Zone. (N.B. Creative Industries are a type of Light Industry)*
  - c) *Removal of signage from Schedule 2 – Exempt Development*
  - d) *Terrestrial Biodiversity – remove specific land mentioned in LEP Clause and reference new Terrestrial Biodiversity Map/s*
  - e) *Amend Schedule 5 as follows:*
    - Part 1 – Add existing State Heritage Items*
    - Part 2 – Expand the Burlington Road Heritage Conservation Areas*
  - f) *Rezoning selected Sydney Water lands from R2 Low Density Residential to SP2 Infrastructure and RE1 Public Recreation*
  - g) *Introduction of 'Recreation Facility (indoor)' as Permitted with Consent in the E4 General Industrial zones*
  - h) *Editorial and mapping updates to remove / update references to old legislation and update all mapping*
2. *The draft Planning Proposal be reported to a future Council Meeting to obtain approval to lodge it with the Department of Planning and Environment to seek a Gateway Determination.*

As outlined above, Council's resolution has been addressed except for (b) which is not required as "creative industries" are already a permitted use in the E4 General Industrial zone, under the parent term *light industry*.

Table 1 below provides a summary of how the PP seeks to amend SLEP 2012 and its consistency with Council's resolution of 14 November 2023:

**Table 1:** Summary of proposed amendments to SLEP 2012 and consistency with Council Resolution 289/23

Proposed Amendment to SLEP 2012	Council Resolution Item (289/23)
Amend <i>Clause 4.1 – Minimum subdivision lot size</i> to include a sub-clause that clarifies the exclusion of the calculation of the access handle for a battle axe block for the purposes of subdivision	a)
Amend <i>Clause 4.1A Minimum lot size for dual occupancies, multi dwelling housing and</i>	a)

Proposed Amendment to SLEP 2012	Council Resolution Item (289/23)
<i>residential flat buildings</i> to include a sub-clause that clarifies the exclusion of the calculation of the access handle for a battle axe block for the purposes of subdivision (so as to ensure consistency)	
Amend <i>Schedule 2 Exempt development</i> to remove the signage provisions	c)
Amend <i>Clause 6.11 Terrestrial biodiversity</i> by deleting subclause (2) that references land at 38–50 Weeroona Road, Strathfield, being Lot 1, DP 803688, and introduce a Terrestrial Biodiversity Map that identifies the key biodiversity areas identified in the <i>Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030</i>	d)
Amend <i>Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage – Part 1 Heritage items</i> to: - update the item name from Australian Catholic University, Strathfield Campus (includes former “Mount Royal”)—various buildings and landscape to Mount St Mary Campus of the Australian Catholic University and significance from local to State	e)
Amend <i>Schedule 5 – Environmental Heritage – Part 2 Heritage Conservation Areas</i> to: - Expand the HCA C3 to include Nos 57-59 and 61 Burlington Road, Homebush and rename HCA C3 from <i>Pair of Federation Queen Anne style houses</i> to <i>Burlington Road Conservation Area</i> . The Heritage Conservation Area Map is to be updated to reflect the change	e)
Rezone in accordance with the request from Sydney Water land in its ownership and control from R2 Low Density Residential to SP2 Infrastructure.	f)
Amend the Land Use Table to the E4 General Industrial zone to include <i>recreation facility (indoor)</i> as a permitted use	g)

In terms of Item b) of Council’s resolution, “creative industries” are already a permitted use in the E4 General Industrial zone, under the parent term *light industry* so this amendment has not been included in the PP.

## OVERVIEW OF THE PLANNING PROPOSAL

A draft Planning Proposal (Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 – Housekeeping Amendment 2024) has been prepared and is included at **Attachment 1**. To achieve the objectives and intended outcomes, the PP proposes to amend the SLEP 2012 with the following types of amendments:

- Instrument only amendments;
- Instrument only amendments – Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage;
- Instrument and map amendments.
- Instrument and map amendments - Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage

a. Instrument only amendments

Instrument only amendments (Items 1–4 of the attached Planning Proposal) are amendments to the SLEP 2012 affecting the written instrument only, and do not affect any of the SLEP map sheets. These include:

- (i) *Amending the Land Use Table to the E4 General Industrial zone to include recreation facility (indoor) as a permitted use.*

**Justification**

The Greater Sydney Commission's A Metropolis That Works defines urban services as a wide range of industries that enable the city to develop and its businesses and residents to operate. This encompasses an eclectic landscape of panel beaters, home renovation services, glass makers, small-scale manufacturing companies, redistribution centres, kids indoor play zones, food preparation and catering facilities, repair workshops, gyms and the like.

The primary purpose of land in the E4 zone is to support industrial and warehousing land uses with non-industrial land uses such as retail being limited to meeting the daily needs of those businesses and workers. An objective of the E4 zone in Strathfield LEP 2012 is *to enable limited non-industrial land uses that provide facilities and services to meet the needs of businesses and workers*. The amendment is consistent with this objective.

The *Toolkit – Employment Zones Reform (November 2021)* prepared by the then Department of Planning, Industry and Environment identified that indoor recreation, including gymnasiums and play centres, in industrial areas may be suitable for the broader E4 General Industrial zone, if future applications can demonstrate compatibility with the dominant industrial character.

It is noted that recreation facility (indoor) is a permitted use in E4 zone in adjoining councils' LEPs (Canada Bay LEP, Inner West LEP 2022 (E4) and IN2 Light Industrial Zone in Canterbury-Bankstown LEP 2023).

The inclusion of recreation facility (indoor):

- Is consistent with the Department's consideration for land uses within the E4 zone
- Meets the existing objectives of the E4 zone by *enabling limited non-industrial land uses that provide facilities and services to meet the needs of businesses and workers*; and
- Is consistent with the permitted land uses in the E4 zones of the adjoining councils

Additional controls will be incorporated into the DCP to ensure that this use does not become a dominant use in the E4 zone.

- (ii) *Amending Clause 4.1 Minimum subdivision lot size to include a sub-clause that requires the exclusion of the calculation of the access handle for a battle axe block for the purposes of subdivision.*

**Justification**

This will correct a current anomaly between the Strathfield Consolidated Development Control Plan (DCP) 2005, which excludes the access handle in the lot size calculations. It is currently silent in the LEP.

The proposed amendment does not propose any changes to the minimum allotment size and aims to ensure that the subdivision of land does not result in an allotment that does not allow for the orderly development of the land.

The proposed amendment is also consistent with our neighbouring Councils LEPs (Canterbury Bankstown and Canada Bay) which exclude the access handle in site area calculation for the purposes of subdivision.

- (iii) Amending Clause 4.1A Minimum lot sizes for dual occupancies, multi dwelling housing and residential flat buildings to include a sub-clause that requires the exclusion of the calculation of the access handle for a battle axe block for the purposes of subdivision.*

#### Justification

This will correct a current anomaly between the Strathfield Consolidated Development Control Plan (DCP) 2005, which excludes the access handle in the lot size calculations. It is currently silent in the LEP and will be consistent with Clause 4.1

The proposed amendment does not propose any changes to the minimum allotment size for the relevant development types and aims to ensure that the minimum lots size for dual occupancy, multi-dwelling housing and residential flat buildings does not result in an allotment that does not allow for the orderly development of the land.

- (iv) Amending Schedule 2 Exempt development to remove the signage provisions which are now contained within State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008*

#### Justification

The exempt provisions for signage were added to the Codes SEPP in February 2012, which is after the SLEP 2012 was drafted. As the same provisions are now included in the Codes SEPP and the provisions in the SEPP override the LEP, it is proposed to delete these provisions to ensure clarity and reduce inconsistency.

#### **b. Instrument only amendments – Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage**

Instrument only amendments – Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage (Item 5 of the attached Planning Proposal) are amendments to the SLEP 2012 affecting the written instrument only, and do not affect any of the SLEP map sheets. These include:

- (v) Amending Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage – Part 1 Heritage items to update the item name from **Australian Catholic University, Strathfield Campus (includes former “Mount Royal”)**— various buildings and landscape to **Mount St Mary Campus of the Australian Catholic University and significance from local to State (Item No 192)***

#### Justification

Item 192 in Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage – Part 1 is proposed to be updated to be consistent with the State Heritage listing for the property. It is also proposed to amend the item’s significance from ‘local’ to ‘State’ consistent with the State Heritage Register.

No changes are proposed to the Heritage Map layer for this property.

**c. Instrument and map amendments.**

Instrument and map amendments (Item 6 & 7 of the attached Planning Proposal) are amendments to the SLEP 2012 affecting the map and written instrument. These amendments include:

- (vi) *Amend Clause 6.11 Terrestrial biodiversity by deleting subclause (2) that references land at 38–50 Weeroona Road, Strathfield, being Lot 1, DP 803688, and introduce a Terrestrial Biodiversity Map that identifies the key biodiversity areas identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030*

**Justification**

The *Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030* has been endorsed by Council and includes key biodiversity areas across the LGA.

Currently, Clause 6.11(2) includes reference to one (1) property, being land at 38–50 Weeroona Road, Strathfield, being Lot 1, DP 803688. As the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy identifies additional properties; to ensure that this provision reflects the recommendations of the Council endorsed Strategy, it is proposed to amend Clause 6.11(2) to remove the specific reference to land at 38-50 Weeroona Road, Strathfield and introduce a Terrestrial Biodiversity map, that maps the identified properties.

The proposed amendment to the Clause and the introduction of the Terrestrial Biodiversity map will ensure that high priority biodiversity areas in the LGA consistent with Council's Strategy are identified, preserved and protected. A draft Terrestrial Biodiversity Maps has been prepared and is shown in Figure 1 below.

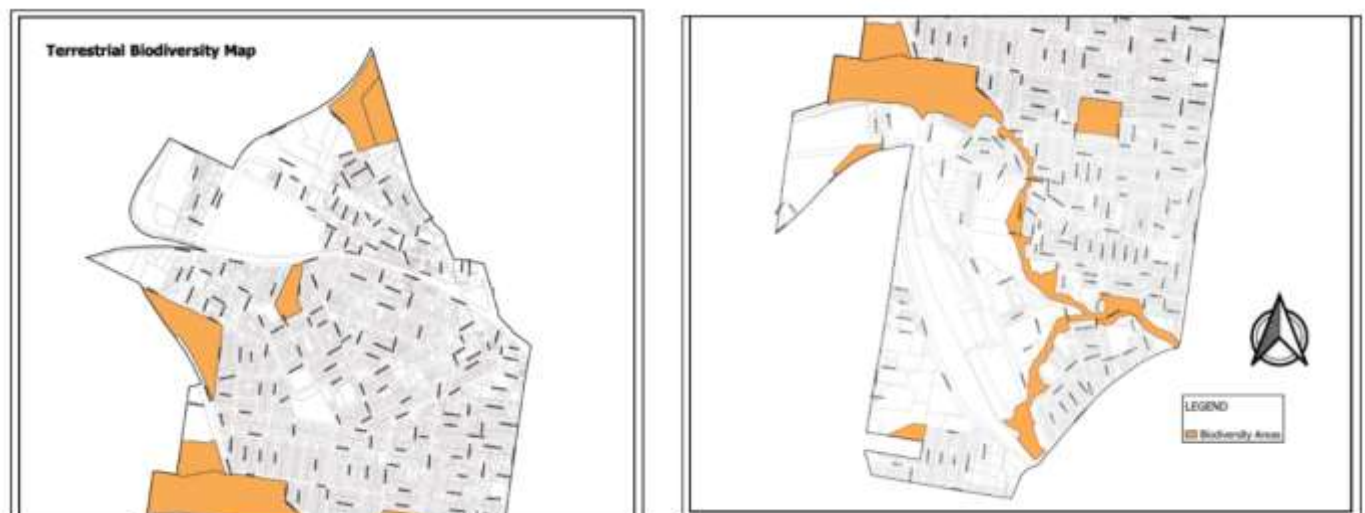


Figure 1: Proposed Terrestrial Biodiversity Mapping

- (vii) *Rezone identified Sydney Water sites to SP2 – Infrastructure to better recognise and reflect the existing and on-going permanent infrastructure use of the site*

### **Justification**

During the exhibition of the Strathfield 2040 - Local Strategic Planning Statement, Sydney Water made a submission requesting that infrastructure land within their ownership within the Strathfield LGA be rezoned to SP2 to better reflect their current and future use of the land, which is for water infrastructure. A copy of the Sydney Water submission is included at Attachment 2.

Council subsequently prepared a Planning Proposal for a comprehensive review of the Strathfield LEP 2012 titled Strathfield LEP 2021. This Planning Proposal proposed to rezone:

- Coronation Parade (Lot 7 DP 30405) and 75 Churchill Avenue (Lot 1 DP 959595) from R2 Low Density Residential to SP2 Infrastructure to better recognise and reflect their existing and on-going permanent infrastructure use; and
- Homebush Road to Rickard Road (Lots 1 to 4 DP 127839) and Fitzgerald Crescent, Strathfield (Lot 1 DP 745077, Lot 2 DP 745077 & Lot 2 DP 635485) from R2 Low Density Residential to RE1 Public Recreation to open up this vacant area for public use and provide a key east-west link pedestrian access, whilst **maintaining the site's primary use.**

The Gateway Determination was issued by DPHI on 29 April 2022, however as outlined above the Planning Proposal was not progressed and was withdrawn.

Prior to the preparation of this Planning Proposal, a meeting was held with the property arm of Sydney Water on 24 January 2024 to discuss the rezoning of their sites. At this meeting Sydney Water indicated that their preferred option for their sites currently is to retain the existing R2 Low Density Residential zone for the subject sites. The reason for this request is to retain the zone that will facilitate the highest and best use for these sites.

The current R2 zoning of the properties in Sydney Water ownership does not reflect the current and permanent use of the sites. It is proposed to rezone the sites identified in Table 1 below to SP2 – Infrastructure to better reflect the use of the land as water infrastructure as initially requested by Sydney Water.

The SP2 zone also clearly identifies that the land is used for infrastructure purposes, and this zoning provides transparency and clarity.

Consultation with Sydney Water (as owner of the land) will be required as part of any future public exhibition of the Planning Proposal and it is proposed that Sydney Water provide sufficient justification for an alternate rezoning of land that is currently used for water infrastructure.

Table 2 below identifies the Sydney Water sites and the existing zoning:



Subject Property	Location/Zoning Map															
Coronation Parade (Lot 7 DP 30405)	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Existing Zoning</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>LEGEND</b></p> <table><tr><td>Existing Zone</td><td>R2 Local Centre</td><td>R3 Medium Density Residential</td></tr><tr><td>R2 Low Density Residential</td><td>B4 Mixed Use</td><td>R31 Public Recreation</td></tr><tr><td>B1 Neighbourhood Centre</td><td>B6 Enterprise Corridor</td><td>R32 Private Recreation</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>B7 General Industrial</td><td>SPS Infrastructure</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>R3 Low Density Residential</td><td></td></tr></table>	Existing Zone	R2 Local Centre	R3 Medium Density Residential	R2 Low Density Residential	B4 Mixed Use	R31 Public Recreation	B1 Neighbourhood Centre	B6 Enterprise Corridor	R32 Private Recreation		B7 General Industrial	SPS Infrastructure		R3 Low Density Residential	
Existing Zone	R2 Local Centre	R3 Medium Density Residential														
R2 Low Density Residential	B4 Mixed Use	R31 Public Recreation														
B1 Neighbourhood Centre	B6 Enterprise Corridor	R32 Private Recreation														
	B7 General Industrial	SPS Infrastructure														
	R3 Low Density Residential															
75 Churchill Avenue (Lot 1 DP 959595)	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Existing Zoning</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>LEGEND</b></p> <table><tr><td>Existing Zone</td><td>R2 Local Centre</td><td>R3 Medium Density Residential</td></tr><tr><td>R2 Low Density Residential</td><td>B4 Mixed Use</td><td>R31 Public Recreation</td></tr><tr><td>B1 Neighbourhood Centre</td><td>B6 Enterprise Corridor</td><td>R32 Private Recreation</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>B7 General Industrial</td><td>SPS Infrastructure</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>R3 Low Density Residential</td><td></td></tr></table>	Existing Zone	R2 Local Centre	R3 Medium Density Residential	R2 Low Density Residential	B4 Mixed Use	R31 Public Recreation	B1 Neighbourhood Centre	B6 Enterprise Corridor	R32 Private Recreation		B7 General Industrial	SPS Infrastructure		R3 Low Density Residential	
Existing Zone	R2 Local Centre	R3 Medium Density Residential														
R2 Low Density Residential	B4 Mixed Use	R31 Public Recreation														
B1 Neighbourhood Centre	B6 Enterprise Corridor	R32 Private Recreation														
	B7 General Industrial	SPS Infrastructure														
	R3 Low Density Residential															

Subject Property	Location/Zoning Map															
Homebush Road to Rickard Road (Lots 1 to 4 DP 127839)	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Existing Zoning</b></p> <p><b>LEGEND</b></p> <table><tr><td>Existing Zone</td><td>R3-Local Centre</td><td>R3-Medium Density Residential</td></tr><tr><td>R2-Low Density Residential</td><td>B4-Mixed Use</td><td>RE1-Public Recreation</td></tr><tr><td>I2N</td><td>B5-Enterprise Corridor</td><td>RE2-Private Recreation</td></tr><tr><td>S1-Neighbourhood Centre</td><td>I1-General Industrial</td><td>SP2-Infrastructure</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>R2-Low Density Residential</td><td></td></tr></table>	Existing Zone	R3-Local Centre	R3-Medium Density Residential	R2-Low Density Residential	B4-Mixed Use	RE1-Public Recreation	I2N	B5-Enterprise Corridor	RE2-Private Recreation	S1-Neighbourhood Centre	I1-General Industrial	SP2-Infrastructure		R2-Low Density Residential	
Existing Zone		R3-Local Centre	R3-Medium Density Residential													
R2-Low Density Residential	B4-Mixed Use	RE1-Public Recreation														
I2N	B5-Enterprise Corridor	RE2-Private Recreation														
S1-Neighbourhood Centre	I1-General Industrial	SP2-Infrastructure														
	R2-Low Density Residential															
Fitzgerald Crescent, Strathfield (Lot 1 DP 745077, Lot 2 DP 745077 & Lot 2 DP 635485)																

Table 2: Sydney Water sites and existing zoning under Strathfield LEP 2012

## Instrument and map amendments – Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage

d. Instrument and map amendments – Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage

Instrument and map amendments – Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage (Item 8 of the attached Planning Proposal) are amendments to the SLEP 2012 affecting the map and written instrument associated with Schedule 5 - Environmental Heritage. This amendment includes:

- (viii) Amend Schedule 5 – Environmental Heritage – Part 2 Heritage Conservation Areas to expand HCA C3 to include Nos 57-59 and 61 Burlington Road, Homebush, rename HCA C3 from Pair of Federation Queen Anne style houses to Burlington Road Conservation Area and update the Heritage Conservation Area Map to reflect the changes*

### Justification

This proposal was part of the draft Planning Proposal for the preparation of a new Strathfield Local Environmental Plan Strathfield LEP 2021. The Department imposed a Gateway Condition requiring that further justification be provided for the proposed expansion of the existing HCA, as the proposed amendment was inconsistent with the recommendations of the Strathfield Heritage Review 2020.



Independent consultants, Heritage 21 were engaged by Strathfield Council to undertake the review of the expansion of HCA C3 and conduct a significance assessment for the properties located at 61 and 57-59 Burlington Road, Strathfield, as well as to provide advice regarding the inclusion of these properties in the C3 – *Pair of Federation Queen Anne Houses* HCA.



Figure 2: Existing Heritage Map – Strathfield LEP 2012 – HCA C3

Heritage 21 has undertaken an investigation in accordance with the Heritage Significance Assessment Guidelines (2001), Investigating Heritage Significance (2021), published by Heritage NSW or its precursor and make the following recommendations:

- The inclusion of 61 and 57-59 Burlington Road in the C3 HCA has merit and will strengthen the significance of the HCA forming a row and collection of early housing stock of aesthetic and historical significance within their respective garden settings
- **The name of the HCA be renamed to the 'Burlington Road Heritage Conservation Area' to reflect the change in quantity of dwellings and housing stock**

A copy of the report prepared by Heritage 21 is included at Attachment 3.

The Heritage Map is also proposed to be amended to reflect the change, as indicated in Figure 3 below.



Figure 3: Updated draft Heritage Map showing expanded HCA boundary for C3

Should these changes be supported by the DPHI, then an amendment will also need to be made to the DCP. These changes will be presented as a separate report to Council.

## ASSESSMENT OF THE PLANNING PROPOSAL

A detailed assessment and justification of the strategic and site-specific merit of the proposed housekeeping amendments has been undertaken to determine whether the Planning Proposal should be supported. The Planning Proposal provides a detailed assessment/justification in response to the 12 questions from the DPE's *Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline* dated September 2022 which outlines the matters for consideration when describing, evaluating and justifying a proposal.

The proposed amendments cover a range of instrument and mapping related matters which have been identified as administrative or housekeeping issues that need to be addressed to improve the operation of Strathfield LEP 2012 and to ensure that there is clarity with respect to the provisions.

The Planning Proposal is consistent with the endorsed LSPS and other strategic studies which have been undertaken by Council. It is also consistent with all relevant State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) and is not inconsistent with applicable Ministerial Directions (section 9.1 Directions).

A detailed assessment/justification is included in Section 5 of the draft Planning Proposal document, titled *Part 3 – Justification of Strategic and Site-Specific Merit*

## STRATHFIELD LOCAL PLANNING PANEL

The Planning Proposal was considered by the Strathfield Local Planning Panel (LPP) at its meeting on 10 October 2024. The LPP has reviewed the Planning Proposal and supports the recommended amendments to Strathfield LEP.

Accordingly, the Panel's advice to Council is to proceed to seek Gateway Determination.

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Should the Planning Proposal be supported, it will be forwarded to the delegate of the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces requesting a Gateway Determination.

If a Gateway Determination is issued, it is intended to exhibit the Planning Proposal for a period of 28 days or as specified in the Gateway Determination.

Exhibition material, including plain English explanatory information, fact sheets, description of the objectives and intended outcomes, copy of the Planning Proposal and relevant maps will be available for viewing during the exhibition period on Council's website. Hard copies will also be available at Council offices and library for public viewing.

Notification of the public exhibition will be through:

- Exhibition notice on Council's website,
- Notices in Council offices and libraries,
- Community engagement project on Council's Have Your Say website,
- Council's social media platforms,
- Letters to State and Commonwealth Government agencies identified in the Gateway Determination, and
- Letters to property owners directly impacted by a proposed change in the LEP.

Consultation will also be undertaken with any relevant public authorities/organisations as conditioned by the Gateway Determination. It is also proposed to specifically consult with Sydney Water and Heritage NSW with respect to the provisions relevant to these authorities.

The project timeframe will depend on the Gateway Determination date and the required public exhibition period. Table 3 below provides an indicative project timeline based on the Gateway Determination being issued by the end of 2024:

**Table 3: Project Timeline**

Stage	Timeframe/date
Consideration by the Strathfield LPP	10 October 2024
Report to Council seeking endorsement to forward the PP for a Gateway Determination	22 October 2024
Gateway Determination	December 2024/January 2025
Pre-exhibition tasks eg complete technically compliant mapping	November/December 2024

Stage	Timeframe/date
Commencement and completion of public exhibition	February/March 2025
Consideration of submissions	March 2025
Post-exhibition review and additional studies	March/April 2025
Report to Council on the results of the community consultation and finalisation of the PP	May 2025
Submission to the Department for finalisation	May 2025
Gazettal of LEP amendment	June/July 2025

It is noted that the project timeline will be assessed by the DPHI and may be amended by the Gateway Determination.

## CONCLUSION

The Planning Proposal seeks to amend the SLEP 2012 via a number of instrument and mapping amendments to respond to a range of administrative and housekeeping issues to the instrument and accompanying mapping consistent with Council's resolution of 14 November 2023.

The Planning Proposal meets both the strategic and site-specific merit tests that are outlined in the Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline dated September 2022.

In terms of Strategic Merit, the Planning Proposal:

- a. Gives effect to the objectives within the Greater Sydney Region Plan – A Metropolis of Three Cities.
- b. Gives effect to the relevant planning priorities of the Eastern City District Plan.
- c. Is consistent with the relevant planning priorities of the endorsed Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040.

The Planning Proposal is not inconsistent with the relevant Section 9.1 Ministerial Directions.

If the Planning Proposal is endorsed by Council, it will be forwarded to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces for a Gateway Determination under Section 3.34 of the EP&A Act.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. [Draft Planning Proposal - Housekeeping Amendment - Council](#)
2. [Letter from Sydney Water - Request for SP2 Zone](#)
3. [Heritage 21 - Final Report for C3 Burlington Road HCA](#)

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

# Planning Proposal Report

Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 –  
Housekeeping Amendments 2024  
(PP2024/02)

October 2024



DRAFT

Strathfield Council respectfully acknowledges the Wangal people who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we live, work and play. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.



## Contents

1. Introduction .....	4
2. Background .....	5
3. Objectives and Intended Outcomes .....	7
4. Part 2 – Explanation of Provisions .....	9
5. Part 3 – Justification of Strategic and Site-Specific Merit .....	22
6. Maps .....	34
7. Community Consultation .....	35
APPENDIX 1 – Report & Minutes of Council Meeting dated 13 August 2024 .....	37
APPENDIX 2 – Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030 .....	38
APPENDIX 3 – Letter from Sydney Water .....	39
APPENDIX 4 – Independent Report by Heritage 21 .....	40

## 1. Introduction

This Planning Proposal has been prepared in accordance with Section 3.33 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act), its Regulation 2021 and the Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline (August 2023) released by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

The purpose of this Planning Proposal is to amend the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 (SLEP 2012) to respond to a range of administrative and housekeeping issues to the instrument and accompanying mapping which were identified as part of a previous Planning Proposal, which was subsequently withdrawn by Council.

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## 2. Background

In 2021, Council lodged a draft Planning Proposal with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) for the preparation of a new Strathfield Local Environmental Plan (Strathfield LEP 2021). The draft Planning Proposal included a long list of items for consideration.

On 29 April 2022, DPE issued a Gateway Determination which identified an extensive list of matters that should not be progressed, or required significant, additional work.

On 4 April 2023, Council resolved to withdraw the Comprehensive LEP 2021 Planning Proposal (PP-2021-3803). Council also resolved that it:

*Be provided with a briefing, at a Councillor Workshop, to confirm next steps for progressing key components contained within the draft Local Environmental Plan 2021, in a new Planning Proposal to amend the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012.*

On 6 April 2023, a letter was sent to the DPE requesting the formal withdrawal of the Planning Proposal. The reasons for withdrawal can be broadly summarised as follows:

1. More evidence base needed
2. Non-compliances with Ministerial Direction requirements

On 24 October 2023, a Councillor Workshop was held to brief the Councillors on a way forward to progress several amendments to the Strathfield LEP.

On 14 November 2023, Council considered a report that outlined several amendments to the Strathfield LEP 2012 that could be progressed as a Housekeeping Amendment following the withdrawal of the Comprehensive LEP 2021 Planning Proposal (PP-2021-3803).

In this regard, Council resolved in part the following (289/23):

*That:*

1. *In accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, Council endorse the preparation of a draft Planning Proposal to amend the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 in relation to the following eight (8) items:*
  - a) *Exclusion of access handles when calculating site area for battle-axe lot or any lot with an access handle for the purposes of minimum subdivision lot size*
  - b) *Introduction of 'Creative Industries' as Permitted with Consent in E4 General Industrial Zone. (N.B. Creative Industries are a type of Light Industry)*
  - c) *Removal of signage from Schedule 2 – Exempt Development*
  - d) *Terrestrial Biodiversity – remove specific land mentioned in LEP Clause and reference new Terrestrial Biodiversity Map/s*
  - e) *Amend Schedule 5 as follows:*
    - Part 1 – Add existing State Heritage Items*
    - Part 2 – Expand the Burlington Road Heritage Conservation Areas*

- f) Rezoning selected Sydney Water lands from R2 Low Density Residential to SP2 Infrastructure and RE1 Public Recreation*
  - g) Introduction of 'Recreation Facility (indoor)' as Permitted with Consent in the E4 General Industrial zones*
  - h) Editorial and mapping updates to remove / update references to old legislation and update all mapping*
2. *The draft Planning Proposal be reported to a future Council Meeting to obtain approval to lodge it with the Department of Planning and Environment to seek a Gateway Determination.*

A copy of the Council report is included at Appendix 1.

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### 3. Objectives and Intended Outcomes

#### Objective

The objective of the Planning Proposal is to amend Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 to improve its operation and accuracy by correcting identified anomalies and inconsistencies to existing provisions and maps, updating property descriptions and expanding permissibility

Specifically, the Planning Proposal seeks to

- improve SLEP 2012 operation and accuracy by correcting identified anomalies and inconsistencies to existing provisions and maps,
- implement the outcomes of Council's endorsed Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030,
- respond to a request by Sydney Water to rezone existing Sydney Water infrastructure from R2 Low Density Residential to SP2 to better reflect their current and future use of the land.
- expand the permitted uses in the E4 General Industrial zone to enable limited non-industrial land uses that provide facilities and services to meet the needs of businesses and workers, consistent with the objectives of the zone
- ensure that heritage items and significant properties are correctly identified and protected.

#### Intended Outcomes

- (i) Amend *Clause 4.1 – Minimum subdivision lot size* to include a sub-clause that clarifies the exclusion of the calculation of the access handle for a battle axe block for the purposes of subdivision
- (ii) Amend *Clause 4.1A Minimum lot size for dual occupancies, multi dwelling housing and residential flat buildings* to include a sub-clause that clarifies the exclusion of the calculation of the access handle for a battle axe block for the purposes of subdivision (so as to ensure consistency)
- (iii) Amend *Schedule 2 Exempt development* to remove the signage provisions
- (iv) Amend *Clause 6.11 Terrestrial biodiversity* by deleting subclause (2) that references land at 38–50 Weeroona Road, Strathfield, being Lot 1, DP 803688, and introduce a Terrestrial Biodiversity Map that identifies the key biodiversity areas identified in the *Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030*
- (v) Amend *Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage – Part 1 Heritage items* to:
  - o update the item name from Australian Catholic University, Strathfield Campus (includes former “Mount Royal”)—various buildings and landscape to Mount St Mary Campus of the Australian Catholic University and significance from local to State
- (vi) Amend *Schedule 5 – Environmental Heritage – Part 2 Heritage Conservation Areas* to:

- Expand the HCA C3 to include Nos 57-59 and 61 Burlington Road, Homebush and rename HCA C3 from *Pair of Federation Queen Anne style houses* to *Burlington Road Conservation Area*. The Heritage Conservation Area Map is to be updated to reflect the change
- (vii) Rezone in accordance with the request from Sydney Water land in its ownership and control from R2 Low Density Residential to SP2 Infrastructure.
- (viii) Amend the Land Use Table to the E4 General Industrial zone to include *recreation facility (indoor)* as a permitted use

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## 4. Part 2 – Explanation of Provisions

To achieve the objectives and intended outcomes, the PP proposes to amend the SLEP 2012 via a number of instrument and mapping amendments as explained in the following sections.

Explanatory Note: The drafting of the instrument is subject to the legal drafting process by Parliamentary Counsel.

### Instrument only amendments

Items 1–4 are amendments to the SLEP 2012 affecting the written instrument only, and do not affect any of the SLEP map sheets. The proposed housekeeping amendments are explained below with proposed changes identified in red.

*Item 1 – Amendment to the Land Use Table to the E4 General Industrial zone to include recreation facility (indoor) as a permitted use. (refer to Intended Outcome (viii) above)*

### **Proposed Amendment – Land Use Table – E4 General Industrial**

#### **3 Permitted with consent**

*Agricultural produce industries; Animal boarding or training establishments; Boat building and repair facilities; Car parks; Depots; Environmental protection works; Freight transport facilities; Garden centres; General industries; Goods repair and reuse premises; Hardware and building supplies; Industrial retail outlets; Industrial training facilities; Kiosks; Landscaping material supplies; Light industries; Local distribution premises; Neighbourhood shops; Oyster aquaculture; Places of public worship; Plant nurseries; Recreation areas; **Recreation facility (indoor)**; Research stations; Roads; Sex services premises; Signage; Storage premises; Take away food and drink premises; Tank-based aquaculture; Timber yards; Transport depots; Truck depots; Vehicle body repair workshops; Vehicle repair stations; Veterinary hospitals; Warehouse or distribution centres; Wholesale supplies*

### Justification

The Greater Sydney Commission's A Metropolis That Works defines urban services as a wide range of industries that enable the city to develop and its businesses and residents to operate. This encompasses an eclectic landscape of panel beaters, home renovation services, glass makers, small-scale manufacturing companies, redistribution centres, kids indoor play zones, food preparation and catering facilities, repair workshops, gyms and the like.

The primary purpose of land in the E4 zone is to support industrial and warehousing land uses with non-industrial land uses such as retail being limited to meeting the daily needs of businesses and workers. An objective of the E4 zone in Strathfield LEP 2012 is *to enable limited non-industrial land uses that provide facilities and services to meet the needs of businesses and workers*. The amendment

is consistent with this objective.

The *Toolkit – Employment Zones Reform (November 2021)* prepared by the then Department of Planning, Industry and Environment identified that indoor recreation, including gymnasiums and play centres, in industrial areas may be suitable for the broader E4 General Industrial zone, if future applications can demonstrate compatibility with the dominant industrial character.

The inclusion of recreation facility It is noted that recreation facility (indoor) is a permitted use in E4 zone in adjoining councils' LEPs (Canada Bay LEP, Inner West LEP 2022 (E4) and IN2 Light Industrial Zone in Canterbury-Bankstown LEP 2023).

The inclusion of recreation facility (indoor):

- Is consistent with the Department's consideration for land uses within the E4 zone
- Meets the existing objectives of the E4 zone by *enabling limited non-industrial land uses that provide facilities and services to meet the needs of businesses and workers;* and
- Is consistent with the permitted land uses in the E4 zones of the adjoining councils

Additional controls will be incorporated into the DCP to ensure that this use does not become a dominant use in the E4 zone

*Item 2- Amendment to Clause 4.1 Minimum subdivision lot size to include a sub-clause that requires the exclusion of the calculation of the access handle for a battle axe block for the purposes of subdivision. (refer to Intended Outcome (i) above)*

#### **4.1 Minimum subdivision lot size**

*(1) The objectives of this clause are as follows—*

*(a) to promote consistent subdivision and development patterns that reflect and reinforce the predominant subdivision pattern of the area,*

*(b) to ensure a variety of lot sizes are maintained of sufficient size and shape to accommodate a variety of development types,*

*(c) to preserve large industrial lots in order to provide a range of large-scale sites suitable for industrial activities that require integrated and large floorplates.*

*(2) This clause applies to a subdivision of any land shown on the [Lot Size Map](#) that requires development consent and that is carried out after the commencement of this Plan.*

*(3) The size of any lot resulting from a subdivision of land to which this clause applies is not to be less than the minimum size shown on the [Lot Size Map](#) in relation to that land.*

*(3A) If a lot is a battle-axe lot or other lot with an access handle, the area of the access handle and any right of carriageway is not to be included in calculating the lot size for the purposes of subclause (3).*

*(4) This clause does not apply in relation to the subdivision of any land—*

*(a) by the registration of a strata plan or strata plan of subdivision under the [Strata Schemes Development Act 2015](#), or*

(b) by any kind of subdivision under the [Community Land Development Act 2021](#).

#### Justification

This will correct a current anomaly between the Strathfield Consolidated Development Control Plan (DCP) 2005, which excludes the access handle in the lot size calculations. It is currently silent in the LEP.

The proposed amendment does not propose any changes to the minimum allotment size and aims to ensure that the subdivision of land does not result in an allotment that does not allow for the orderly development of the land.

The proposed amendment is also consistent with our neighbouring Councils LEPs (Canterbury Bankstown and Canada Bay) which exclude the access handle in site area calculation for the purposes of subdivision.

*Item 3- Amending Clause 4.1A Minimum lot sizes for dual occupancies, multi dwelling housing and residential flat buildings to include a sub-clause that requires the exclusion of the calculation of the access handle for a battles axe block for the purposes of subdivision. (refer to Intended Outcome (ii) above)*

#### **4.1A Minimum lot sizes for dual occupancies, multi dwelling housing and residential flat buildings**

*(1) The objective of this clause is to achieve planned residential density in certain zones.*

*(2) Development consent may be granted to development on a lot in a zone shown in Column 2 of the Table to this clause for a purpose shown in Column 1 of the Table opposite that zone, only if the area of the lot is equal to or greater than the area specified for that purpose and shown opposite in Column 3 of the Table.*

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>	<i>Column 3</i>
<i>Dual occupancy</i>	<i>Zone R3 Medium Density Residential</i>	<i>560 square metres</i>
<i>Multi dwelling housing</i>	<i>Zone R3 Medium Density Residential or Zone R4 High Density Residential</i>	<i>1,000 square metres</i>
<i>Residential flat building</i>	<i>Zone R3 Medium Density Residential, Zone R4 High Density Residential, Zone E1 Local Centre, Zone E2 Commercial Centre or Zone MU1 Mixed Use</i>	<i>1,000 square metres</i>

*(3) If a lot is a battle-axe lot or other lot with an access handle, the area of the access handle and any right of carriageway is not to be included in calculating the lot size for the purposes of subclause (2).*

#### Justification

This will correct a current anomaly between the Strathfield Consolidated Development Control Plan (DCP) 2005, which excludes the access handle in the lot size calculations. It is currently silent in the LEP and will be consistent with Clause 4.1

The proposed amendment does not propose any changes to the minimum allotment size for the relevant development types and aims to ensure that the minimum lots size for dual occupancy, multi-dwelling housing and residential flat buildings does not result in an allotment that does not allow for the orderly development of the land.

*Item 4 - Amend Schedule 2 Exempt development to remove the signage provisions (refer to Intended Outcome (iii) above)*

#### *Schedule 2 Exempt development*

*(Clause 3.1)*

##### *Note 1—*

*State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 specifies exempt development under that Policy. The Policy has State-wide application. This Schedule contains additional exempt development not specified in that Policy.*

##### *Note 2—*

*Exempt development may be carried out without the need for development consent under the Act. Such development is not exempt from any approval, licence, permit or authority that is required under any other Act and adjoining owners' property rights and the common law still apply.*

##### *Signage—general requirements*

*(1) Must not cover mechanical ventilation inlet or outlet vents.*

*(2) Must relate to an approved use carried out on the land.*

*(3) If containing red, amber, green or blue lighting—must not obstruct, or be able to be confused with, traffic control signals.*

##### *Signage—business identification signs in Zones E1, E2, E3 and MUI*

*(1) Must meet the general requirements for signage.*

*(2) Must not be on a heritage item or in a heritage conservation area.*

*(3) Maximum—1 sign per premises.*

##### *(4) Flush/painted wall signs*

*(a) Maximum area—2.5m<sup>2</sup>.*

*(b) Must not project above the top of the wall to which it is attached.*

##### *(5) Premises with no awning*

*(a) Maximum height—3m above ground level on front or side walls.*

*(b) Maximum area of display—2.5m<sup>2</sup>.*

##### *(6) Suspended under awning signs*



*(a) Maximum 2.5m in length and 1.5m<sup>2</sup> in area.*

*(b) If extending over a public footpath—must be suspended at least 2.6m above pavement level and at least 600mm from kerb edge.*

*(7) Top hamper signs*

*(a) Maximum area—2.5m<sup>2</sup>.*

*(b) Must not extend below the level of the head of the doorway or window.*

*(c) Must not extend more than 3.7m above natural ground level.*

*(8) Vertical or horizontal projecting wall signs*

*(a) Maximum area—2.5m<sup>2</sup>.*

*(b) If extending over a public footpath—must be suspended at least 2.6m above pavement level and at least 600mm from kerb edge.*

*Signage—business identification signs in Zone E4*

*(1) Must meet the general requirements for signage.*

*(2) Must not be on a heritage item or in a heritage conservation area.*

*(3) Maximum area for multiple and single occupancy premises—1m<sup>2</sup>.*

*(4) Maximum—1 sign per premises.*

*Signage—business identification signs (residential zones)*

*(1) Must meet the general requirements for signage.*

*(2) Must not be on a heritage item or in a heritage conservation area.*

*(3) Must only contain the name and occupation of the resident.*

*(4) Maximum—1 sign per premises.*

*(5) Must be located on the premises to which the sign relates.*

*(6) Maximum area—0.75m<sup>2</sup>.*

*Signage—business identification signs (Sydney Markets)*

*Must not be visible from external locations (eg surrounding streets and railway).*

*Signage—painted wall signs or flush wall signs*

*(1) Must meet the general requirements for signage.*

*(2) Must be located below the level of the awning.*

*(3) Maximum area—2.5m<sup>2</sup>.*

*Signage—real estate signs (residential, employment and mixed use zones)*

*(1) Must advertise that the premises on which it is displayed is for sale, auction or lease.*

~~(2) Must be wholly on the site or flush against the boundary.~~

~~(3) Maximum—1 sign per premises.~~

~~(4) Must be removed within 7 days of sale, lease or auction date.~~

~~(5) May be statically illuminated only by back projection by solar power.~~

~~(6) Maximum area for residential zones—2.5m<sup>2</sup>.~~

~~(7) Maximum area for business and industrial zones—3.5m<sup>2</sup>.~~

#### ~~Signage—window signs~~

~~(1) Must be located behind, painted on or consisting of letters stuck on the front glass of a shop, business or industry that is ancillary to a use of the premises for which development consent is, or has been, granted if it is required.~~

~~(2) Must not occupy more than 25% of the area of the window.~~

#### Justification

The exempt provisions for signage were added to the Codes SEPP in February 2012, which is after the SLEP 2012 was drafted. As the same provisions are now included in the Codes SEPP and the provisions in the SEPP override the LEP, it is proposed to delete these provisions to ensure clarity and reduce inconsistency.

#### Instrument only amendments – Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage

Instrument only amendments – Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage are amendments to the SLEP 2012 affecting the written instrument only, and do not affect any of the SLEP map sheets.

*Item 5 - Amending Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage – Part 1 Heritage items for Item I92 to update the item name from Australian Catholic University, Strathfield Campus (includes former “Mount Royal”)—various buildings and landscape to Mount St Mary Campus of the Australian Catholic University and significance from local to State (Item No I92) (refer to Intended Outcome (v) above)*

Strathfield	<del>Australian Catholic University, Strathfield Campus</del> (includes former “Mount Royal”)— various buildings and landscape	25A Barker Road (formerly 179 Albert Road)	Lot 11, DP 869042	<del>Local</del> State	I92
	Mount St Mary Campus of the Australian Catholic University				

### Justification

Item 192 in Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage – Part 1 is proposed to be updated to be consistent with the State Heritage listing for the property. It is also proposed to amend the item's significance from 'local' to 'State' consistent with the State Heritage Register.

### Instrument and map amendments.

*Item 6 - Amend Clause 6.11 Terrestrial biodiversity by deleting subclause (2) that references land at 38–50 Weeroona Road, Strathfield, being Lot 1, DP 803688, and introduce a Terrestrial Biodiversity Map that identifies the key biodiversity areas identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030 (refer to Intended Outcome (iv) above)*

### **6.11 Terrestrial biodiversity**

(1) *The objective of this clause is to maintain terrestrial biodiversity by—*

- (a) *protecting native fauna and flora, and*
- (b) *protecting the ecological processes necessary for their continued existence, and*
- (c) *encouraging the conservation and recovery of native fauna and flora and their habitats.*

~~(2) *This clause applies to land at 38–50 Weeroona Road, Strathfield, being Lot 1, DP 803688.*~~

*(2) This clause applies to land identified as "Biodiversity" on the [Terrestrial Biodiversity Map](#).*

(3) *In deciding whether to grant development consent for development on land to which this clause applies, the consent authority must consider—*

- (a) *whether the development is likely to have—*
  - (i) *any adverse impact on the condition, ecological value and significance of the fauna and flora on the land, and*
  - (ii) *any adverse impact on the importance of the vegetation on the land to the habitat and survival of native fauna, and*
  - (iii) *any potential to fragment, disturb or diminish the biodiversity structure, function and composition of the land, and*
  - (iv) *any adverse impact on the habitat elements providing connectivity on the land, and*
- (b) *any appropriate measures proposed to avoid, minimise or mitigate the impacts of the development.*

(4) *Development consent must not be granted to development on land to which this clause applies unless the consent authority is satisfied that—*

- (a) *the development is designed, sited and will be managed to avoid any significant adverse environmental impact, or*
- (b) *if that impact cannot be reasonably avoided by adopting feasible alternatives—the development is designed, sited and will be managed to minimise that impact, or*
- (c) *if that impact cannot be minimised—the development will be managed to mitigate that*

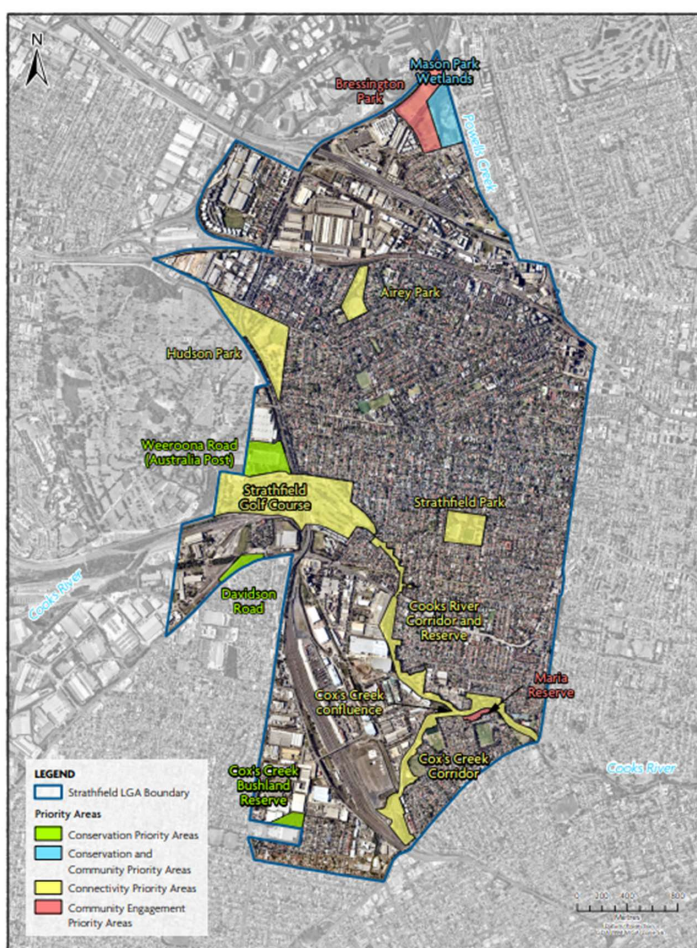
impact.

### Justification

The *Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030* (the Strategy) has been endorsed by Council and includes key biodiversity areas across the LGA. The Strategy ensures that Council prioritises its biodiversity management approach whilst remaining considerate of the environmental, social and economic outcomes for the community. Strathfield LEP should also reflect these outcomes. A copy of the Strategy is included at Appendix 2.

Currently, Clause 6.11(2) includes reference to one (1) property, being land at 38–50 Weeroona Road, Strathfield, being Lot 1, DP 803688.

The Strategy identifies additional properties, as identified in Figure 1 below.



**Figure 1:** Priority biodiversity areas in Strathfield LGA (Source: Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030)

In order to ensure that this provision reflects the recommendations of the Council endorsed Strategy, it is proposed to amend Clause 6.11(2) to remove the specific reference to land at 38-50 Weeroona Road, Strathfield and introduce a Terrestrial Biodiversity map, that maps the identified properties.

The proposed amendment to the Clause and the introduction of the Terrestrial Biodiversity map (refer to Figure 2 below) will ensure that high priority biodiversity areas in the LGA consistent with Council's Strategy are identified, preserved and protected

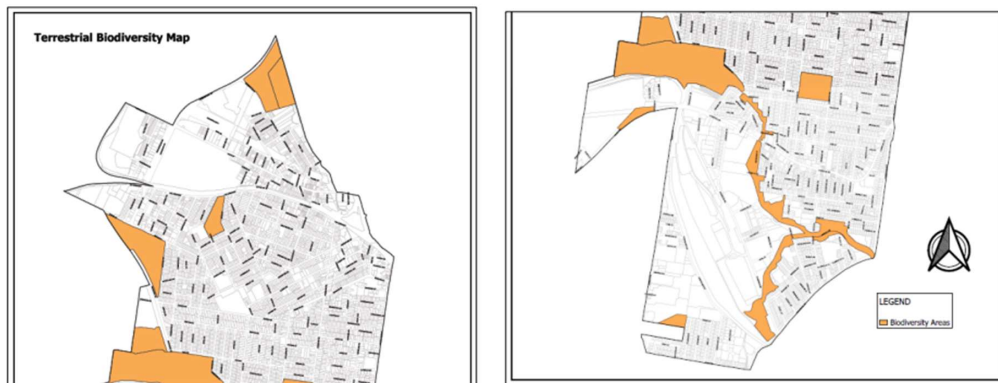


Figure 2: Proposed Terrestrial Biodiversity Map to be incorporated into Strathfield LEP 2012

*Item 7 – Rezone identified Sydney Water sites to SP2 – Infrastructure to better recognise and reflect the existing and on-going permanent infrastructure use of the site (refer to Intended Outcome (vii))*

During the exhibition of the Strathfield 2040 - Local Strategic Planning Statement, Sydney Water made a submission requesting that infrastructure land within their ownership within the Strathfield LGA be rezoned to SP2 to better reflect their current and future use of the land, which is for water infrastructure. A copy of the Sydney Water submission is included at Appendix 3.

Council subsequently prepared a Planning Proposal for a comprehensive review of the Strathfield LEP 2012 titled Strathfield LEP 2021. This Planning Proposal proposed to rezone:

- Coronation Parade (Lot 7 DP 30405) and 75 Churchill Avenue (Lot 1 DP 959595) from R2 Low Density Residential to SP2 Infrastructure to better recognise and reflect their existing and on-going permanent infrastructure use; and
- Homebush Road to Rickard Road (Lots 1 to 4 DP 127839) and Fitzgerald Crescent, Strathfield (Lot 1 DP 745077, Lot 2 DP 745077 & Lot 2 DP 635485) from R2 Low Density Residential to RE1 Public Recreation to open up this vacant area for public use and provide a key east-west link pedestrian access, whilst maintaining the site's primary use.

The Gateway Determination was issued by DPHI on 29 April 2022, however as outlined above the Planning Proposal was not progressed and was withdrawn.

Prior to the preparation of this Planning Proposal, a meeting was held with the property arm of Sydney Water on 24 January 2024 to discuss the rezoning of their sites. At this meeting Sydney Water


indicated that their preferred option for their sites currently is to retain the existing R2 Low Density Residential zone for the subject sites. The reason for this is to retain the zone that will facilitate the highest and best use for these sites.

The current R2 zoning of the properties in Sydney Water ownership does not reflect the current and permanent use of the sites. It is proposed to rezone the sites identified in Table 1 below to SP2 – Infrastructure to better reflect the use of the land as water infrastructure as initially requested by Sydney Water.

The SP2 zone also clearly identifies that the land is used for infrastructure purposes, and this zoning provides transparency and clarity.

Consultation with Sydney Water (as owner of the land) will be required as part of any future public exhibition of the Planning Proposal and it is proposed that Sydney Water provide sufficient justification for an alternate rezoning of land that is currently used for water infrastructure.

Table 1 below identifies the Sydney Water sites and the existing zoning:

Subject Property	Location/Zoning Map
Coronation Parade (Lot 7 DP 30405)	<p>Existing Zoning</p>  <p> <b>LEGEND</b>  <b>Existing Zone:</b>  <span style="color: red;">■</span> R2-Low Density Residential  <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> SP2-Infrastructure  <span style="color: green;">■</span> RE1-Public Recreation  <span style="color: blue;">■</span> B1-Neighborhood Centre  <span style="color: cyan;">■</span> B2-Local Centre  <span style="color: purple;">■</span> B4-Mixed Use  <span style="color: brown;">■</span> B6-Enterprise Corridor  <span style="color: pink;">■</span> B7-General Industrial  <span style="color: orange;">■</span> R3-Medium Density Residential  <span style="color: lightgreen;">■</span> R4-Private Recreation         </p>



75 Churchill Avenue (Lot 1 DP 959595)

Existing Zoning

A map of the area around 75 Churchill Avenue. The site is highlighted in red. The surrounding area is mostly pink, indicating R2-Low Density Residential zoning. There are some other zoning types visible, such as B2-Local Centre (light blue) and B4-Mixed Use (light purple).

LEGEND

Existing Zone	B2-Local Centre	R3-Medium Density Residential
R2-Low Density Residential	B4-Mixed Use	RE1-Public Recreation
LZN	B6-Enterprise Corridor	RE2-Private Recreation
B1-Neighbourhood Centre	IN1-General Industrial	SP2-Infrastructure
	R2-Low Density Residential	

Homebush Road to Rickard Road (Lots 1 to 4 DP 127839)

Fitzgerald Crescent, Strathfield (Lot 1 DP 745077, Lot 2 DP 745077 & Lot 2 DP 635485)

Existing Zoning

A map of the area around Homebush Road to Rickard Road and Fitzgerald Crescent, Strathfield. The sites are highlighted in red. The map shows a mix of zoning types including R2-Low Density Residential (pink), R3-Medium Density Residential (light pink), RE1-Public Recreation (green), RE2-Private Recreation (light green), B1-Neighbourhood Centre (light blue), B2-Local Centre (light blue), B4-Mixed Use (light purple), B6-Enterprise Corridor (light purple), IN1-General Industrial (light purple), and SP2-Infrastructure (yellow). The map also shows various streets and landmarks like Freshwater Park and Strathfield Park.

LEGEND

Existing Zone	B2-Local Centre	R3-Medium Density Residential
R2-Low Density Residential	B4-Mixed Use	RE1-Public Recreation
LZN	B6-Enterprise Corridor	RE2-Private Recreation
B1-Neighbourhood Centre	IN1-General Industrial	SP2-Infrastructure
	R2-Low Density Residential	

Table 1: Sydney Water sites and existing zoning under Strathfield LEP 2012

### Instrument and map amendments – Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage

*Item 8 - Amend Schedule 5 – Environmental Heritage – Part 2 Heritage Conservation Areas to expand HCA C3 to include Nos 57-59 and 61 Burlington Road, Homebush, rename HCA C3 from Pair of Federation Queen Anne style houses to Burlington Road Conservation Area and update the Heritage Conservation Area Map to reflect the changes (refer to Intended Outcome (vi))*

### Justification

This proposal was part of the draft Planning Proposal for the preparation of a new Strathfield Local Environmental Plan Strathfield LEP 2021. The Department imposed a Gateway Condition requiring that further justification be provided for the proposed expansion of the existing HCA, as the proposed amendment was inconsistent with the recommendations of the Strathfield Heritage Review 2020.

External consultants, Heritage 21 were engaged by Strathfield Council to undertake the review of the expansion of HCA C3 and conduct a significance assessment for the properties located at 61 and 57-59 Burlington Road, Strathfield, as well as to provide advice regarding the inclusion of these properties in the C3 – Pair of Federation Queen Anne Houses HCA.

Heritage 21 has undertaken an investigation in accordance with the Heritage Significance Assessment Guidelines (2001), Investigating Heritage Significance (2021, published by Heritage NSW or its precursor and make the following recommendations:

- The inclusion of 61 and 57-59 Burlington Road in the C3 HCA has merit and will strengthen the significance of the HCA forming a row and collection of early housing stock of aesthetic and historical significance within their respective garden settings
- The name of the HCA be renamed to the 'Burlington Road Heritage Conservation Area' to reflect the change in quantity of dwellings and housing stock

A copy of the report prepared by Heritage 21 is included at Appendix 4.

The Heritage Map is also proposed to be amended to reflect the change as outlined in Figure 3 below



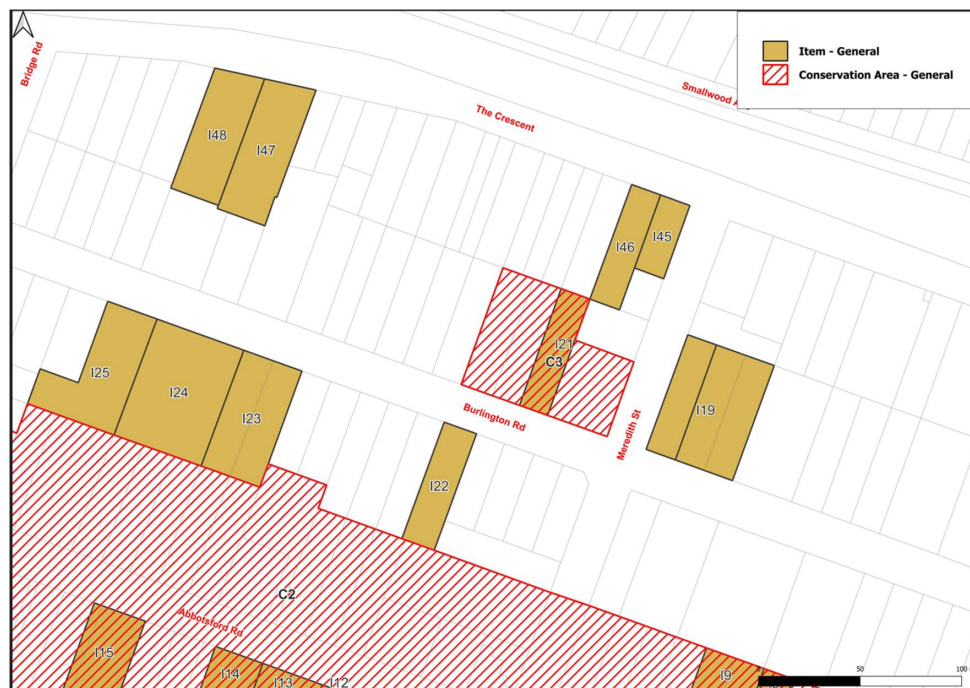


Figure 3: Updated draft Heritage Map showing expanded HCA boundary for C3

Should these changes be supported by the DPHI, then an amendment will also need to be made to the DCP. These changes will be presented as a separate report to Council.

## 5. Part 3 – Justification of Strategic and Site-Specific Merit

Table 2: Section A – Need for the Planning Proposal

Question	Considerations
1. Is the planning proposal a result of an endorsed LSPS, strategic study or report?	<p>The proposed amendments cover a range of instrument and mapping related matters which have been identified as administrative or housekeeping issues that need to be addressed to improve the operation of SLEP and to ensure that there is clarity with respect to the provisions</p> <p>The PP is consistent with the endorsed LSPS and other strategic studies which have been undertaken by Council.</p>
2. Is the planning proposal the best means of achieving the objectives or intended outcomes, or is there a better way?	Yes, the PP is the best and only means of addressing the administrative and housekeeping related matters that have been identified within the SLEP 2012.

Table 3: Section B – Relationship to the strategic planning framework

Question	Considerations
3. Will the planning proposal give effect to the objectives and actions of the applicable regional or district plan or strategy (including any exhibited draft plans or strategies)?	<p>Yes. The PP gives effect to the following objectives within the Greater Sydney Region Plan – A Metropolis of Three Cities and planning priorities in the Eastern City District Plan:</p> <p><i>Objective 1. Infrastructure supports the three cities.</i>  <i>Planning Priority E1: Planning for a city supported by infrastructure.</i></p> <p>Noting the recent discussions with Sydney Water and their verbal request to retain the zoning of the land as R2 Low Density Residential, the PP gives effect to this objective by zoning existing Sydney Water infrastructure SP2 to better reflect the current and future use of the land, which is water infrastructure. It also ensures that the land is retained for use as important infrastructure. Should the subject sites become redundant to Sydney Water's needs then a separate rezoning process can be undertaken. The SP2 zoning also provides certainty for the community that the land is currently being utilised for infrastructure purposes.</p> <p><i>Objective 13. Environmental heritage is identified, conserved and enhanced.</i>  <i>Planning Priority E6: Creating and renewing great places and local centres, and respecting the District's heritage</i></p>

Question	Considerations
	<p>The PP gives effect to this objective by amending Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage and the Heritage maps within the SLEP 2012 so that all property descriptions, item names and maps are accurate for all local and State heritage items within the Strathfield LGA.</p> <p><i>Objective 23: Industrial and urban services land is planned, retained and managed.</i></p> <p><i>Planning Priority E12: Retaining and managing industrial and urban services land</i></p> <p>The PP gives effect to this objective by expanding permitted uses in the E4 General Industrial zone to allow for recreation facilities (indoor), which is consistent with the existing objectives of the E4 zone, namely, <i>to enable limited non-industrial land uses that provide facilities and services to meet the needs of businesses and workers</i>. The <i>Toolkit – Employment Zones Reform (November 2021)</i> prepared by the then Department of Planning, Industry and Environment identified that indoor recreation, including gymnasiums and play centres, in industrial areas may be suitable for the broader E4 General Industrial zone, if future applications can demonstrate compatibility with the dominant industrial character. The proposed use is consistent with adjoining Council's LEPs (Canada Bay LEP, Inner West LEP 2022 (E4) and IN2 Light Industrial Zone in Canterbury-Bankstown LEP 2023).</p> <p><i>Objective 27. Biodiversity is protected, urban bushland and remnant vegetation is enhanced.</i></p> <p><i>Planning Priority E15: Protecting and enhancing bushland and biodiversity</i></p> <p>The <i>Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030</i> has been endorsed by Council and includes key biodiversity areas across the LGA. The PP gives effect to this objective by amending the current Clause 6.11 Terrestrial Biodiversity to delete reference to a site-specific property and by broadening the application of the provision to land across the LGA that has biodiversity value via the mapping of these sites on a Terrestrial Biodiversity Map. This is consistent with the recommendations of the Strategy and Action Plan and the aims of Chapter 2 of the SEPP (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021.</p>
4. Is the planning proposal consistent with a council	Yes. The PP is consistent with the endorsed Strathfield 2040 Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 ('LSPS 2040'), specifically the

Question	Considerations
LSPS that has been endorsed by the Planning Secretary or GSC, or another endorsed local strategy or strategic plan?	<p>following planning priorities:</p> <p>P7. Quality urban design complements all heritage and neighbourhood character</p> <p>P10. Industrial land and precincts deliver District and local urban services and provide activated spaces with minimal impact on neighborhoods</p> <p>P13. Biodiversity and ecological health and resiliency is conserved, restored and enhanced</p> <p>Biodiversity Strategy prepared. The Planning Proposal identifies additional areas within Clause 6.11 Terrestrial Biodiversity to better reflect the extent of biodiversity areas within Strathfield. The mapping of these areas will assist in better conservation, protection and enhancement of these areas</p> <p>P18. Our community is involved in designing Strathfield's future Part 5 sets out the details of public exhibition and engagement which will include a range of mechanisms to ensure that landowners, stakeholders and the broader community are informed about the proposed changes and aware they can make a submission if they choose to.</p>
5. Is the planning proposal consistent with any other applicable State and regional studies or strategies?	<p>The PP is consistent with the recommendations of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The <i>Toolkit – Employment Zones Reform (November 2021)</i> prepared by the then Department of Planning, Industry and Environment</li> <li>- The <i>Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030</i></li> <li>- Heritage report for the expansion of HCA C3 prepared by Heritage 21</li> </ul>
6. Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable SEPPs?	Refer to Table 4 below
7. Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable Ministerial Directions (section 9.1 Directions)?	Refer to Table 5 below

#### Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable SEPPs?

This Planning Proposal has been considered against the relevant SEPPs and is determined to be

consistent with the relevant provisions as set out in Table 4 below.

**Table 4: Consistency with applicable SEPPs**

SEPP	Consistency	Comment
State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021	Yes	The PP proposes to broaden the application of the biodiversity provision to land across the LGA that has biodiversity value via the mapping of these sites on a Terrestrial Biodiversity Map. This is consistent with the recommendations of the Strategy and Action Plan and the aims of Chapter 2 of the SEPP (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008	Yes	The PP proposes to delete the exempt provisions for signage which were added to the Codes SEPP in February 2012. To ensure that there is no confusion around the exempt provisions relating to signage, it is proposed to delete these provisions to ensure clarity and reduce inconsistency.  Accordingly, the Planning Proposal is not inconsistent with this SEPP.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021	Yes	The Planning Proposal does not propose any changes which will contradict or hinder the application of this SEPP in relation to the provision of affordable housing and diverse housing.  Accordingly, the Planning Proposal is consistent with this SEPP.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Industry and Employment) 2021	Yes	The Strathfield LGA is not located within the Western Sydney employment area. The Planning Proposal does not propose any changes which will contradict or hinder the application of this SEPP in relation to advertising and signage.  Accordingly, the Planning Proposal is not inconsistent with the SEPP.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021	Yes	The Planning Proposal is not inconsistent with the SEPP as it does not affect state infrastructure.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts—Central River City) 2021	N/A	Not applicable, the Strathfield LGA is not located within the Central River City.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts—Eastern	Yes	The Strathfield LGA is located within the Central River City but does not contain any precincts or growth areas identified by this SEPP.

SEPP	Consistency	Comment
Harbour City) 2021		Accordingly, the Planning Proposal is not inconsistent with the SEPP.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts—Regional) 2021	N/A	Not applicable, the Strathfield LGA is not located within a regional area.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts—Western Parkland City) 2021	N/A	Not applicable, the Strathfield LGA is not located within the Western Parkland City.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Primary Production) 2021	N/A	Not applicable, the Strathfield LGA does not contain land used for primary production
State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021	Yes	<p>The Planning Proposal does not propose any hazardous and offensive development. The land that is proposed to be rezoned and uplifted under the Planning Proposal is currently zoned residential; and is long established, urban land with historical residential use. Therefore, the areas proposed for uplift are unlikely to be contaminated.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Planning Proposal is consistent with this SEPP.</p>
State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021	Yes	<p>The Planning Proposal does not contain any planning provisions relating to development of mineral, petroleum and extractive material resources.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Planning Proposal is not inconsistent with the SEPP.</p>
State Environmental Planning Policy (Sustainable Buildings) 2022	Yes	<p>The Planning Proposal does not contain any planning provisions which will contradict or hinder the application of this SEPP in relation to BASIX for residential development or the SEPP's requirements for non-residential development.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Planning Proposal is not inconsistent with the SEPP.</p>
State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021	Yes	<p>The Planning Proposal does not contain any planning provisions which will affect or hinder the delivery of infrastructure, educational establishment and child care facilities or major infrastructure corridors.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Planning Proposal is not inconsistent</p>

SEPP	Consistency	Comment
		with the SEPP.

Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable Ministerial Directions (section 9.1 Directions)?

Table 5: Consistency with Ministerial Directions

Section 9.1 Ministerial Directions Checklist		
No.	Direction	Consistency and Implications
Focus area 1: Planning Systems		
1.1	Implementation of Regional Plans	Consistent.  The PP is consistent with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Metropolis of Three Cities – Greater Sydney Region Plan – see previous discussion under Part 5, Table 3</li> <li>Eastern City District Plan – see previous discussion under Part 5, Table 3</li> </ul>
1.2	Development of Aboriginal Land Council land	Consistent – The PP does not affect land shown on the Land Application Map of State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021.
1.3	Approval and Referral Requirements	Consistent – The PP does not seek to make any additional provisions that require the concurrence, consultation or referral of development applications to a Minister or public authority.
1.4	Site Specific Provisions	Consistent – The PP does not seek to include any site specific provisions.
Focus area 1: Planning Systems – Place-based		
1.5	Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy	Consistent - The proposed Housekeeping Amendment does not propose to make any changes to the zoning of land within the area identified within the Parramatta Road Corridor
1.6	Implementation of North West Priority Growth Area Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Plan	N/A
1.7	Implementation of Greater	N/A

Section 9.1 Ministerial Directions Checklist		
No.	Direction	Consistency and Implications
	Parramatta Priority Growth Area Interim Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Plan	
1.8	Implementation of Wilton Priority Growth Area Interim Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Plan	N/A
1.9	Implementation of Glenfield to Macarthur Urban Renewal Corridor	N/A
1.10	Implementation of the Western Sydney Aerotropolis Plan	N/A
1.11	Implementation of Bayside West Precincts 2036 Plan	N/A
1.12	Implementation of Planning Principles for the Cooks Cove Precinct	N/A
1.13	Implementation of St Leonards and Crows Nest 2036 Plan	N/A
1.14	Implementation of Greater Macarthur 2040	N/A
1.15	Implementation of the Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy	N/A
1.16	North West Rail Link Corridor Strategy	N/A
1.17	Implementation of the Bays West Place Strategy	N/A
1.18	Implementation of the Macquarie Park Innovation Precinct	N/A
1.19	Implementation of the Westmead Place Strategy	N/A
1.20	Implementation of the Camellia-Rosehill Place Strategy	N/A
1.21	Implementation of the South West Growth Area Structure Plan	N/A
1.22	Implementation of the Cherrybrook Station Place Strategy	N/A
Focus area 2: Design and Place		
Focus area 3: Biodiversity and Conservation		
3.1	Conservation Zones	Consistent – The PP does not affect land within a conservation zone or land otherwise identified for



Section 9.1 Ministerial Directions Checklist		
No.	Direction	Consistency and Implications
		environment conservation/protection purposes in a LEP  The PP is seeking to protect land that has been identified as having biodiversity via the introduction of the Biodiversity Terrestrial Map
3.2	Heritage Conservation	Consistent - The PP is seeking to expand a Heritage Conservation Area to ensure the protection of significant properties.  The PP also seeks to make minor administrative amendments to Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage and associated Heritage maps within the SLEP 2012 to ensure property descriptions, item names and maps are accurate for all local and State heritage items within the Strathfield LGA.
3.3	Sydney Drinking Water Catchments	N/A
3.5	Recreation Vehicle Areas	Consistent – The PP does not enable land to be developed for the purpose of a recreation vehicle area (within the meaning of the Recreation Vehicles Act 1983)
3.6	Strategic Conservation Planning	N/A
3.7	Public Bushland	Consistent – The PP does not propose any changes to existing controls protecting bushland in urban areas.
3.8	Willandra Lakes Region	N/A
3.9	Sydney Harbour Foreshores and Waterways Area	Consistent
3.10	Water Catchment Protection	Does not apply to planning proposal.  The land the subject of this planning proposal is not located within a regulated catchment within the meaning of State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021.
Focus Area 4: Resilience and Hazards		
4.1	Flooding	Consistent
4.2	Coastal Management	N/A – The PP does not propose any changes to controls that would impact on water catchments
4.3	Planning for Bushfire Protection	Consistent – The Strathfield LGA does not include land

Section 9.1 Ministerial Directions Checklist		
No.	Direction	Consistency and Implications
		that is identified as bushfire prone land.
4.4	Remediation of Contaminated Land	Consistent – The PP does not affect any known contaminated land.
4.5	Acid Sulfate Soils	Consistent – The PP does not seek to introduce or change provisions relating to Acid Sulfate Soils.
4.6	Mine Subsidence and Unstable Land	Consistent – The PP does not permit development on land that: (a) is within a mine subsidence district, or (b) has been identified as unstable in a study, strategy or other assessment undertaken: (i) by or on behalf of the relevant planning authority, or (ii) on behalf of a public authority and provided to the relevant planning authority.
Focus Area 5: Transport and Infrastructure		
5.1	Integrated Land Use and Transport	Consistent – The PP does not propose any changes to provisions relating to urban land.
5.2	Reserving Land for Public Purposes	Consistent – The PP does not propose to include any additional land for a public purpose or remove an existing public purpose reservation.
5.3	Development near Regulated Airports and Defence Airfields	NA – The PP does not create, alter or remove a zone or a provision relating to land near a regulated airport which includes a defence airfield
5.4	Shooting Ranges	NA – The PP does not seek to affect, create, alter or remove a zone or a provision relating to land adjacent to and/ or adjoining an existing shooting range
Focus area 6: Housing		
6.1	Residential Zones	Consistent - The PP does not propose any changes to any residential zone; it is consistent with the objectives of the Direction to encourage a variety of housing types to provide for existing and future housing needs, make efficient use of existing infrastructure and minimise the impact of residential development on the environment and resource lands.

Section 9.1 Ministerial Directions Checklist		
No.	Direction	Consistency and Implications
6.2	Caravan Parks and Manufactured Home Estates	Consistent – The PP does not propose to permit development for the purposes of a caravan park or manufactured home estate
Focus area 7: Industry and Employment		
7.1	Employment Zones	<p>Consistent - The PP proposes to amend the Land Use Table to the E4 General Industrial zone to include <i>recreation facility (indoor)</i> as a permitted use.</p> <p>The inclusion of recreation facility It is noted that recreation facility (indoor) is a permitted use in E4 zone in adjoining councils' LEPs (Canada Bay LEP, Inner West LEP 2022 (E4) and IN2 Light Industrial Zone in Canterbury-Bankstown LEP 2023).</p> <p>The inclusion of recreation facility (indoor):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is consistent with the Department's consideration for land uses within the E4 zone</li> <li>- Meets the existing objectives of the E4 zone by <i>enabling limited non-industrial land uses that provide facilities and services to meet the needs of businesses and workers;</i> and</li> <li>- Is consistent with the permitted land uses in the E4 zones of the adjoining councils</li> </ul> <p>Additional controls will be incorporated into the DCP to ensure that this use does not become a dominant use in the E4 zone. A separate report will be presented to Council in this regard.</p>
7.2	Reduction in non-hosted short term rental accommodation period	NA – The PP does not cover the Byron Shire Council area or identify or reduce the number of days that non-hosted short-term rental accommodation may be carried out within the LGA.
7.3	Commercial and Retail Development along the Pacific Highway, North Coast	N/A
Focus area 8: Resources and Energy		
8.1	Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries	NA – The PP does not have the effect of: (a) prohibiting the mining of coal or other minerals, production of petroleum, or winning or obtaining of extractive materials, or (b) restricting the potential development

Section 9.1 Ministerial Directions Checklist		
No.	Direction	Consistency and Implications
		of resources of coal, other minerals, petroleum or extractive materials which are of State or regional significance by permitting a land use that is likely to be incompatible with such development.
Focus area 9: Primary Production		
9.1	Rural Zones	N/A
9.2	Rural Lands	N/A
9.3	Oyster Aquaculture	N/A

Table 6: Section C – Environmental, social and economic impact

Question	Considerations
8. Is there any likelihood that critical habitat or threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats, will be adversely affected because of the proposal?	<p>No, the PP only proposes to make amendments to the LEP that are of a minor administrative or housekeeping nature so it is not expected that any critical habitat or threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats, will be adversely affected because of the proposal.</p> <p>Clause 6.11 – Terrestrial Biodiversity of the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 is proposed to be amended to ensure that any significant biodiversity areas indicated in the Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020 are captured and reflected in the relevant mapping. This will ensure that key biodiversity areas are preserved and protected.</p>
9. Are there any other likely environmental effects of the planning proposal and how are they proposed to be managed?	<p>Apart from the proposed changes to Clause 6.11 – Terrestrial Biodiversity, there are no other amendments that form part of this PP that will likely result in other environmental impacts.</p> <p>The following existing clauses and mapping, which are linked to environmental impacts, are proposed to remain unchanged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clause 5.11 – Bush Fire Hazard Reduction</li> <li>• Clause 6.1 – Acid Sulfate Soils</li> <li>• Clause 6.3 – Flood Planning</li> </ul>
10. Has the planning proposal adequately addressed any social and economic effects?	Yes, the PP is likely to have positive social and economic effects due to the LEP operating in a more efficient and accurate manner which will better align the objectives of the instrument with appropriate development

Table 7: Section D – Infrastructure (Local, State and Commonwealth)

Question	Considerations
11. Is there adequate public infrastructure for the planning proposal?	The PP does not create additional requirements for public infrastructure.

Table 8: Section E – State and Commonwealth Interests

Question	Considerations
12. What are the views of state and federal public authorities and government agencies consulted in order to inform the Gateway Determination?	Council has not yet consulted with relevant State and/or Commonwealth public authorities but will do so in accordance with the conditions of the Gateway Determination

## 6. Maps

The Planning Proposal will result in an amendment to the following maps of the Strathfield LEP 2012:

- Land Zoning (LZN) map
- Heritage (HER) map

The Planning Proposal also seeks the introduction of a Terrestrial Biodiversity Map.

The proposed amendments to existing maps and the proposed Terrestrial Biodiversity Map are shown in Part 4 – Explanation of Provisions.

[Note: the draft mapping will be incorporated prior to reporting to Council]

## 7. Community Consultation

It is anticipated that this Planning Proposal will be exhibited for a minimum period of 28 days in accordance with the provisions of the EP&A Act 1979 and the Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation 2021 and any requirements of the Gateway Determination.

Exhibition material, including plain English explanatory information, fact sheets, description of the objectives and intended outcomes, copy of the Planning Proposal and relevant maps will be available for viewing during the exhibition period on Council's website. Hard copies will also be available at Council offices and library for public viewing.

Notification of the public exhibition will be through:

- Exhibition notice on Council's website,
- Notices in Council offices and libraries,
- Community engagement project on Council's Have Your Say website,
- Council's social media platforms,
- Letters to landowners of properties directly affected by a proposed change in the planning controls and/or heritage affectation, and
- Letters to State and Commonwealth Government agencies identified in the Gateway Determination.

Consultation will also be undertaken with any relevant public authorities/organisations as conditioned by the Gateway Determination. It is also proposed to specifically consult with Sydney Water and Heritage NSW with respect to the provisions relevant to these authorities

The project timeframe will depend on the Gateway Determination date and the required public exhibition period. Table 8 below provides an indicative project timeline based on the Gateway Determination being issued by the end of 2024:

Note: Should the Gateway Determination be issued in December, community consultation will commence on 3 February 2025.

**Table 8: Project Timeline**

Stage	Timeframe/date
Consideration by the Strathfield Local Planning Panel	10 October 2024
Report to Council seeking endorsement to forward the PP for a Gateway Determination	22 October 2024
Gateway Determination	December 2024/January 2025
Pre-exhibition tasks eg complete technically compliant mapping	November/December 2024
Commencement and completion of public exhibition	February/March 2025

Stage	Timeframe/date
Consideration of submissions	March 2025
Post-exhibition review and additional studies	March/April 2025
Report to Council on the results of the community consultation and finalisation of the PP	May 2025
Submission to the Department for finalization	May 2025
Gazettal of LEP amendment	June/July 2025

It is noted that the project timeline will be assessed by the DPE and may be amended by the Gateway Determination



**APPENDIX 1 – Report & Minutes of Council Meeting dated 13  
August 2024**

DRAFT

**APPENDIX 2 – Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and  
Action Plan 2020-2030**

DRAFT

### APPENDIX 3 – Letter from Sydney Water

DRAFT

## APPENDIX 4 – Independent Report by Heritage 21

DRAFT



11 October 2019

Mr Stephen Clements  
Deputy CEO / General Manager  
Planning, Environmental & Urban Services  
Strathfield Council  
P.O Box 120  
Strathfield NSW 2135

Via email: [council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Clements

**Re: Proposed amendment of zoning for Sydney Water operational properties**

In our recent discussions regarding a possible licensing opportunity over land owned by Sydney Water at Fitzgerald Crescent, Strathfield, I raised the opportunity of Sydney Water undertaking a review of its property portfolio across various Local Government Area's ("LGA's") with a focus on its operational property assets.

As part of this review, various sites have been identified that contain permanent operational infrastructure within lands considered to contain zoning anomalies.

The infrastructure is critical to the servicing of the existing population and future growth within the Strathfield LGA. As part of recognising the permanent nature of these infrastructure assets and their requirements for protection, Sydney Water recommends rezoning of these sites to SP2 – Infrastructure, as part of any scheduled Local Environmental Plan (LEP) Review or housekeeping amendments.

Sydney Water believes that re-zoning these lots to SP2 – Infrastructure;

- Better reflects the lands ongoing, permanent use as vital water and sewerage infrastructure;
- Provides clarity to the local community as to the current and intended use of the land;
- Is consistent with Strathfield Local Environmental Plan (SLEP) 2012 Zone objectives to provide for infrastructure and related uses;
- Confirms the land use is intended to support population growth within the LGA, providing services and infrastructure to meet peoples changing needs.

Sydney Water has identified ten land parcels in the Strathfield LGA that contain permanent and critical infrastructure that have the potential for a more appropriate Infrastructure zoning.



An initial submission identifying the subject land has been forwarded to Council's Manager Strategic Planning. Sydney Water looks forward to consideration of the proposed re-zonings as part of any upcoming Strathfield Local Environmental Plan (LEP) Review.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 8849 4471.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Grant May".

Grant May  
Property Portfolio Manager



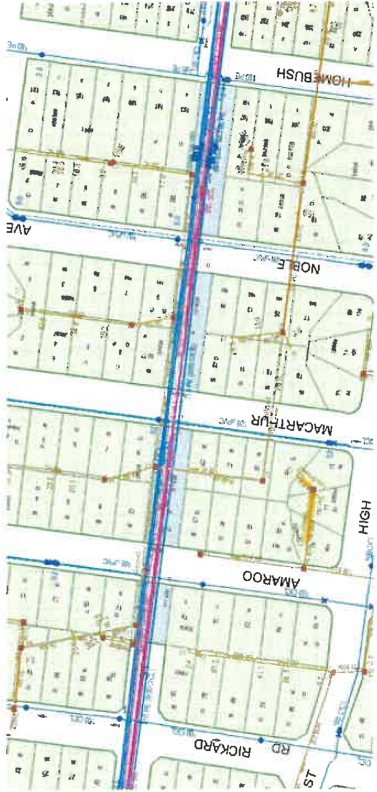
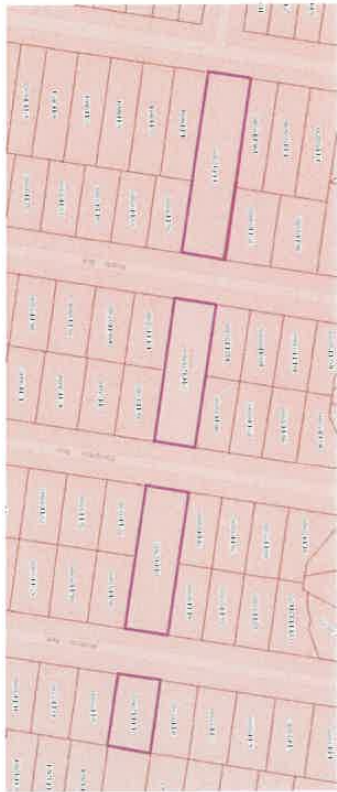
**Strathfield Council**

Address	Coronation Parade, Strathfield South
Title	Lot 7 DP 30405
Current Zone	R2 - Low Density Residential
Proposed Zone	SP2 - Infrastructure
Property Use	ROGANS HILL-THORNLEIGH WP0180





Address	Homebush Road to Rickard Road, Strathfield
Title	Lots 1 to 4 DP127839
Current Zone	R2 - Low Density Residential
Proposed Zone	SP2 - Infrastructure
Property Use	Trunk Water Main







Address	Roberts Road, Greenacre
Title	Lot 1 DP665856
Current Zone	IN1 – General Industrial
Proposed Zone	SP2 – Infrastructure
Property Use	Major Water Main







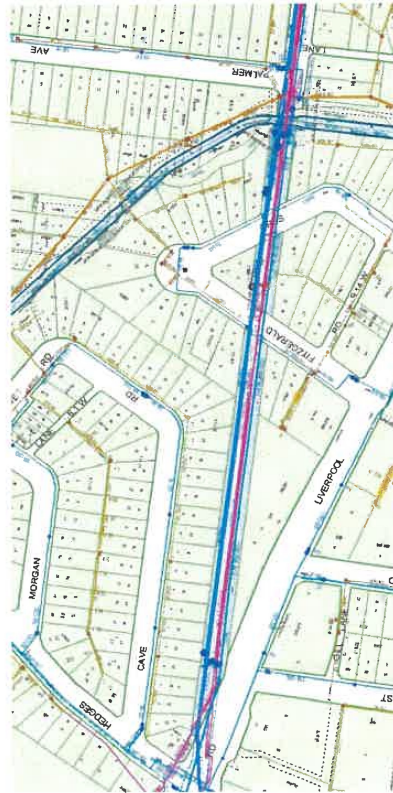
View from Fitzgerald Crescent looking east to Lot 2 DP635485



View from Fitzgerald Crescent looking west to Lot 2 DP745077



Address	Fitzgerald Crescent, Strathfield
Title	Lot 1 DP745077, Lot 2 DP745077, Lot 2 DP635485
Current Zone	R2 – Low Density Residential
Proposed Zone	SP2 – Infrastructure
Property Use	Major Water Main







Address	75 Churchill Avenue, Strahfield
Title	Lot 1 DP959595
Current Zone	R2 – Low Density Residential
Proposed Zone	SP2 - Infrastructure
Property Use	Sewer Vent





03 April 2024  
Attention: Paul Bu  
Strathfield Council  
65 Homebush Road  
Strathfield NSW  
Paul.Bu@Strathfield.nsw.gov.au

## HERITAGE REVIEW

### EXPANSION OF THE C3 BURLINGTON ROAD HCA, HOMEBUSH NSW 2140

#### 1. Background

The expansion of the C3 'Pair of Federation Queen Anne Houses' Heritage Conservation Area (HCA), listed under Schedule 5 of the *Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012* ("SLEP"), is currently under consideration by Strathfield Council. The proposal was part of a previous comprehensive LEP amendment under a 2021 Planning Proposal lodged by the Council with the Department of Planning and Environment. The Department imposed a Gateway Condition requiring further justification to be provided for the proposed expansion of the existing heritage conservation area, as the proposed amendment is inconsistent with the recommendations within the Strathfield Heritage Review 2020 undertaken by NGH which specifically refer to the C3 HCA. The proposed assessment and heritage review noted in this report will form a part of a new Council led Planning Proposal to amend the Strathfield LEP 2012.

Heritage 21 has been engaged by Strathfield Council to review the heritage context and conduct a significance assessment for the properties located at 61 and 57-59 Burlington Road Strathfield ("the site"), as well as to provide heritage advice regarding the proposed inclusion of these properties in the C3 - 'Pair of Federation Queen Anne Houses' Heritage Conservation Area.

On 14 December 2023, Heritage 21 received heritage documentation from Strathfield Council pertaining to the Planning Proposal for the subject site. The advice and heritage review contained in this report is based on this information and a site visit undertaken on 27 February 2024.

#### 2. Authors

This Heritage Review has been prepared by Alin Almasan, reviewed by Ankita Powale, and overseen by Paul Rappoport, Director of Heritage 21.

#### 3. Site Identification

The subject sites are located at 57-59 and 61 Burlington Road, Homebush, both of which fall within the boundaries of the Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) and comprise Lot 38 Section 11 DP 400 (61 Burlington Road) and Lot 1 DP 212675 (57-59 Burlington Road). As depicted in Figure 1 below, the properties are located on the northern side of Burlington Road on the corner of Meredith Road.

Heritage 21  
Suite 48, 20-28 Maddox St  
Alexandria



Page | 1 of 13

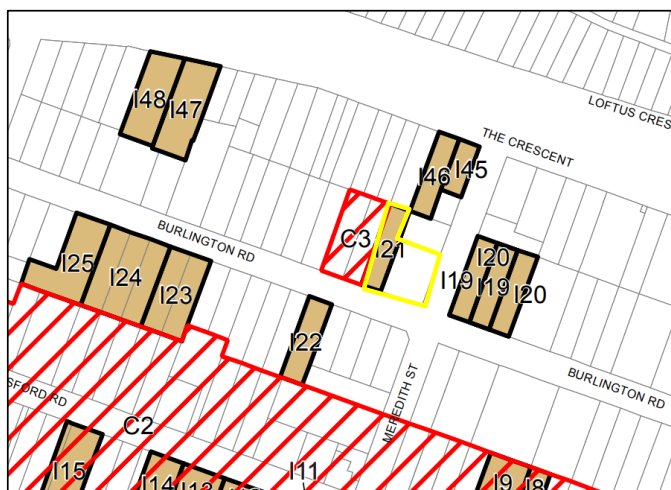
TEL: 9519-2521  
info@heritage21.com.au  
Job No. 10181H - HR

## Heritage Review – Burlington Road Homebush C3 HCA Expansion

61 Burlington Road is a rendered brick masonry Victorian house with an asymmetrical façade, with a projecting bay window featuring a shingled roof. The house also features arched top windows, decorative timber bargeboards, cast-iron fretwork and rendered vermiculated quoins. 57-59 Burlington Road is a single storey rendered brick masonry Victorian era dwelling with a pronounced bay and decorative Italianate detailing above the window heads. The roof form does appear to have been modified and features four dormer windows to the east facing roof elevation.



**Figure 1.** Contemporary aerial view of the site highlighted in yellow and surrounding urban environment (Source: NSW Spatial Services, "SIX Maps," accessed 13 February 2024 <http://maps.six.nsw.gov.au>).



**Figure 2.** Detail from Heritage Map HER\_004. The two properties are demarcated by the yellow box, heritage items in the vicinity are shaded brown. The C3 HCA can be seen adjacent to the two properties.

This map is included below the site aerial to depict the current heritage status of the subject sites for clear comparison against the aerial imagery of the site. (Source: NSW Legislation Online, <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maps>, annotated by Heritage 21).

## Heritage Review – Burlington Road Homebush C3 HCA Expansion

## 4. Heritage Context

## 4.1 Heritage Listings

## 61 Burlington Road, Homebush

Homebush is listed as an item of environmental heritage under Schedule 5 of the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 ("SLEP"). It is **not** listed on the NSW State Heritage Register, the National Heritage List, the Commonwealth Heritage List, the National Trust Register (NSW), or the former Register of the National Estate.<sup>1</sup>

## 57-59 Burlington Road, Homebush

57-59 Burlington Road, Homebush is **not** listed as an item of environmental significance under Schedule 5 of the Strathfield LEP 2012. The property is not listed on any other statutory or non-statutory heritage register.

61 Burlington Road, Homebush - Statutory List – Legislative Requirements				
List	Item Name	Address	Significance	Item No.
Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012	'Finchley' – Victorian House	61 Burlington Road, Homebush	Local	I21

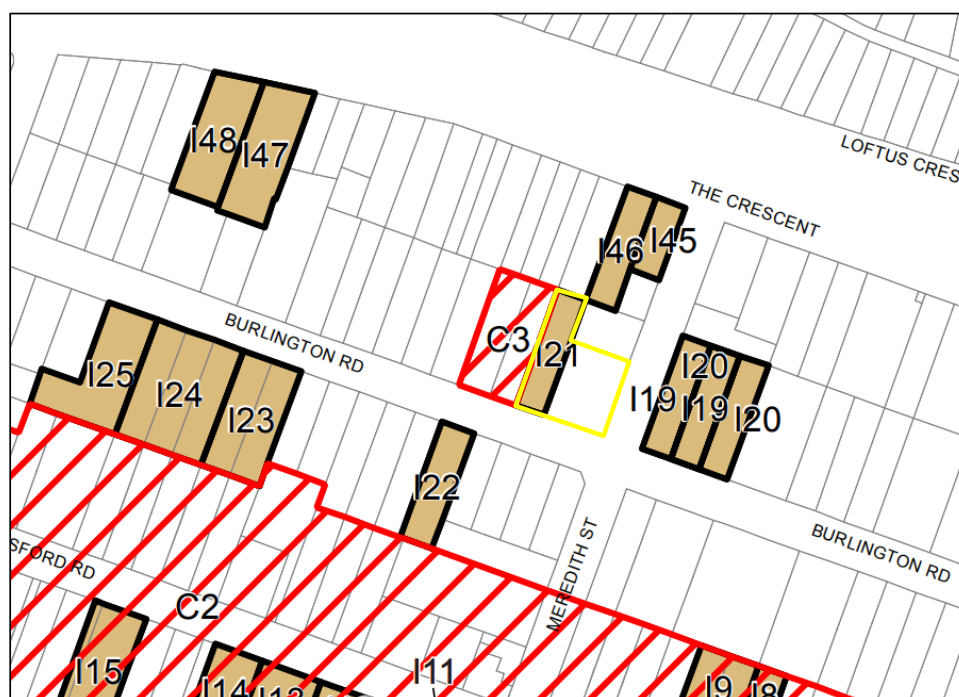


Figure 3. Detail from Heritage Map HER\_004. The two properties are demarcated by the yellow box, heritage items in the vicinity are shaded brown. The C3 HCA can be seen adjacent to the two properties (Source: NSW Legislation Online, <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maps>, annotated by Heritage 21).

<sup>1</sup> The Register of the National Estate ceased as a statutory heritage list in 2007, but it continues to exist as an inventory of Australian heritage places.



**Heritage Review – Burlington Road Homebush C3 HCA Expansion**

As depicted in Figure 32 above, the subject site is situated in the vicinity of the following heritage items: “Strathfield Uniting Church” (I19), “Homebush Uniting Church Manse” (I20) “Meyrick-Victorian House” (I22) and “Marlborough- Victorian Italianate house” (I23), C3 HCA, all of which are listed under Schedule 5 of the SLEP 2012.

**5. Physical Evidence & Heritage Significance****5.1 Physical Evidence**

The section of Burlington Road, where ‘Finchley’ 61 Burlington Road and 57-59 Burlington Road are situated, between Meredith Street and Bridge Road are Sections 11 and 12 of the “Village of Homebush” Estate. Residential development commenced c.1880 in this section of Burlington Road. Typically, the earliest homes were set on multiple lots of land with extensive garden settings. ‘Finchley’ is a Victorian Italianate house cottage built in 1893<sup>2</sup>. Number 57-59 Burlington Road would be commensurate in age to ‘Finchley’ and features a large double lot.

61 Burlington Road (‘Finchley’) is a single storey rendered brick Victorian house with an asymmetrical façade with a projecting bay featuring a shingled roof. The house also features arched top windows, decorative timber bargeboards, cast-iron fretwork and rendered vermiculated quoins. 57-59 Burlington Road is a single storey rendered Victorian era dwelling with a pronounced bay and decorative Italianate detailing above the window heads. The property features a veranda with decorative cast iron filigree detailing to the frieze as well as the balustrading. The roof form has been modified which is evinced through the later addition concrete tiles and four dormer windows which face eastward towards Meredith Street.

External observations on site on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 have contributed to Heritage 21 being of the opinion that the fabric and condition of both properties are in very good condition notwithstanding their modifications. Both houses appear highly intact externally and feature many original historic details which contribute to the significance of the streetscape and adjacent HCA of two houses. Heritage 21 is of the opinion that both properties would make a positive inclusion to the expansion of the HCA. Adding 57-59 Burlington Road and 61 Burlington Road to the C3 Conservation Area would strengthen the significance of the HCA to form a cohesive row and collection of early housing stock connected to the establishment of the area. The following photographs have been taken by Heritage 21 at the site inspection undertaken on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024, unless stated otherwise.

<sup>2</sup> <https://strathfieldheritage.com/streetnames/burlington-road-homebush/finchley-61-burlington-road-homebush/>

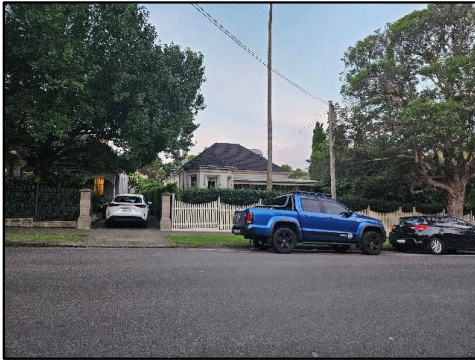
## Heritage Review – Burlington Road Homebush C3 HCA Expansion



**Figure 4.** View towards 'Finchley' at 61 Burlington Road, Homebush.



**Figure 5.** View of the historic row of dwellings and their respective landscaped settings within the Burlington Road streetscape.



**Figure 6.** View of the street-facing presentation of 57-59 Burlington Road, Homebush.



**Figure 7.** View looking north towards the façade and prominent roof-plane of 57-59 Burlington Road, Homebush.



**Figure 8.** View towards 63 Burlington Road, Homebush which is currently located in the C3 HCA.



**Figure 9.** View towards 65 Burlington Road, Homebush which alongside number 63 is also situated within the C3 HCA.



## Heritage Review – Burlington Road Homebush C3 HCA Expansion

**5.2 Established Heritage Significance**

The following Statement of Significance for the C3 HCA 'Pair of Federation Queen Anne Houses' is an extract from the Strathfield DCP Part P 2005:

*Talgai and Gowan Brae are a good example of a pair of Federation Queen Anne style houses. Characteristics of the style evident in Talgai and Gowan Brae include the hipped and gabled terracotta roof, detailed entry porch, face brickwork contrasted with roughcast render and grouped casement windows.*

The conservation area carries with it specific development controls which proponents are to comply with should development be planned within the HCA. The controls are noted below:

- I. Replacement roof design and materials on each of the dwellings are to match original materials, including hipped and gabled terracotta roof types.*
- II. The original shape and materials of the front and side walls of the two dwellings shall not be altered. Characteristic face brickwork contrasted with roughcast render should be retained on the two dwellings or replaced like-for-like.*
- III. The existing detailed entry porches which are characteristic of this dwelling pair are to be kept and repaired or reinstated where necessary.*

The following Statement of Significance for 'Finchley' located at 61 Burlington Road which is proposed for inclusion in the C3 HCA is an extract from the State Heritage Inventory:

*A single storey rendered brick Victorian house built late last century on the 1878 subdivision of the Underwood Estate. An asymmetrical façade has a projecting bay with a shingled roof. Other features include arched top windows, rendered labels, decorative timber barge board, cast iron valance, rendered vermiculated quoins and tessellated tiles to the verandah. The tiled roof is not original is out of character with the style of the building. This Victorian house is of local significance as an early building on the Underwood Estate that still retains its form and scale although some detail has been lost.<sup>3</sup>*

**5.3 Heritage 21's comments regarding the 2020 LGA wide Heritage Review**

The proposed expansion of the C3 HCA was part of a previous comprehensive Strathfield LEP amendment Planning Proposal lodged in 2021 with the Department of Planning and Environment. The Department imposed a Gateway Condition requiring further justifications to be provided as the proposed amendment is inconsistent with the recommendations of the Strathfield LGA Heritage Review, dated 2020 prepared by NGH. This report prepared by Heritage 21 aims to assess the merit of adding the two properties proposed to be included under the listing for the HCA expansion.

<sup>3</sup> Heritage NSW, "Finchley," State Heritage Inventory, Heritage Item ID: 2450043, accessed 26 February 2024, <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2450043>.

**Heritage Review – Burlington Road Homebush C3 HCA Expansion**

This report seeks to provide adequate justification for the satisfaction of the Department of Planning and Environment when assessing the Planning Proposal. An overview of the established significance of the HCA and additional proposed lots to be incorporated, combined with a detailed external site inspection and review of the previous heritage documentation has rendered Heritage 21 with the opinion that the HCA meets the criterion for heritage significance at the local level. Heritage 21 is also of the opinion that the inclusion of 61 and 57-59 Burlington Road in the C3 HCA has merit and will strengthen the significance of the HCA forming a row and collection of early housing stock of aesthetic and historical significance within their respective garden settings.

The LGA wide Strathfield Heritage Review 2020 by NGH reproduced below recommends that the C3 HCA be removed. Heritage 21 is of the opinion that the removal of the HCA would not be conducive to best conservation practice and notes that the houses within the HCA have aesthetic, historic and representative significance, and merit protection under the current HCA listing. The reasoning for culling the C3 HCA in the 2020 Strathfield LGA heritage review are reproduced overleaf.

Heritage 21 does not agree with the findings of the 2020 Strathfield LGA Heritage Study as the HCA contains, in the opinion of Heritage 21, requisite significance to be included on schedule 5 of the SLEP 2012 as a Heritage Conservation Area. The properties currently covered under the HCA (63 & 65 Burlington Road) are historic, aesthetic, and representative examples of intact Federation bungalows in the Strathfield LGA and merit protection under the HCA listing. If the Conservation Area listing were removed the houses would then have no statutory protection upon them which would be a detrimental heritage impact to the Strathfield LGA.

The addition of the two extra sites proposed to the HCA would strengthen the HCA to become a cohesive row and collection of Victorian and Federation era dwellings. In conjunction with their established garden settings, the row of historic houses will allow interpretation of a historic residential streetscape along Burlington Road, hence contributing to the wider heritage significance of the Strathfield LGA.

## Heritage Review – Burlington Road Homebush C3 HCA Expansion

Item No:	Item Name:	Reason for removal and recommended further listing:	Impact on the heritage of Strathfield if the HCA is removed.
C3	Pair of Federation Queen Anne style houses (Individual buildings assessed in Section 6.6.11, below)	Whilst the two Federation Queen Anne style houses are good remaining examples of the style within the Strathfield LGA, the two buildings do not form a significant area of the streetscape that clearly displays an area of historical origins and relationships between the various elements that create a sense of place that is worth keeping. NGH assesses that these two buildings do not meet the criteria to be listed as an HCA.	The removal of the Pair of Queen Anne style houses HCA will not have an overall negative heritage impact on the heritage of the Strathfield LGA. The listing consists of two Federation Queen Anne style houses that do not significantly contribute to the overall streetscape of the area. Federation Queen Anne housing is relatively common within the LGA, with eighteen Queen Anne style houses listed as individual items of significance on the Strathfield LEP. Numerous other HCAs within the Strathfield LGA include good, predominantly intact examples of Federation Queen Anne buildings including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abbotsford Road HCA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 99 properties listed in the current HCA</li> <li>- 25 properties identified as Queen Anne style buildings</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Albert Road HCA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 properties listed in the current HCA</li> <li>- 4 properties identified as Queen Anne style buildings</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Churchill Avenue HCA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 41 properties listed in the current HCA</li> <li>- 17 properties identified as Queen Anne style buildings</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Homebush Road HCA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 20 properties listed in the current HCA</li> <li>- 6 properties identified as Queen Anne style buildings</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Redmyre Road HCA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 79 properties listed in the current HCA</li> <li>- 19 properties identified as Queen Anne style buildings</li> </ul> </li> </ul> The Federation Queen Anne style of architecture is currently well represented as an important style within the LGA and the removal of the Pair of Federation Queen Anne style houses that do not significantly add to the streetscape will not have significant impact on the overall character of the LGA.

Figure 10. Detail from page 94 of the Strathfield Heritage review conducted in 2020. This excerpt notes the recommendation to remove the HCA.

<p><b>6.6.11. Pair of Federation Queen Ann style houses (C3)</b></p> <p>The Pair of Federation Queen Anne style houses Conservation Area consists only of two Federation Queen Anne style houses. The Statement of Significance for the precinct was last updated in 2005:</p> <p><i>Talgai and Gowan Brae are a good example of a pair of Federation Queen Anne style houses. Characteristics of the style evident in Talgai and Gowan Brae include the hipped and gabled terracotta roof, detailed entry porch, face brickwork contrasted with roughcast render and grouped casement windows.</i></p> <p>Whilst the two Federation Queen Anne style houses are good remaining examples of the style within the Strathfield LGA, the two buildings do not form a significant area of the streetscape that clearly displays an area of historical origins and relationships between the various elements that create a sense of place that is worth keeping. NGH assesses that these two buildings do not meet the criteria to be listed as an HCA.</p> <p>The assessment of the individual buildings as to their contribution to the significance of the HCA (undertaken below) has been based upon this statement.</p> <p>Table 47. List of properties included within Conservation Area, C3</p> <table> <tr> <th>Address</th><th>Contributory/Neutral/Intrusive</th><th>Reasons for assessment</th></tr> <tr> <td>63-65 Burlington Road</td><td>NGH recommends that these two properties do not meet the criteria to be classed as an HCA in their own right.</td><td>NGH recommends that C3 HCA does not meet the criteria to be listed as an HCA.</td></tr> </table>			Address	Contributory/Neutral/Intrusive	Reasons for assessment	63-65 Burlington Road	NGH recommends that these two properties do not meet the criteria to be classed as an HCA in their own right.	NGH recommends that C3 HCA does not meet the criteria to be listed as an HCA.
Address	Contributory/Neutral/Intrusive	Reasons for assessment						
63-65 Burlington Road	NGH recommends that these two properties do not meet the criteria to be classed as an HCA in their own right.	NGH recommends that C3 HCA does not meet the criteria to be listed as an HCA.						

Figure 11. Detail from page 94 of the Strathfield Heritage review conducted in 2020. This excerpt notes the recommendation to remove the HCA.

## Heritage Review – Burlington Road Homebush C3 HCA Expansion

## 5.4 Significance assessment for 'Finchley' 61 Burlington Road, Homebush

Criterion	Assessment
<b>(a) Historic significance</b>  <i>An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).</i>	<p>Finchley is historically significant as an early building pertaining to the Underwood Estate. The house is historically significant being linked to the early development of the municipality and retains much significant early detailing.</p> <p>The place does meet this criterion.</p>
<b>(b) Historical association</b>  <i>An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).</i>	<p>Finchley has no known historical associations to any significant figures in the local area and does not meet this criterion.</p>
<b>(c) Aesthetic/creative/technical achievement</b>  <i>An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).</i>	<p>Finchley has aesthetic significance as a Victorian house with a high proportion of intact and significant original detailing set within a garden setting. The house appears to be highly intact and features intricate ornamentation and detailing along its exteriors.</p> <p>The place does meet this criterion.</p>
<b>(d) Social, cultural, and spiritual</b>  <i>An item has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.</i>	<p>Research has discovered no strong or special association with any community or cultural group.</p> <p>The place does not meet this criterion.</p>
<b>(e) Research potential</b>  <i>An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).</i>	<p>The subject site has little potential to yield information that will contribute an understanding of NSW's cultural history.</p> <p>The place does not meet this criterion.</p>

## Heritage Review – Burlington Road Homebush C3 HCA Expansion

Criterion	Assessment
<b>(f) Rare</b>  <i>An item possesses uncommon, rare, or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).</i>	<p>Victorian era dwellings are not particularly rare in Sydney. The subject site does feature highly distinctive architectural features which elevate its significance. Other dwelling houses from the same period are found across Sydney.</p> <p>The site does not meet this criterion.</p>
<b>(g) Representative</b>  <i>An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments).</i>	<p>The subject site, 'Finchley' house is representative of intricately ornamented Victorian era dwellings and early housing stock pertaining to the establishment of the Underwood Estate.</p> <p>The site does meet this criterion.</p>

The following Statement of Significance for 'Finchley' located at 61 Burlington Road, proposed for inclusion in the C3 HCA is an extract from the State Heritage Inventory:

*A single storey rendered brick Victorian house built late last century on the 1878 subdivision of the Underwood Estate. An asymmetrical façade has a projecting bay with a shingled roof. Other features include arched top windows, rendered labels, decorative timber barge board, cast iron valance, rendered vermiculated quoins and tessellated tiles to the verandah. The tiled roof is not original is out of character with the style of the building. This Victorian house is of local significance as an early building on the Underwood Estate that still retains its form and scale although some detail has been lost.<sup>4</sup>*

## 5.5 Significance assessment for 57-59 Burlington Road, Homebush

Criterion	Assessment
<b>(a) Historic significance</b>  <i>An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).</i>	<p>The subject property is historically significant as an early building pertaining to the Underwood Estate. The house is historically significant being linked to the early development of the municipality and retains its early double-lot subdivision pattern and some original architectural detailing.</p> <p>The place does meet this criterion.</p>

<sup>4</sup> Heritage NSW, "Finchley," State Heritage Inventory, Heritage Item ID: 2450043, accessed 26 February 2024, <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2450043>.

## Heritage Review – Burlington Road Homebush C3 HCA Expansion

Criterion	Assessment
<b>(b) Historical association</b>  <i>An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).</i>	<p>The site has no known historical associations to any significant figures in the local area and does not meet this criterion.</p>
<b>(c) Aesthetic/creative/technical achievement</b>  <i>An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).</i>	<p>The property has aesthetic significance as a Victorian house with remnant historic fabric and original detailing set within a large double-lot garden setting. The house is set within a generously landscaped setting which contributes to its significance.</p> <p>The place does meet this criterion.</p>
<b>(d) Social, cultural, and spiritual</b>  <i>An item has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.</i>	<p>Research has discovered no strong or special association with any community or cultural group.</p> <p>The place does not meet this criterion.</p>
<b>€ Research potential</b>  <i>An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).</i>	<p>The subject site has little potential to yield information that will contribute an understanding of NSW's cultural history.</p> <p>The place does not meet this criterion.</p>
<b>(f) Rare</b>  <i>An item possesses uncommon, rare, or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).</i>	<p>Victorian era dwellings are not particularly rare in Sydney. The subject site does feature highly distinctive architectural features which elevate its significance. Other dwelling houses from the same period are found across Sydney. The site does not meet this criterion.</p>
<b>(g) Representative</b>  <i>An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's</i>	<p>The subject site is representative of an intact Victorian era dwelling and early housing stock pertaining to the establishment of the Underwood Estate.</p>

## Heritage Review – Burlington Road Homebush C3 HCA Expansion

Criterion	Assessment
<i>cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments).</i>	The site does meet this criterion.

The following Statement of Significance for 57-59 Burlington Road is written by Heritage 21 and the significance assessment is adopted in this heritage report for the purposes of understanding the significance of the subject site considering the Planning Proposal for the expansion of the C3 HCA:

57-59 Burlington Road is a single storey rendered brick Victorian house built on the 1878 subdivision of the Underwood Estate. The house is of local significance as an early building connected to the establishment of the area. The house is set within a large double-lot landscaped setting which retains its early subdivision pattern. The dwelling is representative of high-quality historic housing stock in the local area and still retains its form and scale although the roof form has been altered.

## 6. Recommendations

Heritage 21 would also recommend the following considerations are made to ensure that the amendments to the C3 Heritage Conservation Area are managed correctly:

- The name of the Heritage Conservation Area be renamed to the 'Burlington Road Heritage Conservation Area' to reflect the change in quantity of dwellings and housing stock.
- The statement of significance for the HCA is to be updated upon inclusion of the two properties noted within this report to best reflect the changes made to the HCA and its strengthened significance.
- The HCA specific development controls noted in Part P of the Strathfield DCP be updated and amended to reflect the change in the Conservation Area and to manage any planned development proposed for the sites located within its boundaries. This may result in further DCP Policies being adopted.

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**Heritage Review – Burlington Road Homebush C3 HCA Expansion****7. Conclusion**

As discussed above, Heritage 21 supports the proposed inclusion of 57-59 and 61 Burlington Road, Homebush in the C3 Heritage Conservation Area. Both properties are not currently covered by the C3 HCA. The proposed LEP amendment will strengthen the significance of the Conservation Area by allowing the historic row of dwellings on Burlington Road to be interpretable as a group. The significance assessment of each property demonstrating this is noted above in sections 6.4 and 6.5 of this report.

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,



**Alin Almasan**

**Senior Heritage Consultant**

B. Property Valuation, University of Western Sydney

B. Architecture, University of Technology Sydney

M. Heritage Conservation, University of Sydney



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PE2                      PROPOSED REVIEW OF PLANNING PROPOSAL (PP-2024-2011) - STRATHFIELD MEDIUM DENSITY HOUSING STRATEGY

AUTHOR:              Rita Vella, Executive Planner, Strategic Planning

APPROVER:          Clare Harley, Director Planning and Environment

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## RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council endorse the commencement of a review to be undertaken by the Planning & Place Team of the existing Planning Proposal (PP-2024-2100) relating to the Strathfield Medium Density Housing Strategy with the aim of encouraging greater housing diversity across the Local Government Area (LGA), while ensuring the protection of those areas that have a unique character.
2. That Council staff advise the Department of Planning, Housing and Industry of the proposed review of PP-2024- 2100 and advise that an amended Planning Proposal will be submitted once the review has been completed.
3. That Council staff recommence the review of the Strathfield Development Control Plan as it relates to the Medium Density Housing Strategy to ensure controls will complement proposed changes to the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 and that these amendments be reported to a future Councillor Workshop and meeting for consideration, prior to public exhibition.
4. That Council be provided with information, at the 10 December 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting, including an indicative boundary and a methodology for establishing an evidence base, in relation to the **introduction of 'Unique Character Areas' (UCA) into the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012.**
5. That Council engage with the Department of Planning, Housing and Industry in relation to draft minimum lots sizes for dual occupancy development and seek a pause on the implementation of Complying Development Certificate provisions until such time that the Medium Density Housing Strategy Planning Proposal can be endorsed by Council.

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report responds to the Notice of Recission (255/24) and identifies the process of review of PP-2024-2011 to encourage greater housing diversity across the LGA, while ensuring the protection of those areas that have a unique character.

## REPORT

Council, at its meeting on 13 August 2024 considered a report on the Planning Proposal for the implementation of the Strathfield Medium Density Housing Strategy (the MDHS) 2024.

The objective of the Planning Proposal is to amend the SLEP 2012 to create capacity for additional and diverse housing across the residential zones of the Strathfield LGA, as well as:

- Encourage greater housing supply in the form of medium density residential development and address housing shortages

- Support public infrastructure by allowing for a moderate increase in density in urban areas where existing infrastructure is in place
- Improve land use efficiency of established low-density residential areas

In summary, the intended outcome of the Planning Proposal is as follows:

- (i) In the R2 Low Density Residential zone (R2 zone), introduce dual occupancy (attached and detached), manor houses, multi-dwelling housing and terraces as permissible land uses and amend the objectives to reflect that these provisions facilitate the delivery of diversity of housing in the R2 zone.
- (ii) In the R3 Medium Density Residential zone (R3 zone), introduce manor houses and terrace as permissible land uses and amend the objectives to reflect that these provisions facilitate the delivery of diversity of housing in the R3 zone.
- (iii) In the R2 zone, introduce a minimum lot size of 560sqm and a minimum lot frontage of 15m for dual occupancy development.
- (iv) In the R2 and R3 zones, introduce a minimum lot size of 560sqm and a minimum lot frontage of 18m for manor houses and multi dwelling housing.
- (v) In the R2, R3 and R4 zones, introduce a minimum lot size of 840sqm and a minimum lot frontage of 21m for multi-dwelling housing (terraces).
- (vi) Permit the subdivision of dual occupancy development, manor houses, multi-dwelling housing and terraces.
- (vii) In the R2 and R3 zone, include a minimum subdivision lot size for dual occupancies of 280sqm.
- (viii) In the R2 zone, introduce a maximum FSR of 0.65:1 for dual occupancy (attached and detached), manor houses, multi-dwelling housing and terraces to offer greater development yield and greater development incentive.
- (ix) In the R2 zone, introduce a minimum landscape LEP provision for dual occupancy, multi-dwelling housing, manor houses and terraces to ensure that the landscape character of the low-density residential zone is protected and that the tree canopy is maintained and enhanced.
- (x) Repeal Schedule 1 – Additional Permitted Uses, Section 1 – Use of certain and at Greenacre and associated mapping.
- (xi) Update the Dictionary to insert in alphabetical order manor house and multi-dwelling housing (terraces).

Council, at its meeting on 13 August 2024 resolved in relation the Planning Proposal, the following (215/24):

1. *That Council notes the advice provided by the Strathfield Local Planning Panel on 1 August 2024 regarding the drafting of a Planning Proposal in relation to the Strathfield Medium Density Housing Strategy.*
2. *That Council supports the intent of proposed amendments to the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 to facilitate medium density housing consistent with the NSW Low and Mid-Rise Housing Policy and Council's Medium Density Housing Strategy, as outlined in the body of the report and resolves to incorporate the proposed amendments into a Planning Proposal.*
3. *That Council endorses the draft Planning Proposal **Attachment 1** for lodgement with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for Gateway determination.*
4. *That Council delegates authority to the General Manager to make necessary amendments to the Planning Proposal and supporting documents arising from a Gateway Determination and prior to public exhibition.*
5. *That should a Gateway Determination be issued which enables public exhibition, a further report is to be presented to Council following the exhibition period. The report is to address any submissions received. A further update on the progress of the Planning Proposal is to be provided at that time.*
6. *That the Strathfield Development Control Plan (DCP) be reviewed and updated concurrently with the Planning Proposal to ensure consistency with the objectives and controls contained in the Planning Proposal.*
7. *That a report be presented to Council which outlines the proposed amendments to the DCP prior to public exhibition.*
8. *That a further report be brought back to Council to seek endorsement of the proposed amendments to the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 and the adoption of amendments to the Strathfield Development Control Plan, following public exhibition.*

Subsequent to the endorsement of the Planning Proposal and in accordance with (3) of the above resolution, the Planning Proposal was submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for a Gateway Determination on 19 September 2024 (PP-2024-2100).

At the Council meeting on 22 October 2024, a Notice of Recission was submitted by Councillors Blackmore, Baladi and Reddy with respect to the above resolution (Resolution 215/24).

The Councillors were concerned that some of the changes proposed in the Planning Proposal would have the potential to result in adverse impacts on the streetscape and landscape character of certain areas of the Strathfield LGA, and which are highly valued by the community and residents.

Subsequently, and in response to the Notice of Recission, Council resolved the following (255/24):

1. *A Councillor Workshop be held in November 2024 to discuss finding alternative solutions which increases the Medium Density Housing Supply in Strathfield but does not destroy the Strathfield moniker of “Oasis in the West”.*
2. *That if any planning proposal that has been lodged with NSW Planning it be withdrawn and an alternate proposal be prepared after feedback from the Councillor Workshop.*
3. *That the new plan be prepared to meet any deadline that the NSW Planning has given to Council.*

In accordance with resolution 255/24, a Councillor Workshop was held on 12 November 2024 to discuss options for encouraging greater housing diversity across the LGA, while ensuring the protection of those areas that have a unique character and contribute to the identification of Strathfield as the *“Oasis in the West”*.

### Identification of a Unique Character Area

Further work is proposed to ensure that any changes that encourage housing diversity are sympathetic to the valued characteristics of those areas in the LGA that are distinctive and contribute to the identity of place.

These characteristics include:

- Preserve the character of places where there are large lot sizes, homes and backyards.
- Acknowledgement of how the dwelling within a streetscape present.
- Landscaping of a site and how it contributes to the streetscape and character of the area.
- Minimising driveway crossovers.
- Retaining the existing tree canopy and vegetation, and ensuring loss of the **“green, leafy setting”** that reflects Strathfield's character is minimised.
- Ensuring that development controls respond to and deliver a positive contribution to streetscape.

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) defines local character as follows:

*“Character is what makes neighbourhood distinctive and is the identity of a place. It encompasses the way it looks and feels. It is created by a combination of land, people, the built environment, history, culture and tradition including Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, and looks at how they interact to make a distinctive character of an area. Local character is distinctive, it differentiates one area apart from another. .... Local character should guide how to manage a changing urban environment so that any changes are sympathetic to the valued characteristics”*

Embedded in this definition are a few core concepts. These are summarised by the Victorian Government's Understanding Neighbourhood Character Planning Practice Note (2018) as follows:

- Character is a combination of the public and private realms.
- Every property, public place or piece of infrastructure contributes, whether great or small.
- It is the cumulative impact of all these contributions that establishes local character.
- The key to understanding character is being able to describe how the features of an area come together to give that area its own character.

- All areas have a character in the same way that all people have a personality. In some areas the character may be more obvious, more unusual, or more attractive, but no area can be described as having no character.

## Measuring Character

While matters such as amenity can be readily measured (for example the proportion of sunlight reaching someone's balcony), character can often be more difficult to measure.

In many respects, character is a subjective matter and in identifying the boundary of the proposed unique character area, we will need to distil what will be the key criteria for consideration. Noting that the criteria may be expanded/reviewed, it is proposed that the identification of the boundary of the unique character area will be informed by the following assessment criteria:

- Subdivision and lot size
  - Subdivision pattern
  - Lot size
- Built form
  - Existing building quality
  - Cohesiveness of materials
  - Scale of existing development
  - Dominant residential form and typology
- Setbacks and siting
  - Front setbacks
  - Side setbacks
  - Consistency of setbacks
  - Orientation
  - Frontage
  - Dominance of parking
- Fencing
  - Front fence height
  - Front fence type
- Vegetation
  - Existing canopy
  - Gardens and landscaping
- Views

It is proposed that Council staff will undertake a character assessment, taking into consideration the abovementioned criteria and an indicative boundary for the unique character area will be presented to the 10

December 2024 Council Meeting for endorsement prior to Council staff proceeding with further investigations to determine the minimum lot size and frontage requirements.

### **Heritage Conservation Areas**

As part of this review, it is also proposed to review the proposed minimum lot size and frontage requirements for properties within the existing Heritage Conservation Areas (HCA).

The aim is to ensure that future controls for housing diversity within the HCAs prevents incompatible residential intensification to preserve the existing heritage character and subdivision patterns.

### **Low Mid Rise Housing State Environmental Planning Policy**

As part of the Low Mid Rise Housing policy, the Department has written to Council requesting a position about minimum lot sizes for dual occupancy development. The Department has indicated that these provisions could be brought forward as a whole scale amendments to LEPs for those Councils who do not currently have minimum lot size provisions for dual occupancy.

A draft position has been requested by 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024, with a confirmed position via Council resolution by 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Clearly, this information overlaps with the policy position being developed by the MDHS and the current planning proposal.

It is proposed that Council engage with the DPHI on this issue, provide updates on our current position regarding unique character areas and if necessary, seek delay in the implementation of CDC provision for dual occupancy until such time that the MDHS planning proposal can be adopted by Council.

### **Next Steps**

Should Council resolve to proceed with amendments to the current Planning Proposal, Council staff will identify an indicative boundary for the proposed Unique Character Area and present this to the 10 December 2024 Council Meeting for endorsement.

It is also proposed to advise the DPHI of the amendment process that Council is proposing to undertake to PP-2024-2011 and that any consideration of a Gateway Determination be withheld until such time as Council has completed its review and resubmitted an amended Planning Proposal.

Once the boundary of the Unique Character Area has been endorsed further work will be undertaken to verify the boundary and identify appropriate minimum lot size and frontage requirements. A further report will be presented to the February 2025 Council Meeting. This report will also identify the changes to the proposed development standards for the minimum lot sizes and frontages for lots within HCAs, as well as any other changes to ensure that Council is meeting the State Government's requirement of 50% of lots in the R2 Low Density Residential zone being capable of providing opportunities for housing diversity.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

## ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

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PE3                      PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FEES AND CHARGES FOR PLANNING AND  
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE - BUILDING, COMPLIANCE AND REGULATORY

AUTHOR:              Michael Alexander, Coordinator, Compliance & Regulatory Services

APPROVER:          Clare Harley, Director Planning and Environment

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## RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council place the proposed amendments to fees and charges for building, compliance and regulatory services on public notice for twenty-eight (28) days, in accordance with section 610F of the *Local Government Act 1993* - Public Notice of Fees.
2. That Council note that a further report will be provided to:
  - i) outline any submissions made during the public notice period; and
  - ii) seek Council determination of the amount of the fees.

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

Council's adopted Fees and Charges for the year 2024/2025, which came into effect on 1 July 2024, need to be amended to reflect several legislative requirements and operational issues. This report seeks approval to exhibit and amend relevant wording and fee schedules in the fees and charges for the 2024/2025 financial year. Division 3 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) makes provision for Council to determine the amount of a fee for a service taking into consideration:

- The cost to Council of providing the service
- The importance of the service to the community

Section 610F of the Act requires that Council must give public notice of the proposed fees in accordance and consider any submissions made during the period of public notice.

The proposed changes incorporate:

1. Amendments to the fees and charges within the Planning and Environment Directorate as prescribed by Council's adopted fees and charges 2024/2025. Changes are proposed to bring the fees and charges into line with industry standard and ensure cost recovery for Council; and
2. New fees to be implemented under new legislative requirements for fire safety requirements in accordance with the *Environmental Planning & Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021*.
3. Introduction of new fees for pre and post demolition inspections and works being conducted outside of standard hours to ensure environmental compliance is achieved on development sites throughout the Local Government Area.

## REPORT

Strathfield Council's Fees and Charges 2024/2025 document commenced and applied from 1 July 2024. A review of the adopted fees and charges has found several fees to be inconsistent with industry standard and



not providing cost recovery for Council. New fees are proposed providing better environmental compliance and outcomes for Council and its community. These changes will also ensure consistency with the fees and charges set by other Sydney Councils.

## BACKGROUND

### 1. Construction Certificates – Fee Changes

Fees and Charges	Current Fees and Charges	Proposed Fees and Charges
Swimming Pools and Garages	\$464.00	\$750.00
Additions and Alterations	\$922.00	\$1522.00
Single Storey New Dwellings	\$988.00	\$1722.00
Two Store New Dwellings	\$1660.00	\$2222.00

These changes better reflect industry standard and will provide Council with cost recovery in the assessment of building information certificates and other certifications.

### 2. Construction Certificates – Word Changes & Fee Changes

Any reference to wording 'Building Certificate' to be amended to 'Building Information Certificate'.

Fees and Charges	Current Fees and Charges	Proposed Fees and Charges
Class 1&10 Buildings	\$250.00	\$500.00
Other Classes of Buildings:		
Up to 200m <sup>2</sup>	\$250.00	\$500.00
Between 200 m <sup>2</sup> and 2,000 m <sup>2</sup>	\$250.00	\$500.00 plus 50 cents/m <sup>2</sup>
Greater than 2,000 m <sup>2</sup>	\$1,165.00	\$1,415.00 plus 75 cents/m <sup>2</sup> over 2,000 m <sup>2</sup>
Where application relates to external wall or does not have a floor area	\$250.00	\$500.00
Additional Inspection before issuing a building certificate if necessary per inspection	\$90.00	\$274.00

### 3. New Fee – Demolition Inspection

Fees and Charges	Current Fees and Charges	Proposed New Fees and Charges	Notes
Pre-Demolition Inspection	N/A	\$350.00 incl. GST	Cost Recovery
Post Demolition Inspection	N/A	\$350.00 incl. GST	Cost Recovery
Change of Use (no building works)	\$383.00	\$750.00	Cost Recovery: requires assessment of change of use and issue of Occupation Certificate

These fees are being introduced as part of Council's pro-active compliance program for building sites and to ensure environmental compliance can be achieved and maintained. These inspection requirements will be enforced through Development Consent compliance.

#### 4. Miscellaneous Applications – Word Changes

- Removal of "121ZP"
- Has been superseded by Schedule 5 of the EP&A Act
- Joint fee is charged for both applications \$153.00

#### 5. Section 68 Applications

The following fees are no longer regulated, and the proposed fees are considered to be cost recovery.

Fees and Charges	Current Fees and Charges	Proposed Fees and Charges
Install a manufactured home, moveable dwelling or associated structure on land	\$220.00	\$2,200.00
All Other Activities Requiring Approval under Section 68	\$220.00	\$475.00

#### 6. Outside of Standard Hours Work Permit Application – New Fee

- Class 1a Dwelling (each dwelling) \$350.00 - Cost Recovery
- Class 2-9 Building – up to 3 Stories \$660.00 - Cost Recovery
- Class 2-9 Building – 4 Stories and above \$990.00 - Cost Recovery
- Class 2-9 Building where concrete pour exceeds 500 square metres \$1,320.00 - Cost Recovery

These fees are to be implemented to provide better environmental compliance in line with community expectations.

#### 7. Fire Safety Inspection Fee – New Fee

- Registration of Boarding Home \$450.00 - Cost Recovery

#### 8. Fire Safety Registration Fee – New Fee

- Change of Schedule 80A Environmental Planning & Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021
- Issue new Fire Safety Schedule to correct minor omission or error \$500 - Cost Recovery
- Replace missing or incorrect Fire Safety Schedule Class 2-9 Building \$1000.00 - Cost Recovery

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Proposed Expenditure: Within existing budget

Subject to Council's approval, the fees and charges for 2024-2025 are proposed to be publicly exhibited and then amended to reflect the amendments and new fees as outlined above. It is expected that the changes to the fees and charges will see a minor increase in financial return for Financial Year 2024/2025.

## ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report

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EO1                      THE BATTLE OF KAPYONG MEMORIAL  
AUTHOR:              Ben Michel, Landscape Architect  
APPROVER:          Cathy Edwards-Davis, Director Engineering and Operations

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## RECOMMENDATION

1. Endorse the location of the Battle of Kapyong Memorial to be in the Hudson Park sensory garden.
2. Endorse the original vertical design of the Battle of Kapyong Memorial.

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide a recommendation on the most suitable design and location for the Battle of Kapyong Memorial.

## REPORT

**Note:** Gapyeong County is the current name for the county in South Korea where the Battle of Kapyong took place in 1951. The area was known as Kapyong at the time and the official name of this battle is spelled using the old name 'Kapyong'.

### Background

Strathfield Council and Gapyeong County in South Korea have been sister cities since 2011. The Battle of Kapyong Memorial project started in February 2024 following a gift proposal from Gapyeong County to erect a memorial to the Battle of Kapyong somewhere in Strathfield Council. The cost of installing the proposed gift was analysed by Council, and it was resolved to not proceed with the proposed gift due to the calculated cost and logistics for installation. A delegation from Gapyeong County subsequently visited Strathfield in May 2024. Following this visit, a new resolution arose seeking Council to report on a new proposed memorial to the Battle of Kapyong. Council reported on a new proposal for the memorial, attached as Attachment 1, offering two design options and recommending that the memorial be placed in the sensory garden at Hudson Park. This report was prepared for the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 23 July 2024, where Council resolved the following:

*"191/24*

*RESOLVED:*

- 1. That Council report on the installation of a memorial, in the Davey Square Reserve, to acknowledge the Battle of Kapyong.*
- 2. That Council endorse the wording for the memorial, as outlined in the report.*
- 3. Council endorses a design similar to the design elements of the 'vertical design' contained in the report but being no higher than the height of the existing memorial wall."*

It was requested that Council analyse Davey Square Reserve as an alternative location to the sensory garden in Hudson Park, as outlined in point 1. The wording proposed in the July report was endorsed, as outlined in point 2, and therefore remains unchanged. Lastly, it was requested that Council propose another design following the vertical scheme but being no higher than the height of the memorial wall in Davey Square Reserve, as outlined in point 3. This report therefore responds to items 1 and 3 of the above resolution.

## Location

A meeting was held with the President of the Cumberland RSL Sub-branch on 14 August 2024 to discuss the Battle of Kapyong memorial project and its potential location. The Cumberland RSL provided the following written response to the meeting:

Cumberland RSL Sub-branch was asked to provide input to a Strathfield Council proposal to establish a Sister City monument to commemorate the Battle of Kapyong. Discussions commenced **investigating the suitability of Davey Square Reserve as a location for placement...**

A summary of these locations is shown below:

### **Davey Square Reserve- satisfactory but not optimal**

**Pro:** located in the north-east corner of the reserve so that it doesn't become a 'lean to' when Anzac or Remembrance Day services are held, it could add to the sensibility of military service.

**Con:** this may create a precedent for other conflicts to receive their own monuments (Timor Leste; Iraq; Afghanistan).

### **Melville Reserve- helps to bring relevance to WWI gate/bridge**

**Pro:** Lends relevance to existing memorials from the end of WWI which are now losing significance as treasured artefacts.

**Con:** Reserve area is already somewhat crowded so that a new memorial would not receive the attention it might deserve.

### **Hudson Park- aligns with sensibility of Korean ancestor burial practice**

**Pro:** Located in southern end of Hudson Park and facing north, this area is away from ballgames set amongst a recently established garden feature, and creates because of its vista from high ground northwards the sensibility of a traditional Korean ancestor burial mound commonly seen across the Korean countryside landscape.

**Con:** It is unknown the proximity of the Korean members of the LGA to this location, but then again this is an expression of city to city friendship and not symbolic of (Korean) nationalistic symbolism.

Some thoughts relating to Kapyong and design:

1. Some thought ought to be given to the Honour Roll Quilt which now is a permanent feature displaced at the UNMCK- Busan.
2. Traditionally, a burial mound is established for ancestors in Korea on high ground with access to a view. This might help shape some placement or design for the memorial.

3. The Korean War Memorial in Moore Park (actually one of one a few national war memorials in Australia) has excellent design sensibility and ought to have a sense of recognition to this monument even if in some tacit fashion.
4. During my posting to the Royal Military College, Duntroon I was attached to 'Kapyong Company'. There is an understated recognition of the significance of Kapyong which extends far beyond what is too often a fairly shallow political expression.
5. Diplomatic relationships with Australia commenced in 1961 on the first 10 year anniversary of Kapyong. The name Kapyong Square has been explored during the design of Regimental Square in Sydney CBD. Despite the strong association to Kapyong, Strathfield Council ought to be mindful that the Korean conflict extended across many years with different battles that are less prominent in our telling of our national military history, although no less important.
6. I have spent much time in Gapyeong personally as well as exploring the terrain where the battle was fought and happy to share photos of the area should this be helpful.
7. Among the 43 missing in action from Australian Defence Force personnel in Korea is Corporal Murphy, believed to have been KIA at Kapyong and whose remains are unaccounted for. While Murphy is not from Strathfield (or NSW for that matter), these are the poignant and solemn stories which matters when reflecting on loss and suffering in times of war.

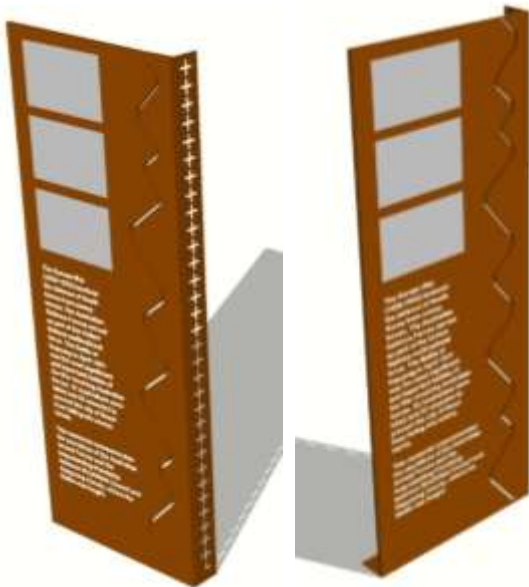
In conclusion, the response from Cumberland RSL Sub-branch is that Hudson Park provides the best location to establish a thoughtful memorial that commemorates the importance of the Sister City Relationship that is enjoyed between Strathfield and Gapyeong. Not being placed in Davey Square Reserve means that this monument is unlikely to be overshadowed by existing monuments, and where mention is already made of the Korean War (WW1 memorial).

The sub-branch welcomes this proposal to erect this monument to recognise the strength of relationship between Australia and the Republic of Korea through this special Sister City relationship grounded in the sacrifices made during the Korean War. Lest we forget.

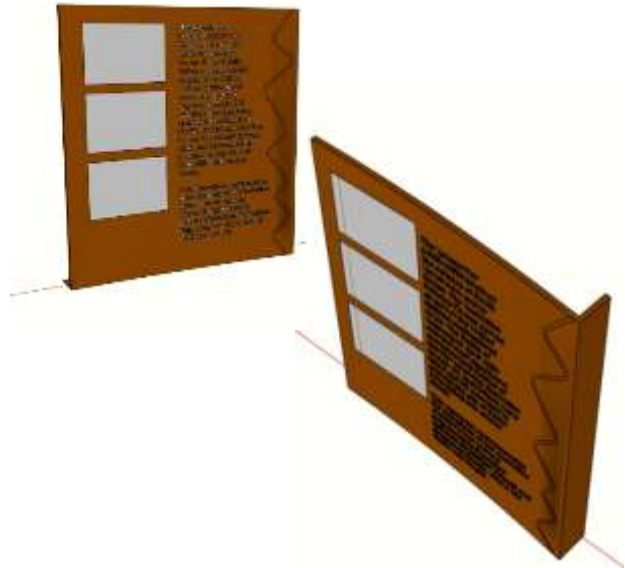
## Design

The vertical design scheme from the July report was selected as the preferred option in the July Council meeting. It was requested to amend the design to be no higher than the existing memorial wall at Davey Square Reserve. Below shows the two different design options:

**Option 1: Original vertical design**  
(1.8m tall)



**Option 2: Shorter vertical design**  
(1m tall to match height of wall)



Both designs keep the endorsed text commemorating the Battle of Kapyong. The text reads:

The Korean War (1950-1953) involved the defence of South Korea from enemy forces. The Australian Defence Forces served as part of the United Nations multinational force. The Battle of Kapyong in April 1951 was the most significant and important battles of the War involving Australian forces. 32 Australians were killed and 53 wounded to prevent the city of Seoul from falling into enemy hands. This memorial commemorates the sacrifices of the Australian Armed Forces and the long-standing friendship between Strathfield Council and Gapyeong County, where the Battle was fought.

Both designs also feature space for three photos. Both designs are proposed to be made from corten steel or coloured powder coated steel (depending on discussions with a contractor), and both designs feature a squiggly line to the right side of the structure to represent the sharp mountains of Gapyeong County. The shorter vertical design does not contain the 32 crosses along the side for the 32 Australians killed in the battle due to a lack of space and the shortened height of the structure.

## Conclusion

It is recommended that Council endorse the original vertical design to be placed in the Hudson Park sensory garden. This location is recommended by Council staff and the Cumberland RSL sub-branch. The Hudson Park sensory garden provides an outlook reminiscent of a traditional Korean ancestor burial mound as mentioned by the Cumberland RSL sub-branch, as well as providing a peaceful surrounds. The sensory garden also provides the opportunity to plant more trees and vegetation to support the monument. The original vertical design is more suitable for people to read the text and imagery on the structure due to these elements being at head height for most people. The original vertical design also allows the inclusion of the 32 crosses representing the 32 Australians killed in the battle.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding has been provided in the current budget for this purpose as set out below:

Budget Item	Approved Budget	Expenditure To Date
Korean War Memorial	\$20,000	\$0

## ATTACHMENTS

- [1. Council Report 23 07 2024 - Battle of Kapyong Memorial](#)





COUNCIL MEETING  
23 JULY 2024

EO1                      BATTLE OF KAPYONG MEMORIAL  
AUTHOR:              Herman Lok, Manager, Engineering  
APPROVER:          Michael Mamo, General Manager

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#### RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council approve the installation of a memorial, in the Hudson Park sensory garden, to acknowledge the Battle of Kapyong.
2. That Council endorse the wording for the memorial, as outlined in the report.
3. That Council endorse the vertical concept design for the memorial, as outlined in the report.

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

At the Council meeting on the 28 May 2024 it was resolved:

115/24

That Council provide a report to a future Council workshop and meeting on the following:

The erection of a memorial plaque to the Australian soldiers that fought and died in the Battle of Gapyeong between 22 to 27 April 1951 in co-ordination with the Cumberland Sub-branch RSL, any relevant State or Federal bodies, and Strathfield Municipal Council's sister city, Gapyeong-gun. The report to include the final wording, design, placement, and cost of the memorial plaque.

#### REPORT

The correct name for the battle which took place is 'The Battle of Kapyong'. Kapyong refers to the name of the Kapyong River, and the battle was fought in the valley of this river. Gapyeong-gun is the present-day name of the city, and the city is no longer referred to as Kapyong. However, the wording within the memorial should be spelt using 'The Battle of Kapyong' as this is the official name of the battle.

#### Wording

The following wording is proposed for the memorial:

*The Korean War (1950-1953) involved the defence of South Korea from enemy forces. The Australian Defence Forces served as part of the United Nations multinational force. The Battle of Kapyong in April 1951 was the most significant and important battles of the War involving Australian Forces. 32 Australians were killed and 53 wounded to prevent the city of Seoul from falling into enemy hands.*

*This memorial commemorates the sacrifices of the Australian Armed Forces and the long-standing friendship between Strathfield Council and Gapyeong County, where the Battle was fought.*

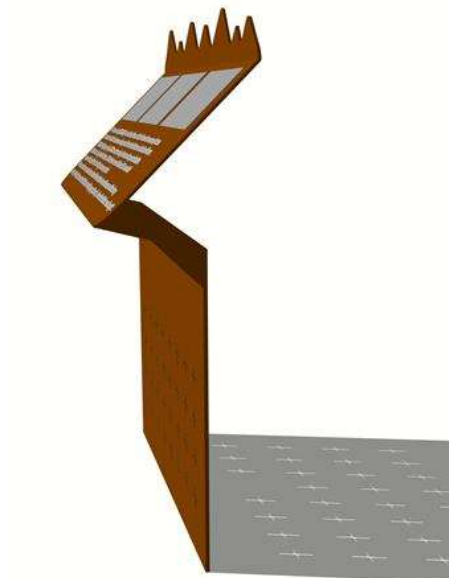
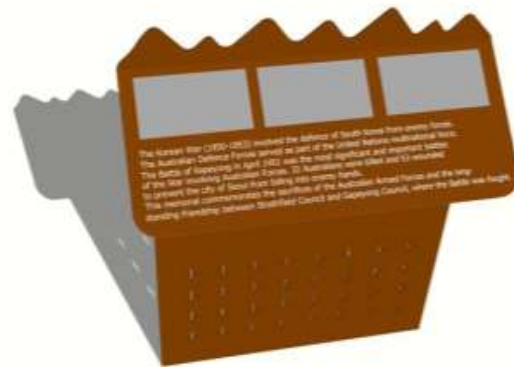
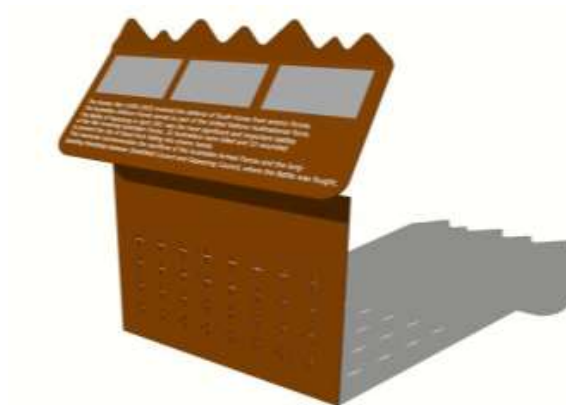


COUNCIL MEETING  
23 JULY 2024

Battle of Kapyong Memorial **(Cont'd)**

### Design

The team has created two concepts for the memorial proposal. Both concepts use corten steel or a similar looking product with pictures and text inscribed within the material. The first concept is a horizontal design which features historical imagery placed in a band towards the top, and text beneath these images as shown below:



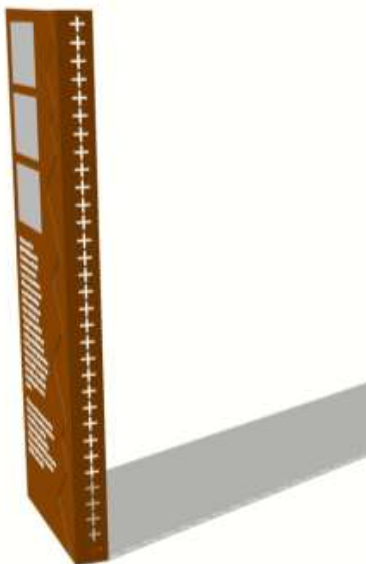
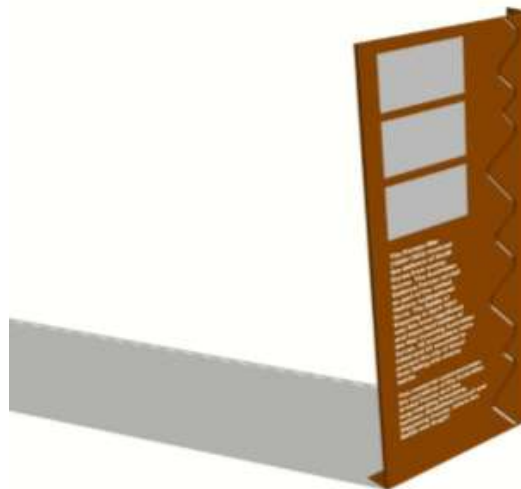
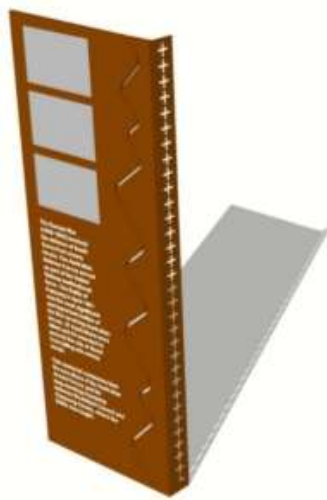


COUNCIL MEETING  
23 JULY 2024

Battle of Kapyong Memorial **(Cont'd)**

The second concept is a vertical design which features historical imagery placed in a column towards the top, and text beneath these images as shown below.

In both designs, a series of 32 crosses are proposed to commemorate the 32 Australian lives lost in the Battle. The light that projects down on the ground is a quiet, sensitive gesture to the soldiers that lost their lives. Both designs also feature a wavy edge condition or engraving which is representative of the mountains which surrounded the battlefield and continue to be a defining feature of Gapyeong County today.





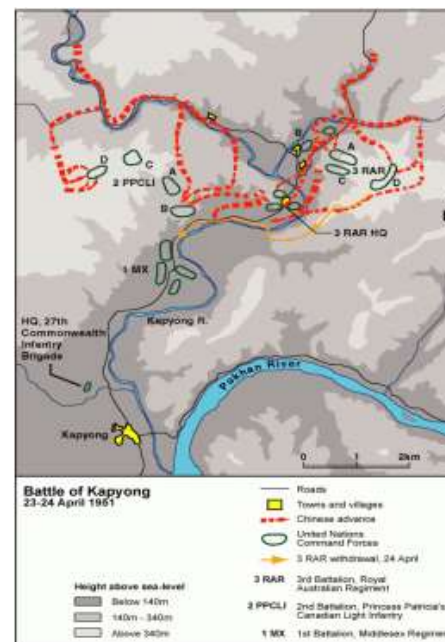
COUNCIL MEETING  
23 JULY 2024

### Battle of Kapyong Memorial (Cont'd)

Example of 3 images from the Australian War Memorial which could be placed on the memorial structure.

From top in clockwise direction:

- 1) The battleground of Kapyong, showing the characteristic mountains
- 2) Map of the battleground
- 3) General J. Van Fleet of the US Eighth Army inspects members of the 3 RAR while bestowing the Presidential citation in recognition of their actions in Kapyong.





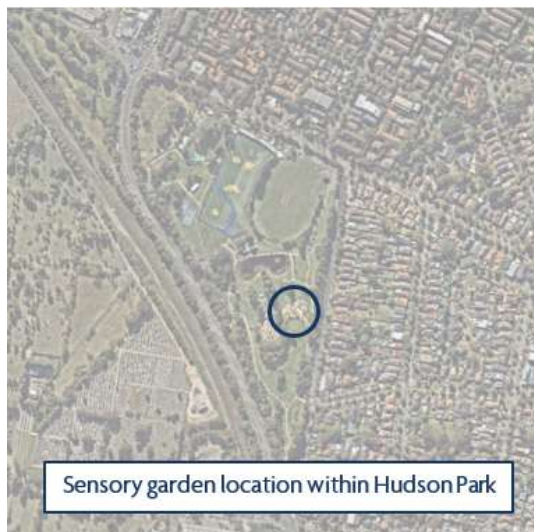


COUNCIL MEETING  
23 JULY 2024

Battle of Kapyong Memorial **(Cont'd)**

**Placement**

It is proposed that the memorial is placed in the sensory garden of Hudson Park. The location is deemed to be an ideal spot for several reasons. The sensory garden is a quiet, reflective place which is suitable for a memorial installation, and the garden beds provide ample space for installation. There is also an opportunity for embellishment of the garden beds alongside the installation of the memorial. Under the budget it is proposed to place a mixture of shrubs and grasses in the garden bed, and to install trees within the garden bed ring to formalise the space and provide a sense of significance.





COUNCIL MEETING  
23 JULY 2024

Battle of Kapyong Memorial **(Cont'd)**



#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding has been provided in the current budget for this purpose as set out below:

Budget Item	Approved Budget	Expenditure To Date
Korean War Memorial	\$20,000	\$0

#### ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report

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EO2                      DRAFT STRATHFIELD PARKLET POLICY  
AUTHOR:              Ben Michel, Landscape Architect  
APPROVER:          Cathy Edwards-Davis, Director Engineering and Operations

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## RECOMMENDATION

1. Resolve to place the draft Strathfield Parklet Policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
2. Resolve to place the proposed fees and charges for parklets on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
3. Should Council receive negligible feedback, that Council delegate for the General Manager to finalise the Strathfield Parklet Policy.

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

Provide an overview of the draft Strathfield Parklet Policy, the proposed fees and charges for parklets and the methodology in calculating these fees and charges, and the proposed public exhibition methodology.

## REPORT

The draft Strathfield Parklet Policy was introduced to Council at the Councillor Workshop held on Tuesday 12 November 2024. During this workshop, the draft policy was introduced and the methodology in developing the draft policy was explained. An overview of parklets was provided and it was demonstrated that an increased demand for parklets has been experienced across Sydney and now in Strathfield with a café in the Local Government Area (LGA) recently applying to construct a parklet outside their premises.

This report asks for a resolution to place the draft Strathfield Parklet Policy and the associated draft fees and charges on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. The methodology will follow Council's standard public exhibition procedure which will involve placing the draft policy and the fees and charges on Council's Have Your Say webpage. The community will then be given the opportunity to comment on the draft policy and fees and charges through submitting feedback online. Once the 28 day feedback period is closed, the draft policy and fees and charges may be amended and assessed by Council to incorporate comments from the community.

The proposed fees and charges for parklets have been developed by using a three (3) tiered civic space system. This is a system used by many local governments. It has been determined that four (4) out of six (6) civic spaces are suitable for parklets in the Strathfield LGA. These civic spaces are Strathfield Town Centre, Homebush Town Centre, Homebush West Town Centre, and Cave Road Village Shops. Under the proposed fees and charges, Tier 1 Civic Space will be charged the highest fee whilst Tier 3 Civic Space will be charged the lowest. This is based on market demand and competition for services in the civic space, as well as daily pedestrian and vehicle numbers and the associated expenditure in the civic space. The full breakdown of the proposed fees and charges can be found in the draft Strathfield Parklet Policy as Attachment 1.



The methodology for calculating the proposed fees and charges for parklets was undertaken as follows:

**1. Comparative analysis of other local government areas which have an endorsed parklet policy**

The following local government areas were analysed:

- Woollahra Council
- City of Canterbury-Bankstown
- Lake Macquarie City Council
- Yarra City Council (Melbourne)

The selection of Councils was limited to those which have a published parklet policy on their website and detail on how fees and charges are applied. Surrounding Councils to Strathfield such as Canada Bay and Burwood were studied, however no determination of fees specifically for parklets were found.

**2. Determining how the Strathfield LGA compares with the analysed local government areas**

The following comparative character analysis was undertaken to determine how the Strathfield LGA compares in terms of geography and proximity to the Central Business District (CBD):

- Lake Macquarie City Council (Regional Town/City) – all suburbs and towns within the Council are regional with closer proximity to Newcastle CBD than Sydney CBD.
- City of Canterbury-Bankstown (Metropolitan) – most suburbs within the Council are further from the Sydney CBD than Strathfield Council with the exception of the eastern section of the Canterbury-Bankstown Council area.
- **Strathfield Council (Metropolitan)** – most suburbs within the Council area are between 10 and 12 kilometres from the Sydney CBD.
- Yarra City Council (Metropolitan) – all suburbs within the Council are within the inner eastern suburbs of Melbourne, between 1 and 5 kilometres from the Melbourne CBD.
- Woollahra Council (Metropolitan) – all suburbs within the Council are within the inner eastern suburbs of Sydney, between 1 and 8 kilometres from the Sydney CBD.

This analysis provided a baseline understanding for how much Strathfield Council should be charging for parklet spaces based on the character and geographic conditions of the analysed Councils.

**3. Calculating the mean charge per m<sup>2</sup> based on the figures provided by the analysed Councils**

Based on the figures provided in the fees and charges by the analysed Councils, the mean charge per m<sup>2</sup> was determined to be:

- \$415/m<sup>2</sup> for primary centres
- \$300/m<sup>2</sup> for other centres

The average size of a standard parking space in New South Wales and Australia is 5.4 metres long and 2.4 metres wide. This equates to an area of 13m<sup>2</sup>. Charging the above mean charge per m<sup>2</sup> by the standard area of a parking space, the mean charge per parking space was determined to be:

- \$5,380 per parking space for primary centres
- \$3,917 per parking space for other centres



All figures include GST.

#### 4. Determining the proposed price per parking space in Strathfield Council

Using this information, a proposed fee per parking space was applied to the three (3) tiered civic space system in Strathfield as follows:

- Tier 1 Civic Space: \$5,300 per parking space incl. GST
- Tier 2 Civic Space: \$3,900 per parking space incl. GST
- Tier 3 Civic Space: \$2,100 per parking space incl. GST

These proposed figures place the highest charge, Tier 1 (Strathfield Town Centre), slightly lower than the mean charge in the analysed Councils for main centres. Tier 2 civic spaces (Homebush and Homebush West Town Centres) are also proposed to be charged slightly lower than the mean price per parking space in other centres in the analysed Councils. Lastly, Tier 3 civic spaces (Cave Road) are proposed to be charged significantly lower than other centres in the analysed Councils due to the lower daily pedestrian and vehicular numbers and lower market competition in the space. The proposed fees and charges aim to be balanced and reasonable whilst considering the demographic profile of the Strathfield LGA and the LGA's character compared to the analysed Councils.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. [Draft Parklet Policy - November 2024](#)

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

# **DRAFT**


# **PARKLET POLICY**

DAY MONTH 2024





## DRAFT PARKLET POLICY

	<b>DRAFT PARKLET POLICY</b>			
<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	Landscape Architect, Engineering Department			
<b>DATE ADOPTED</b>	XX	<b>MINUTE</b>	XX	
<b>REVISED</b>	XX	<b>REVIEW</b>	XX	
<b>CM10 NO</b>	XX			
<b>ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disability Discrimination Act 1992</li> <li>• Local Government Act 1993</li> <li>• Roads Act 1993</li> <li>• Local Government (General) Regulation 2021</li> </ul>			
<b>ASSOCIATED POLICIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Controls and Guidelines for Outdoor Dining Areas 2016</li> <li>• Enforcement Policy 2021</li> <li>• Licences and Leases Policy 2022</li> <li>• Public Art Policy 2023</li> <li>• Public Space Advertising Policy 2023</li> </ul>			

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1. Title and Commencement

This policy is titled *Parklet Policy*. This policy was adopted by Council resolution (XXX/XX) after public exhibition from DAY MONTH YEAR to DAY MONTH YEAR.

#### 1.2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the construction of parklets within Strathfield Municipal Council.



## DRAFT PARKLET POLICY

### 1.3. Scope of the Policy

The scope of this policy applies to the following:

- Eligible streets within Strathfield Municipal Council boundaries.
- Registered businesses within a business, employment, or mixed use land zone under the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012.
- Registered businesses which serve food that is consumed on their premises, such as a café, restaurant, bar, or cultural venue.
- Registered businesses which hold an existing development consent to operate as a food premises and/or hold a liquor licence.
- Registered businesses which hold an existing Outdoor Dining Permit issued by Strathfield Municipal Council.

### 2. Processes and approvals

Applicants wishing to construct a parklet must first ensure that they are eligible prior to submitting an application. Applicants must conduct their due diligence and ensure they meet the following evaluation criteria prior to starting the application process:

- The venue is a café, restaurant, bar, or other type of cultural venue
- The venue serves food which is consumed on the premises
- The venue is located in a business, employment, or mixed-use land zone under the Strathfield Local Environment Plan (LEP) 2012
- The applicant holds an existing development consent to operate as a food premises and/or holds a liquor licence (if applicable)
- The applicant has an existing and valid outdoor dining permit issued by Strathfield Municipal Council
- The applicant is proposing to install the parklet in a parking bay that is next to or adjoining the business venue

The following considerations will be determined on a case-by-case basis by Council staff:

- Streetscape condition and number of other parklets in the vicinity
- Local parking demand
- Safety aspects pertaining to road users and pedestrians

Council will not consider parklets in the following locations:

- Roads with a speed limit of more than 50 kilometres per hour
- Bus stops or bus zones
- Clearways



## DRAFT PARKLET POLICY

- Australia Post, police, fire, ambulance, or car share parking spaces
- No stopping zones
- Bicycle lanes
- Accessible parking spaces
- Loading zones
- Laneways (can be determined on a case-by-case basis depending on width)
- Angled parking

The design of the applicant's parklet proposal will be assessed against the evaluation criteria listed on the page prior and the design standards listed in the following pages of this policy. Non-compliance with the design standards of this policy will delay the applicant's submission and require re-submissions to Council at the cost of the applicant until the correct design standard is achieved.

The applicant must include the following minimum supporting documentation in their application:

- Site plan showing the proposed parklet in context with the streetscape
- Two (2) cross-sections showing the proposed condition
- Detail drawings showing the elements of the design
- Proof of valid Public Liability Insurance to a value of twenty (20) million dollars
- Completed Traffic Guidance Scheme inclusive of a plan and report

Prospective applicants are recommended to call or email Council staff prior to starting an application to ensure they meet the evaluation criteria.

### 3. Setout

Parklets are only permitted within parallel and perpendicular parking spaces. Within perpendicular parking, two parking spaces may be required to facilitate a functional parklet. This will be assessed by Council as part of the application process. A 200mm offset must be provided from the edge of the parking bay line marking. The parklet must not have an incursion within the gutter in order to facilitate unobstructed stormwater flow.

### 4. Perimeter Treatments

Parklets must have a perimeter treatment made from either sandstone blocks, metal framed planter boxes, or a mixture of both. The minimum height for sandstone blocks are 500mm, the minimum width is 500mm, and there must be no gaps wider than 150mm between sandstone blocks to allow water to flow into the gutter. The minimum height for planter boxes is 800mm, the minimum width is 450mm, and there must be no gaps between the planter boxes. Planter boxes must sit on adjustable feet and be secured together with a minimum of 4 bolts per box, at a minimum M10 bolt classification. The minimum weight per linear metre for planter boxes must be 300kg.



## DRAFT PARKLET POLICY

All types of perimeter treatments must not be higher than 900mm to allow for views out of the parklet.

### 5. Flooring

Timber or composite decking, astroturf, or an artistic graphic surface may be used as a flooring solution within parklets. Drilling or structural securing into the road asphalt is strictly prohibited. Flooring should be permeable to allow water to infiltrate to the asphalt below the parklet and into the gutter. The floor structure and finished floor level must be no higher than the kerb height. All types of flooring must be supported using adjustable feet. Natural timber decking must have a protective finish applied, with reapplication at a minimum once per year to prevent splintering. If the flooring is not able to be permeable, a gentle 1% slope must be provided to the gutter. A 300mm inspection flap must be provided where the flooring meets the kerb to ensure the gutter is free from debris, and this must be checked monthly.

### 6. Furniture

Furniture can be chosen by the applicant. Compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) must be adhered to by providing a space for one person who is assisted by wheelchair. Furniture should not be placed too close to the surrounding treatment of the parklet in order to discourage patrons from using it as seating. Furniture should not be heavy enough to compromise the structural integrity of the flooring.

### 7. Planting

Planting must be provided within the parklet, either through using a planter box surrounding treatment or by providing pots or other vessels within the parklet if only using sandstone blocks as a surrounding treatment. Planting selection should prioritise locally indigenous species first, Australia-wide native species second, and exotic species third. Do not select plants which produce thorns, thistles, spikes, or poisonous fruit. Plants must be well maintained and healthy; dead or dying plants must be removed and replaced promptly.

### 8. Overhead Structures

Pergolas or umbrellas may be used as overhead structures within the parklet. Umbrellas must not be deployed in windy weather, and it is not permitted to secure an umbrella to the property awning across the footpath. Shade sails are also not permitted to be attached to awnings. Pergolas must be integrated and structurally secured within the surrounding perimeter system. Pergola structures must be free-standing as securing to the asphalt is strictly prohibited. Construction of a pergola on site from individual building materials is not permitted; building elements must be prefabricated and erected on site within one (1) day.



## DRAFT PARKLET POLICY

Due to high complexity, all pergola designs must be designed or purchased outright from a qualified professional.

### 9. Signage

Signage is permitted to be displayed directly adjacent to the parklet only if a minimum two (2) metre thoroughfare can still be provided for pedestrians along the footpath. Signage must not have an incursion within the minimum two (2) metre pedestrian thoroughfare zone. A-frame and portable signs are permissible. Stickers, banners, flags, and billboards are prohibited.

### 10. Artwork

Artwork is permitted to be used in the parklet. Artwork containing profanity or content that is reasonably deemed to be highly controversial by a majority of people is not permitted. Artwork must be confined to the parklet extents and not extend into the footpath or roadway. All artwork proposals must be approved by Council along with the parklet. Artworks created without Council consent will be subject to removal and the applicant will be asked to submit their artwork proposal to Council.

### 11. Lighting

Lighting can be provided within the parklet. Optimally, power should be provided by solar panels and a small battery. Other options may be investigated and submitted to Council for approval. Flashing lighting, multi-coloured fairy lighting, and cold white lighting is not permitted. Rather, warm yellow lighting should be provided to create a comfortable and cosy atmosphere. Cables should be stored neatly and out of sight within the parklet confines. Cables must not run along the footpath and into the business property to be used as a power source.

### 12. Music and Noise

Music is permitted within the parklet zone, however must not be played before 8:00am or after 10:00pm. Lyrics must not contain profanity or offensive language. Music must not be louder than 75 decibels, meaning that music should not be heard more than 10 to 15 metres away from the source point in calm conditions. Applicants must be cooperative and considerate to their business and residential neighbours when considering music choice and volume. Noise complaints will be assessed by Council on a case-by-case basis. Persistent noise complaints will be investigated by Council, however to encourage a lively atmosphere evidence will be required by the complainant to demonstrate that the noise level is unreasonable. The business operator of the parklet is encouraged to collaborate with their neighbours and be respectful in order to develop rapport and camaraderie in the community.





## DRAFT PARKLET POLICY

### 13. Temperature Control

Heating and cooling devices can be used within the parklet. Heating devices which can be used include common commercial movable gas heaters and strip heaters which can be attached to an overhead structure. It is not permitted to use plug-in space heaters, fire pits, or any other type of device which emits open flames. Cooling devices which can be used include ceiling fans attached to an overhead structure and misting technology. Plug-in pedestal fans and portable air conditioners are not permitted. Windbreaks can be used only in windy weather and must be retractable, i.e. pull up/down blinds that are fully integrated in the pergola structure.

### 14. Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) Compliance

The parklet must provide hassle-free access to people with a disability. No fuss should be needed for people with a disability to access the parklet; access must be universal and discrete. Parklets must have a finished floor level (FFL) equal to that of the footpath kerb. The flooring of the parklet must intersect flush with the kerb. Steps are prohibited, and only in special and challenging circumstances may a ramp be used after review and approval by Council. There must be no sharp edges within the parklet and materials must have a low level of reflectivity. Furniture selection must also be DDA compliant.

### 15. Professional Suppliers

Professional parklet suppliers may be used by the applicant, instead of designing and constructing a parklet from scratch. Engaging a professional parklet supplier can streamline the application process due to the criteria outlined in this policy already being satisfied in most circumstances.

### 16. Safety

Parklet's must be designed in a way which does not cause any safety issues to motorists, pedestrians, and patrons sitting inside the parklet. The design of a parklet will be scrutinised with safety considerations in mind by Council as part of the application review process. The following safety rules must be observed once the parklet is operational:

- Avoid leaning over into the roadway or sticking out limbs and other body parts into oncoming traffic
- Secure and monitor pets with a leash to a sturdy device to avoid escapism
- Monitor young children and be aware of their movements within the parklet and adjacent roadway
- Do not throw objects into the roadway





## DRAFT PARKLET POLICY

- Do not enter or exit the parklet in any other way besides the dedicated entrance point along the footpath
- Do not allow the parklet to become overcrowded which can increase the risk of people spilling onto the roadway
- For licensed venues, monitor customers as part of responsibilities under the Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) legislation and ensure patrons do not engage in reckless behaviour to themselves or others.
- Do not attach objects to the parklet which protrude into the roadway and distract or obstruct drivers

### 17. Fees and Charges

The following fees and charges will apply to the operation of parklets:

- **Tier 1 Civic Space: Strathfield Town Centre**  
\$5,300 per year, per parking space
- **Tier 2 Civic Space: Homebush Town Centre and Homebush West Town Centre**  
\$3,900 per year, per parking space
- **Tier 3 Civic Space: Cave Road Village Shops**  
\$2,100 per year, per parking space
- **Application Fee: applies to all civic spaces**  
\$234 per application

### 18. Licensing

Alcohol can only be served in a parklet if the applicant has a liquor licence. Upon approval of a parklet, the applicant must extend their liquor licence to the parklet space prior to serving alcohol. Serving alcohol without a liquor licence is a serious offence. Doing so will result in an immediate termination of a parklet approval and possible investigation by Liquor and Gaming NSW.

### 19. Maintenance

The parklet must be kept in a clean and tidy state and it is the applicant's responsibility to maintain the parklet space. The parklet should be cleaned as part of the venue's standard daily closing procedure. The floor of the parklet should be swept each evening and rubbish collected and discarded to avoid attracting street pests such as rats and cockroaches. Timber decking must be treated yearly to stop splintering and to provide protection from natural elements such as sun, wind, and rain. A timber pergola will require the same treatment regime. In the summer, plants should be watered at least twice each week.



## DRAFT PARKLET POLICY

Avoid overwatering as this can also damage plant health. Plants should be watered to the conditions of the day and the weather forecasts for the coming week. Soil saturation should be monitored to gain an understanding of when the plants require water. In normal winter conditions, plants should be watered no more than once per week. During warm winter spells, this may need to be adjusted. The condition of the parklet and the planting within will be monitored by Council and notices will be given if the condition is found to be in a state of untidiness and disrepair.

### 20. Revoking, Suspending, and Amending

Three (3) warnings will be given to the applicant prior to revoking a parklet approval. In some instances, a parklet approval may need to be suspended temporarily due to no fault of the applicant, such as for a special event or roadworks. In both instances, a minimum of seven (7) days' notice will be provided by Council prior to the date of revoking or temporarily suspending. Reasons for revoking or temporarily suspending a parklet approval are as follows:

- The conditions of the approval are breached
- The conditions of a liquor licence (if applicable) are breached
- The use of the parklet has proven to compromise public safety
- The use of the parklet has proven to negatively disturb the amenity of the streetscape and the neighbourhood
- The parklet is in an area which is scheduled for public works
- The parklet is in an area which is needed for a special event

The applicant may amend their parklet approval at any time by contacting Council and following directions from the relevant officer.

### 21. Monitoring

The Parklet Policy will be monitored and implemented by Council's Engineering and Operation's Team with support from other Council directorates.

### 22. Version Control

Date	Type	Minute
DAY MONTH YEAR	XXX	XXX/XX

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12.1 REPORT FROM TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING ON 19 NOVEMBER 2024

AUTHOR: John Inglese, Traffic Engineer

APPROVER: Cathy Edwards-Davis, Director Engineering and Operations

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#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting held on 19 November 2024 be noted and the recommendations be adopted.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. [1](#) Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes - 19 November 2024

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

# TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING

## MINUTES

**Tuesday 19 November 2024**

11am - 12:30pm

Main Building Meeting Room

65 Homebush Road, Strathfield





## TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING - 19 NOVEMBER 2024

## MINUTES

Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting of Strathfield Municipal Council held on 19 November 2024, in the Main Building Meeting Room, 65 Homebush Road, Strathfield.

**COMMENCING:**

11:00AM

**PRESENT:**

Clr. Matthew Blackmore - Chairperson  
SGT Raymond Yeung - Auburn Traffic Police

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr John Inglese	Senior, Traffic and Transport Engineer, Strathfield Council
Mr Jack Griffith	Traffic Engineer, Strathfield Council
Mr Chris Johnson	Road Safety Officer, Strathfield Council

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION****2. APOLOGIES**

Andy Hyunh Transport for NSW (however provided Comments on each item).  
Representative of the Member for Strathfield

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Clr Blackmore declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 6.4

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****RECOMMENDATION**

That the minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting held on 17 September 2024, a copy of which has been furnished to each Councillor, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairman and General Manager be authorised to sign such minutes.

*Voting on this item was unanimous*

**5. DEFERRED/OUTSTANDING ITEMS**

Nil



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## 6. REPORTS

### 6.1 No. 6 Torrington Avenue Strathfield, Request for P15 Minute Parking 7am – 6pm (Monday – Saturday) Following the Land and Environment Court Determination to create a formalised drop-off and pick-up area along the Torrington Street Frontage of the site.

#### Background;

Following the Land and Environment Court Determination *Selim v Strathfield Municipal Council* [2024] NSWLEC 1662, Hearing Date Conciliation conference held on 22 August 2024, it was determined that Development Application No DA 2023.99 as amended for alterations and additions to existing childcare centre to increase the capacity of the childcare centre by an additional 10 children to a total capacity of 58 children, and extension of operating hours to include Saturdays from 8:00am to 5:00pm for 10 children on the first floor addition only, at 6 Torrington Road, Strathfield, 2135, legally known as Lot A1 in DP 368736, is determined by the grant of development consent.

In approving the above, the Court took into consideration the Joint expert report from the Joshua Glanville Traffic Engineer for the applicant and John Inglese Traffic Engineer for the Council.

It was recommended that all visitors/parents for the proposed new play area on the first floor are to utilise Torrington Road for drop off and pick up rather than Woodward Avenue.

Signage within the sites frontage on Torrington Avenue is to be altered from the existing "4P 8:00AM – 6:00PM Monday to Friday Permit Holders Excepted Area 10 to P15 Minute Parking 7:00am – 6:00pm (Monday – Saturday).

Signage within the site frontage on Woodward Avenue is also to be altered from the existing P15 Min 7:00AM – 6:00PM Mon-Fri to 7:00AM – 6:00PM (Monday – Saturday).

#### Proposal

Based on the above it is recommended that Council approve to convert the current 4P 8:00AM – 6:00PM Monday to Friday Permit Holders Excepted Area 10 Signage in Torrington Avenue to P15 Minute Parking 7:00am – 6:00pm (Monday – Saturday) for the frontage of the subject site. This will accommodate 4 Parking spaces in Torrington Avenue.

Signage within the site frontage on Woodward Avenue is also to be altered from the existing P15 Min 7:00AM – 6:00PM Mon-Fri to 7:00AM – 6:00PM (Monday – Saturday). As per figure 1.



See Figure 1. Proposed P15 Parking.

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council approve to convert the current 4P 8:00AM – 6:00PM Monday to Friday Permit Holders Excepted Area 10 Signage in Torrington Avenue P15 Minute Parking 7:00am – 6:00pm (Monday – Saturday) for the frontage of the subject site.
2. Further that; the existing signage within the site frontage on Woodward Avenue is to be altered from the existing P15 Min 7:00AM – 6:00PM Monday-Friday to P15 Min 7:00AM – 6:00PM (Monday – Saturday).

*(Voting on this item was unanimous)*



**6.2 Ismay Ave – Request for a Disabled Parking space at No. 28-30.****Background**

Council has received a request for a disabled parking space from the owner of No. 28-30 Ismay Avenue.

**Proposal**

There is currently no such space and all parking spaces along Ismay Avenue are subject to the 4P 8AM – 6PM Monday to Friday Permit Holders Excepted Area 30 and due to the high parking demand in this residential precinct it is difficult for the resident to park near the entry to their Home. See Figure 1.

Please note that; Council staff have sighted the Disabled Permit details as part of this application. The resident has been made aware that this space would be able to be used by any vehicle with a disabled parking permit.

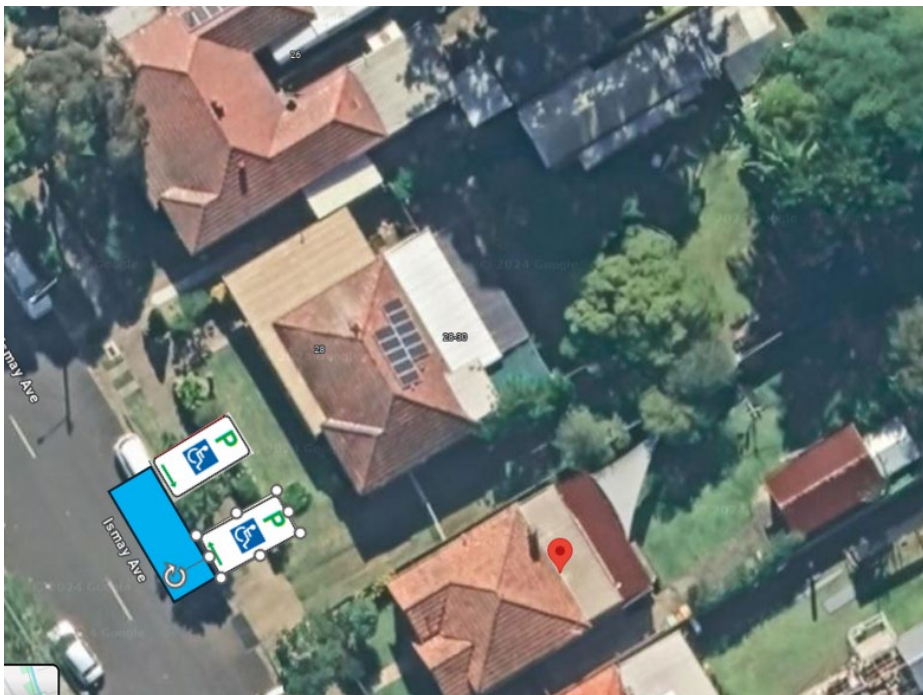


Figure 1. proposed Disabled parking space

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the implementation of an accessible parking space on the east side of Ismay Avenue as shown in Figure 1 of the report.

*(Voting on this item was unanimous)*





## TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING - 19 NOVEMBER 2024

## MINUTES

**6.3 Local Traffic Committee Meeting dates for 2025**

Meeting times and dates are as follows; 11.00am – 12.30pm (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month) – Main Meeting Room see below;

18 February 2025	11.00am – 12.30pm	Face to Face Meeting
18 March 2025	11.00am – 12.30pm	Face to Face Meeting
15 April 2025	11.00am – 12.30pm	Face to Face Meeting
20 May 2025	11.00am – 12.30pm	Face to Face Meeting
17 June 2025	11.00am – 12.30pm	Face to Face Meeting
15 July 2025	11.00am – 12.30pm	Face to Face Meeting
19 August 2025	11.00am – 12.30pm	Face to Face Meeting
16 September 2025	11.00am – 12.30pm	Face to Face Meeting
21 October 2025	11.00am – 12.30pm	Face to Face Meeting
18 November 2025	11.00am – 12.30pm	Face to Face Meeting
16 December 2025	11.00am – 12.30pm	Face to Face Meeting

Agenda is distributed to the following.

**Transit Systems – Transport – RMS :**

Adrian Prichard [APrichard@transitsystems.com.au](mailto:APrichard@transitsystems.com.au);

Andy Huynh [andy.huynh@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:andy.huynh@transport.nsw.gov.au);

Asith Nagodavithane [ANagodavithane@transitsystems.com.au](mailto:ANagodavithane@transitsystems.com.au);

Nicolas Kocoski [Nicolas.kocoski@rms.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Nicolas.kocoski@rms.nsw.gov.au);

Peter Whitney [PeterWhitney@transitsystems.com.au](mailto:PeterWhitney@transitsystems.com.au);

**Police**

Local Area Command Auburn [auburntraffic@police.nsw.gov.au](mailto:auburntraffic@police.nsw.gov.au);

Raymond Yeong [yeunray@police.nsw.gov.au](mailto:yeunray@police.nsw.gov.au);

**Traffic Team**

John Inglese [John.Inglese@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:John.Inglese@strathfield.nsw.gov.au);

Jack Griffiths [Jack.Griffiths@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jack.Griffiths@strathfield.nsw.gov.au);

Chris Johnson [Chris.Johnson@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Chris.Johnson@strathfield.nsw.gov.au);

Herman Lok [Herman.Lok@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Herman.Lok@strathfield.nsw.gov.au);



## TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING - 19 NOVEMBER 2024

## MINUTES

**Councillors**

Matt Blackmore [cr.mblackmore@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cr.mblackmore@strathfield.nsw.gov.au); (Traffic Committee Chairman)  
(Traffic Committee Deputy Chairman – to be selected by the Chairman in his absence)

Other Councillors are for information only – attendance not required

Benjamin Cai [cr.bcai@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cr.bcai@strathfield.nsw.gov.au);

Esther Kim [cr.ekim@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cr.ekim@strathfield.nsw.gov.au);

John-Paul Baladi [cr.jpbaladi@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cr.jpbaladi@strathfield.nsw.gov.au);

Karen Pensabene [cr.kpensabene@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cr.kpensabene@strathfield.nsw.gov.au);

Rory Nosworthy [cr.rnosworthy@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cr.rnosworthy@strathfield.nsw.gov.au);

Sandy Reddy [cr.sreddy@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cr.sreddy@strathfield.nsw.gov.au);

**State Members**

State Member for Auburn [auburn@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:auburn@parliament.nsw.gov.au);

State Member for Lakemba [lakemba@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lakemba@parliament.nsw.gov.au);

State Member for Strathfield [strathfield@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:strathfield@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

**Electorate Office**

ElectorateOffice Strathfield [ElectorateOffice.Strathfield@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ElectorateOffice.Strathfield@parliament.nsw.gov.au);

**Management**

Michael Mamo [Michael.Mamo@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Michael.Mamo@strathfield.nsw.gov.au);

Cathy Edwards-Davis [Cathy.Edwards-Davis@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Cathy.Edwards-Davis@strathfield.nsw.gov.au);

Fina Nainoca [finanainoca@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:finanainoca@strathfield.nsw.gov.au);

Helen Tunks: [helen.tunks@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:helen.tunks@strathfield.nsw.gov.au)

Location: Meetings will take place in the Main Meeting room. A separate invite will be sent to **Committee Members only** to join via Microsoft Teams where necessary.

*Note: Council requirements are for the Traffic Committee to have a minimum of eight meetings in one calendar year. A further two meetings may be cancelled through the General Manager if not required.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the above schedule for 2025 Traffic Committee Meetings be received and noted.

*(Voting on this item was unanimous)*

#### 6.4 2-10 Churchill Avenue, Strathfield – Construction Traffic Management Plan.

##### Background

Council has received a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) for the demolition of existing buildings at 2-10 Churchill Avenue and the construction of a 15-storey mixed use building containing a mix of retail floor space, commercial floor space, and residential apartments. The site is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1 – subject site of the CTMP

The CTMP proposes several parking changes and alterations to the public domain and involves heavy vehicle access to the town centre. Works are proposed to begin in February 2025 and estimated to conclude in June 2027 and permitted construction hours are 7am-5pm Monday to Saturday. No works are permitted on Sundays or public holidays.

**Proposal**

There are several considerations for construction of this project, all indicated below in Figure 2:



**Figure 2 – truck access, hoarding, and Works Zone considerations for the CTMP**

- Access routes
  - Due to several 1-way roads within the town centre and pedestrian activity around Strathfield Square, it is proposed that trucks access the site by entering The Boulevard and turning left into Churchill Avenue to access the Works Zone (discussed below).
  - Vehicles will then depart along Churchill Avenue to turn left or right onto Raw Square and rejoin the State Road network.
  - To facilitate the swept paths of the proposed 12.5m long heavy rigid vehicles accessing the site, minor civil works will be completed on the southern corner of the intersection of Churchill Avenue and The Boulevard. The southern kerb will be temporarily realigned from the red line in Figure 3 to the blue line shown and the existing Wombat crossing will be extended to the temporary front of kerb for continued pedestrian access. Minor removal of the adjacent shrub will be required, but the existing tree shall be retained and protected for the duration of works. While it is acknowledged that the proposed swept paths will result in degradation of the existing line marking on The Boulevard, this outcome is preferable to previous outcomes that required relocation of several bollards on the north side of Churchill Avenue and other effects on the public domain.



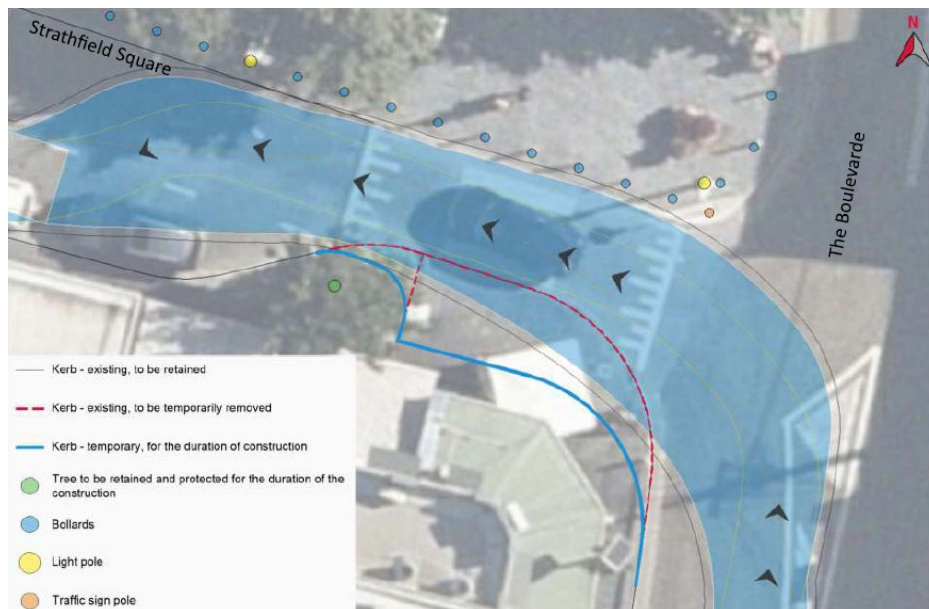


Figure 3 – temporary infrastructure changes at the intersection of Churchill Avenue and The Boulevard

- Hoarding
  - Due to the high-pedestrian nature of the area, B-Class hoarding (shown in Figure 4) will be implemented along the entire frontage of the site for the entirety of the project to protect pedestrians from any potential hazards like debris from the site or loose materials during loading.
  - To maintain the amenity of the town centre during construction, custom artwork will be provided on the hoarding.



Figure 4 – example of B-Class hoarding

- Works Zone
  - As construction vehicles will not be able to access the site, all loading and unloading is to be conducted via an external Works Zone proposed in the existing southern parking bay on Churchill Avenue. This area currently has 'No Parking' restrictions from 7AM-9AM and 4PM-6PM and 30-minute parking at all other times. This is proposed to be changed to 'Works Zone' from 7AM-5PM Monday-Saturday and maintain the 30-minute parking restriction at all other times as shown in Figure 5.
  - During concrete pours, a second Works Zone has been proposed by Council on The Boulevarde as shown in Figure 6 to allow for standing of waiting concrete delivery trucks. While the Works Zone is in close proximity to the traffic lights at Parnell Street and hence requires approval from Transport for NSW, the northbound lane width of approximately 5.4m provides for the standing of these trucks while allowing other vehicles to continue northbound and remain within the marked lane.
  - Both Works can accommodate 2 construction vehicles.



Figure 5 – proposed Works Zone on Churchill Avenue



**Figure 6 – proposed Works Zone on The Boulevard**

- Vehicle access during concrete pours:
  - While there will typically be a concrete pump on-site for concrete pours and concrete delivery trucks will stand in the Works Zone, sites also typically use a mobile concrete pump that stands rear-to-rear with the concrete delivery trucks (indicatively shown in Figure 2).
  - This is proposed in the Works Zone on Churchill Avenue, where the concrete pump would reverse into Churchill Avenue such that it must manoeuvre on The Boulevard and traffic be temporarily held. The concrete delivery trucks would then enter the Works Zone in a forward direction to stand tail-to-tail with the pump.

In addition to all of the above considerations, the CTMP was provided to Transport for NSW for comment. A copy of the response from Transport for NSW has been attached to this report.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report.

*(Voting on this item was unanimous)*



## 6.5 Barker Road, Strathfield – Advanced Hold Lines for certain intersections.

### Background

Council have received a request to improve sightlines from South Street looking west along Barker Road at the intersection of these roads to allow vehicles to safely enter onto Barker Road.

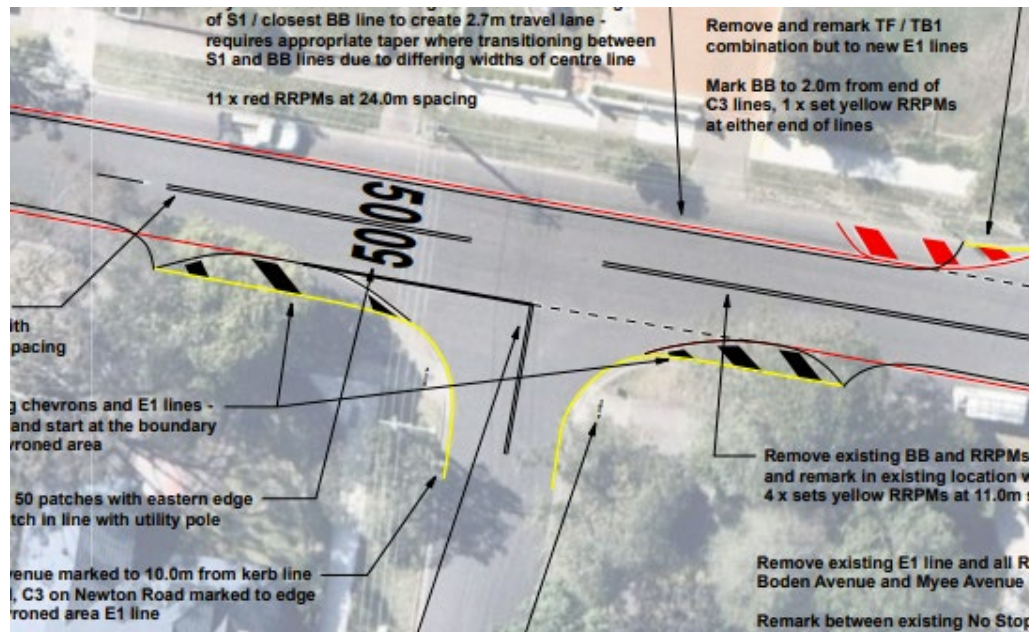
Currently, an approximate 15.0m '*No Stopping*' restriction is in effect here that is enforced by a sign. To the east is the mid-block pedestrian traffic signals such that no vehicles are parked and sightlines are clear. The intersection is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1 – intersection of South Street and Barker Road

### Proposal

To prevent any parking loss while improving sight distances, it is proposed to re-mark the hold line in line with the outer edge of the adjacent edge line and enforce the No Stopping zone with a combination of yellow kerb line marking and chevroned line marking. An example of this at the intersection of Boden Avenue and Newton Road is shown in Figure 2, noting this intersection also utilises an extended '*No Stopping*' zone.



**Figure 2 – advanced hold line and supporting line marking at the intersection of Boden Avenue and Newton Road**

At the intersection of South Street and Barker Road, the west side of the intersection would be similar to the image above with the edge line terminating at the 'No Stopping' sign and then using yellow kerb line marking and chevron infill in the restricted stopping zone. On the east side of the intersection, yellow kerb line marking would be implemented for consistency of marking in the 'No Stopping' zone.

Regarding the hold line, the line on the west side of the road would remain as it is but further out. However, due to the existing continuity line on the east side of the intersection that delineates the travel lane through the traffic signals, the hold line on the east side of the road would be marked between the centre line and continuity line.

As Barker Road is a collector road and hence subject to higher traffic volumes and speeds, Council also proposes to implement an advanced hold line at other intersections along Barker Road for improved sight distances (using line marking similar to that in Figure 2). These other intersections and the existing hold lines are outlined below:

- Barker Road and Wallis Avenue (Figure 3): the existing continuity line will be removed and the hold line brought out to where the continuity line is currently marked. No chevron line marking required on the west side of the intersection due to the existing kerb blisters here.





Figure 3 – intersection of Barker Road and Wallis Avenue

- Barker Road and Todman Place (intersection on right in Figure 4): no treatment required as vehicles typically use this road as a shortcut to turn left only rather than turning left from Oxford Road onto Barker Road and so do not need to observe westbound vehicles (looking to the left when at the intersection).
- Barker Road and Oxford Road (intersection on left in Figure 4): no treatment required due to approximate 30m 'No Stopping' zone to the west and no parking on south side of island.



Figure 4 – intersection of Barker Road with Todman Place and Oxford Road

- Barker Road and Wilson Street: same comments as intersection of Barker Road and Wallis Avenue, intersection shown in Figure 5.



Figure 5 – intersection of Barker Road and Wilson Street

- Barker Road x Marion Street: not required due to roundabout planned for construction in the current financial year.
- Barker Road x Howard Street: existing advanced hold line in place as shown in Figure 6, line marking will be adjusted to be consistent with other advanced hold lines proposed.



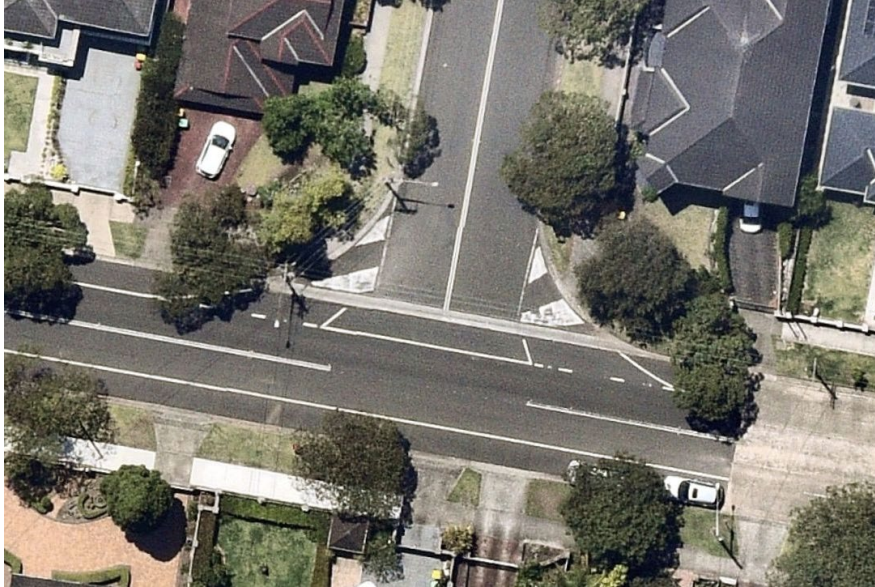


Figure 6 – intersection of Barker Road and Howard Street

- Barker Road and Pemberton Street: not required due to existing roundabout.
- Barker Road and Newton Road: not required due to dead-end road and low traffic volume.

The above line marking changes are proposed to be completed in the existing financial year as part of line marking maintenance along Barker Road.

At the meeting discussion took place regarding TfNSW comments *The proposed hold-lines should be in line with the kerb along Barker Road as per the standard on NSW roads or further treatment, such as kerb extension, should be considered to support an advanced hold-lines.* While it is acknowledged that this particular treatment has been implemented across other similar intersections within the LGA, old practices are generally grandfathered but new proposals will have to meet certain standards and guidelines, and this is not a practice that TfNSW will endorse at this time. It was decided that TfNSW comments would be taken onboard and the kerb buildouts would be implemented for the intersection of Barker Road and South Street to minimise the loss of parking.

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. Approve the advanced hold line and supporting line marking changes including the kerb buildouts as recommended by TfNSW at the intersection of Barker Road and South Street.
2. Approve the line marking adjustment for an advanced hold line changes including the kerb buildouts as recommended by TfNSW at the intersection of Barker Road and Wallis Avenue.
3. Approve the line marking adjustment for an advanced hold line changes including the kerb buildouts as recommended by TfNSW at the intersection of Barker Road and Wilson Street.

*(Voting on this item was unanimous)*

## 6.6 Strathfield LGA – Zebra Crossing Program

### Background

Over the previous 2 years, Council have received several requests from members of the community, had recommendations made in reports, or identified the need for pedestrian crossings at various locations to assist pedestrians and bike riders in crossing the road. These crossing locations are primarily near schools, in the town centres, or along existing walking and bike riding routes.

Council officers prefer constructing raised Wombat crossings as these improve safety for pedestrians by making them more visible to vehicles and making vehicles more aware of the crossing, and they secondarily act as traffic calming devices by vertically deflecting vehicles. However, these are quite expensive, time consuming for both design and construction, and can be complex to implement depending on the site constraints.




### Proposal

As they are quite cheap and easy to implement, Council is proposing to implement a program of Zebra crossings at key locations across the LGA. While not as safe as Wombat crossings, they significantly increase safety for pedestrians crossing the road such that it is better to implement them than not. Furthermore, this assists in active travel by promoting walking and use of micromobility devices, particularly around schools, and assists in reducing car use and the resulting congestion.



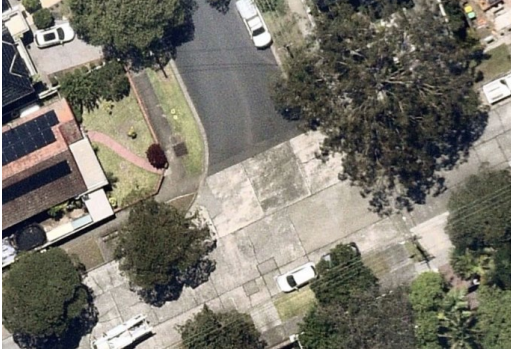
Once implemented, the crossings can be gradually raised to Wombat crossings by applying to suitable grants.

In order of priority, the list of crossing locations (with an aerial or street view image of the location included) and required treatments at each location is outlined below:

Location	Image	Treatment required
Fraser Street at refuge island – along Cooks River Shared Path		Line marking

Hedges Avenue at Augusta Street – along Cooks River Shared Path		Line marking
Maria Street north of Elliott Street – along Cooks River Shared Path		Line marking
Eastbourne Road south of Exeter Road – outside Homebush West Public School		Line marking New pram ramps
Exeter Road east of Eastbourne Road – outside Homebush West Public School	Shown in image above	Line marking Widening of pram ramps




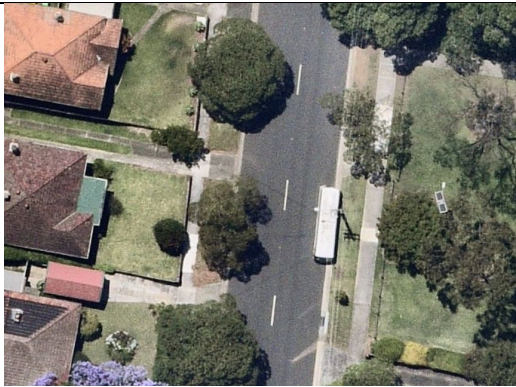

Eastbourne Road north of Tavistock Road – outside Homebush West Public School		Line marking Pram ramp widening New pram ramp
The Crescent east of Hornsey Road – within Homebush West town centre		Line marking
Heyde Avenue north of Oxford Road – route to Marie Bashir Primary School and ACU		Line marking Pram ramp widening Kerb extension





## TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING - 19 NOVEMBER 2024

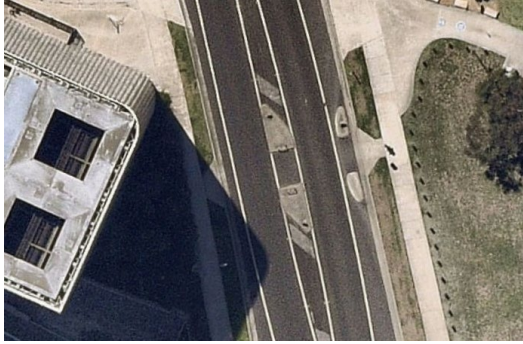

## MINUTES

Chalmers Road at Strathfield Park – outside a park		<p>Line marking</p> <p>Widening of pram ramps</p> <p>Speed cushions on approach to crossing</p>
Pemberton Street at Boden Reserve – outside a park		<p>Line marking</p> <p>New pram ramps</p> <p>Speed cushions on approach to crossing</p> <p>Construction of offset refuge island for implementation of crossing due to clashing trees and driveways</p>
Arthur Street at Pilgrim Park – outside a park		<p>Line marking</p> <p>Pram ramp widening</p> <p>Speed cushions on approach to crossing</p>



## TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING - 19 NOVEMBER 2024

## MINUTES

Underwood Road at Ismay Reserve – outside a park		Line marking Pram ramp widening Speed cushions on approach to crossing
Broughton Road at Fitzgerald Park – outside a park		Line marking Pram ramp widening Speed cushions on approach to crossing

Given all of these crossings facilitate improved pedestrian safety and active travel, Council will apply to State and Federal grants to assist in the delivery of these crossings.

While most of the proposed crossings are simple to implement, the crossing at Pemberton Street requires the construction of an offset crossing with a refuge island due to alternating driveways and trees preventing a straight crossing alignment. To avoid removing an established tree, an offset crossing can be implemented. A detailed design will be brought back to the Local Traffic Committee for this crossing.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council approves the implementation of all crossings with exception to Recommendation 2.
2. That Council approve in principle the implementation of the crossing on Pemberton Street and a detailed design be presented back to the Local Traffic Committee.

*(Voting on this item was unanimous)*



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**6.7 Underwood Road Precinct, Homebush – Consultation Extension of Resident Parking Scheme Area 30****Background**

The Direct Factory Outlet (DFO) in Homebush is a popular shopping destination in Sydney and attracts a significant number of people, causing high traffic volumes and heavy congestion on weekends during peak shopping periods. This is exacerbated on and in the lead up to significant public holidays like Christmas and retail sales days like Black Friday.

As the DFO car park is paid parking, a significant volume of vehicles park in the local streets in Homebush, noting there is no parking in close proximity to the DFO in Sydney Olympic Park. Additionally, Underwood Road is the closest access point to Homebush Bay Drive and Sydney Olympic Park for a large area.

With the combination of these factors, there is a large volume of northbound traffic on Underwood Road to enter the roundabout at the intersection with Homebush Bay Drive. Within the roundabout, traffic movements are such that there is little opportunity for traffic on Underwood Road to enter the roundabout, causing heavy congestion on Underwood Road.

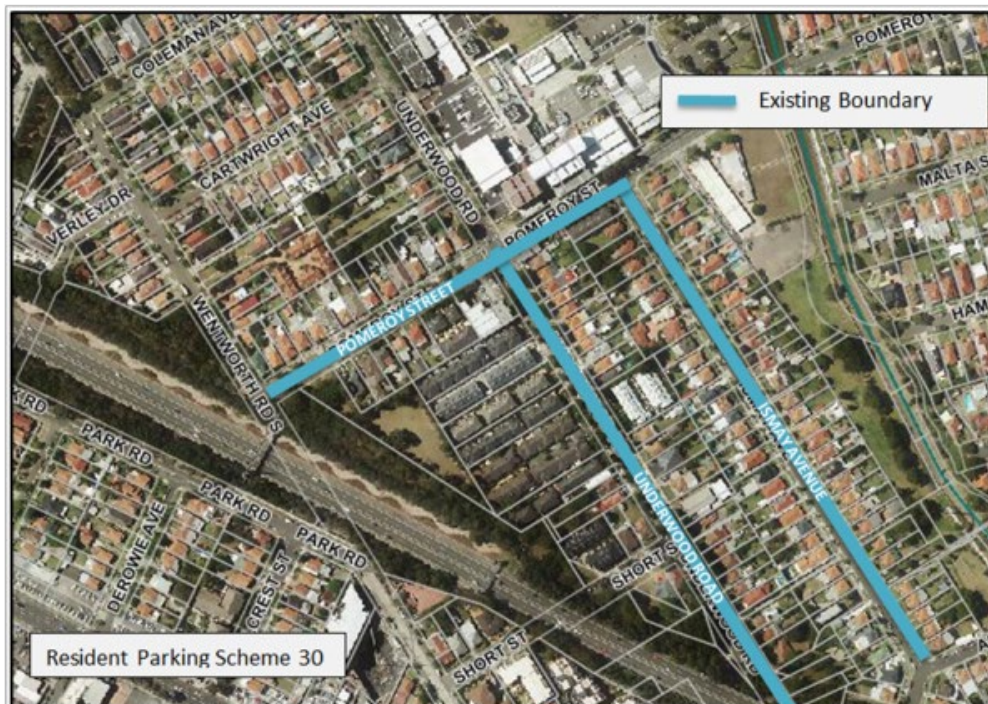
It should be noted that Transport for NSW is currently underway with an upgrade of the roundabout to a traffic light diamond interchange that will help ease congestion on Underwood Road by allowing traffic on Underwood Road to more easily enter the intersection.

**Proposal**

To help minimise the amount of traffic accessing local roads for parking and hence minimise traffic on Underwood Road, Council is proposing to introduce parking restrictions in the streets near the DFO.

There is an existing Resident Parking Scheme (Area 30) on Underwood Road south of Pomeroy Street, Pomeroy Street, and Ismay Avenue as shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1 – Resident Parking Scheme Area 30**

It is proposed to extend this to Underwood Road between Pomeroy Street and Bellona Avenue, Wentworth Road South, Verley Drive, Cartwright Avenue, and Coleman Avenue, as shown in Figure 2, subject to resident consultation.

It should be noted that this same consultation was conducted in 2019 in response to similar issues in the area. 130 letters were distributed to the properties that would be affected with the below results as presented in the 2020 February Local Traffic Committee report:

Properties Consulted		Comments
	130	
<b>Support</b>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not want strangers parking in front of house</li> </ul>
<b>Opposed</b>	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand to Verley Drive</li> <li>Inconvenience to residents</li> <li>Nonsense</li> <li>Focus on DA's not parking</li> <li>2 hour RPS</li> </ul>
<b>Total</b>	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8%</li> </ul>

However, in the interim between the first round of consultation and this report, reported traffic conditions have continued to deteriorate with residents sometimes being unable to exit their driveways due to traffic congestion.



**Figure 2 – proposed extension of Resident Parking Scheme Area 30**

While the existing Resident Parking Scheme offers 4-hour parking from 8AM-6PM Monday-Friday and 8AM-1PM Saturday (permit holders excepted), consultation will offer the following options:

- 1 or 2 hour parking: as the subject streets are closer to the DFO, it is desirable to have shorter available parking to deter people parking for quick trips.
- Parking restrictions 7 days a week or on weekends only: while traffic is the worst on weekends due to peak times for shopping, an option for restrictions 7 days a week will be provided to deter the use of local streets for business parking.
- Times of effect to be the same as the existing RPS except on weekends where the times of effect will be proposed as 8AM-3PM dependent on the restriction time (1 or 2 hour parking). This prevents vehicles being able to park early afternoon such that the time of effect terminates prior to the termination of the vehicle's allowed parking time. This ensures vehicles must still utilise the DFO parking in the early afternoon and not local roads.

In addition to the above proposed changes in local residential streets, Council also proposes to introduce 3 hour timed parking on the east side of Underwood Road between Bellona Avenue and the Mason Park Car Park (Figure 3) to promote the parking use for the adjacent sports fields and again not as DFO parking, noting a 3 hour time limit is consistent with the time limit for the Mason Park and Bressington Park Car Parks. The time of effect would be 8:30AM-6PM (same as the car parks) but would only be on weekends to support the activity at the sports fields while still allowing for unrestricted parking on weekdays for the adjacent businesses.



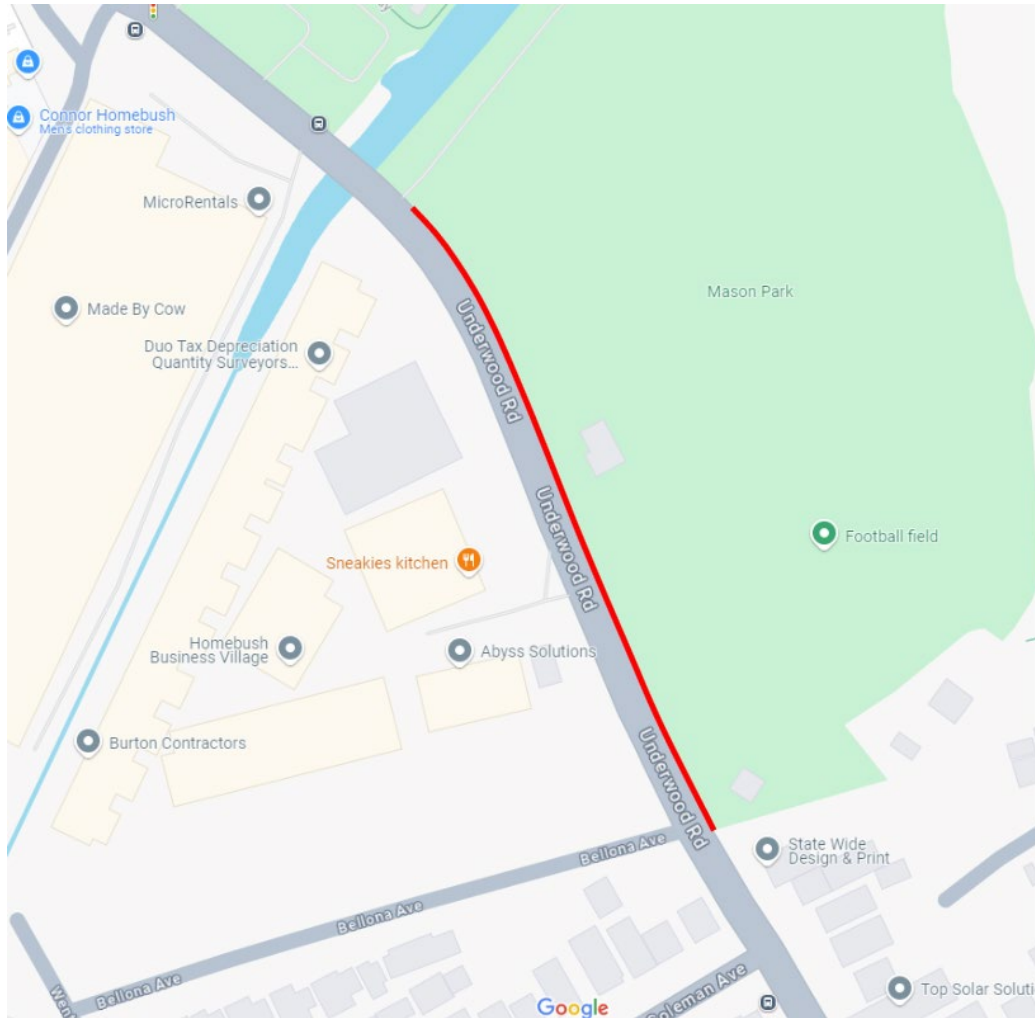


Figure 3 – proposed area of '3P 8:30AM-6PM Sat-Sun' restriction

### Consultation

It is proposed to conduct consultation on the extension of Resident Parking Scheme Area 30 with all residents with frontage to the proposed area of extension. This consultation would be via an online survey to determine the most popular parking restriction time, days of effect, and times of effect. The results of the consultation would be reported back to the next available Local Traffic Committee.

As the proposed 3-hour parking does not affect any residences or businesses, it is proposed to implement this without consultation. This restriction would either be implemented with the resident parking scheme extension if accepted by residents or would be implemented following objection to the proposed resident parking scheme extension.



## TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING - 19 NOVEMBER 2024

MINUTES

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Conduct an online survey consultation with affected residences for the extension of Resident Parking Scheme Area 30 as outlined in this report.
2. That the results of the consultation be presented back to the next available Local Traffic Committee meeting.
3. Approve the installation of parking restrictions '3P 8:30AM-6PM Sat-Sun' on the east side of Underwood Road between Bellona Avenue and the Mason Park Car Park.

*(Voting on this item was unanimous)*

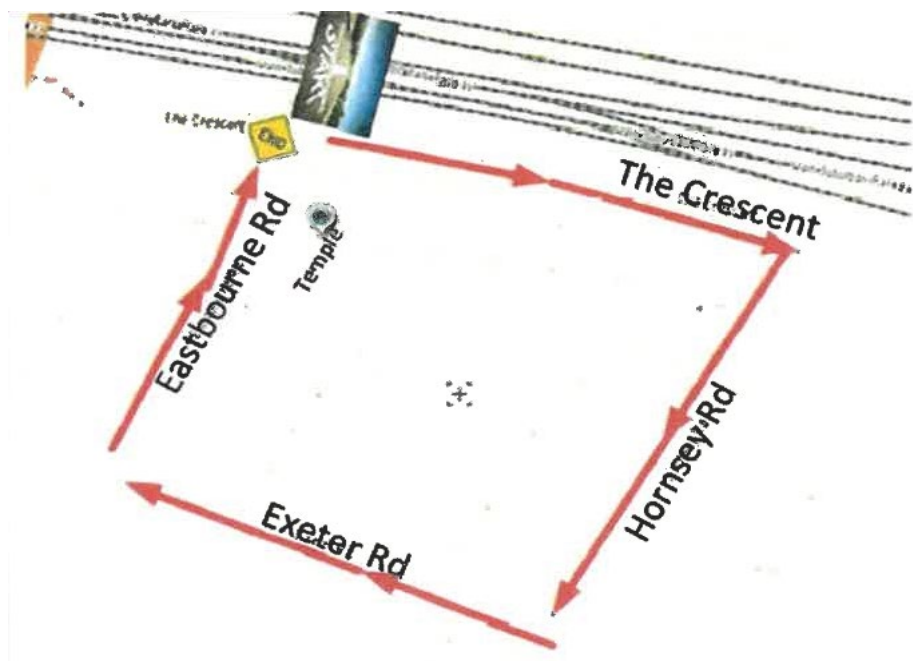
**7. SPECIAL EVENTS****7.1 Sri Karphaga Vinayakar Temple, Homebush West – Chariot Festival Full Road Closure February 2025.****INTRODUCTION**

Council has received a request from Sri Karphaga Vinayakar Temple for a special event road closure to facilitate the Chariot Festival, an event where the Temple members circle the temple in the belief that the Lord Ganesh shall bless the people and their residences during the year.

**PROPOSAL**

The event is proposed to occur on Monday 10 February 2025 4:30PM-7:00PM and Tuesday 11 February 2025 9:30AM-12:00PM. Homebush West Public School nearby is not operational on the Sunday and the morning drop off will have been completed by 9:30am.

The event involves Temple members circling the block of land where the Temple is located such that the members will walk along The Crescent, Hornsey Road, Exeter Road, and Eastbourne Road (in that order) as shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1 – diagram of the event procession around the block of land and the Temple**

To allow the Temple members to proceed uninhibited, a Traffic Management Plan has been submitted to Council proposing a full road closure along each of the aforementioned roads using appropriate signage and barricades as shown in Figures 2, 3, 4, and 5.



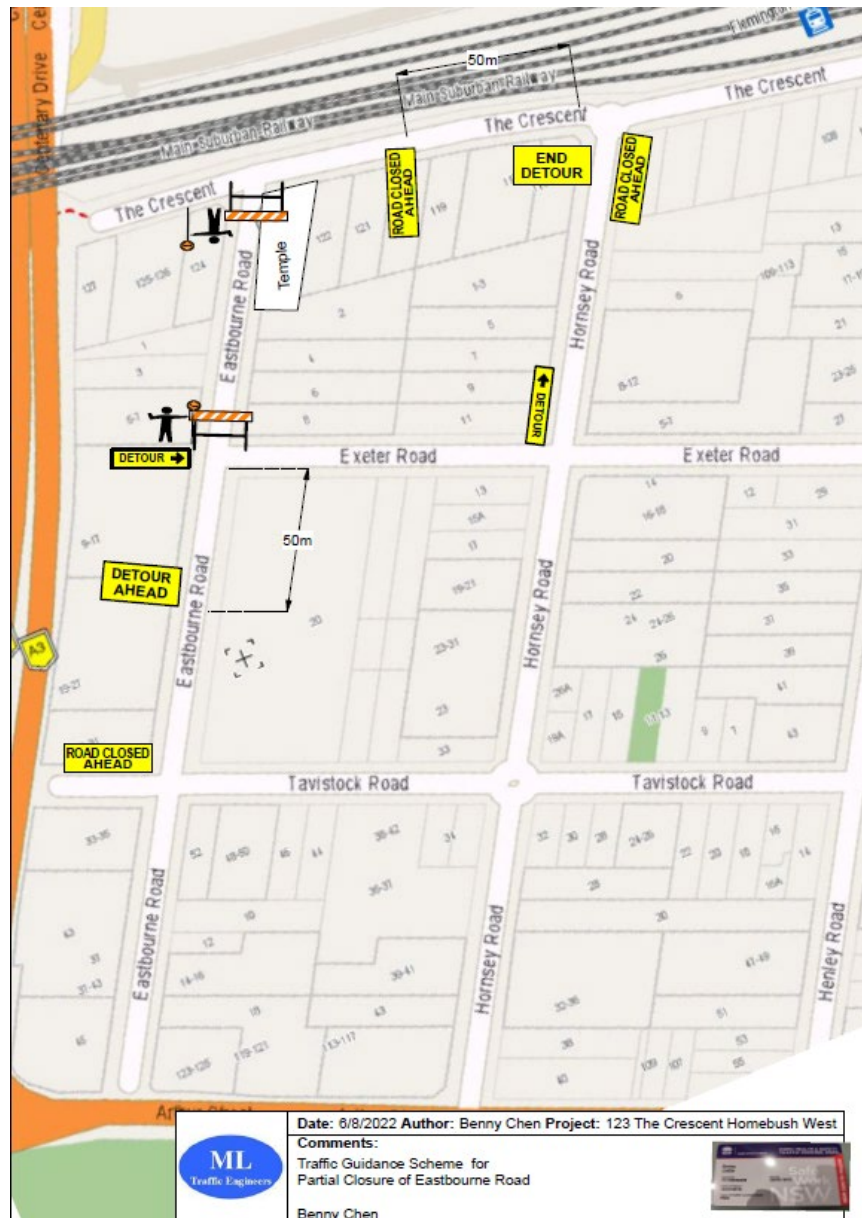


Figure 2 – Traffic Guidance Scheme for the closure of Eastbourne Road.



Figure 3 – Traffic Guidance Scheme for the closure of Hornsey Road

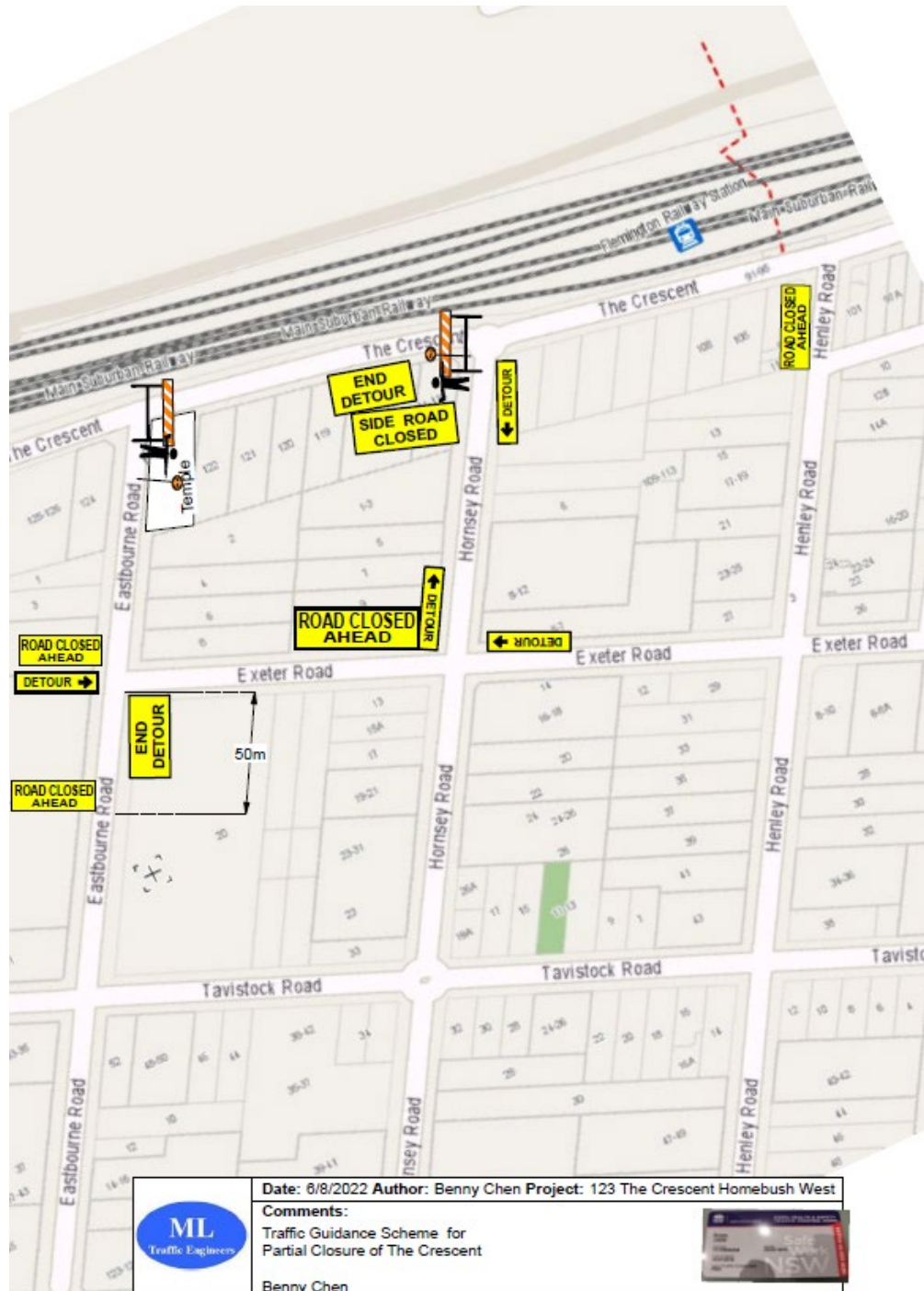
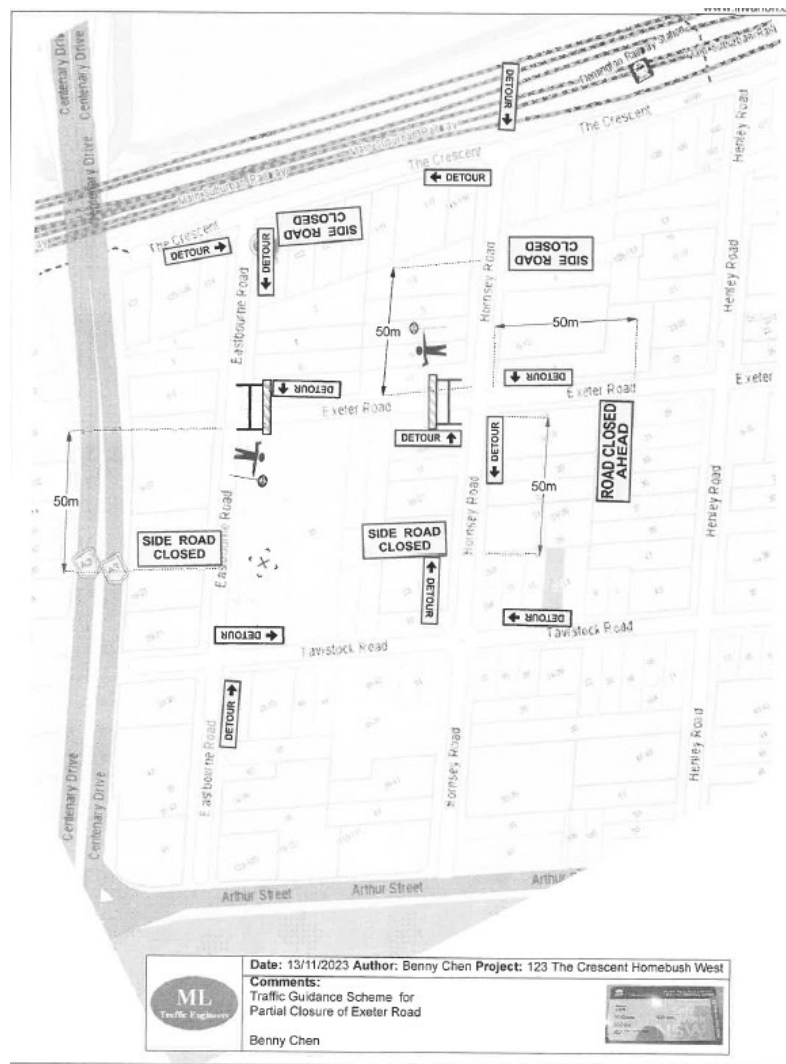


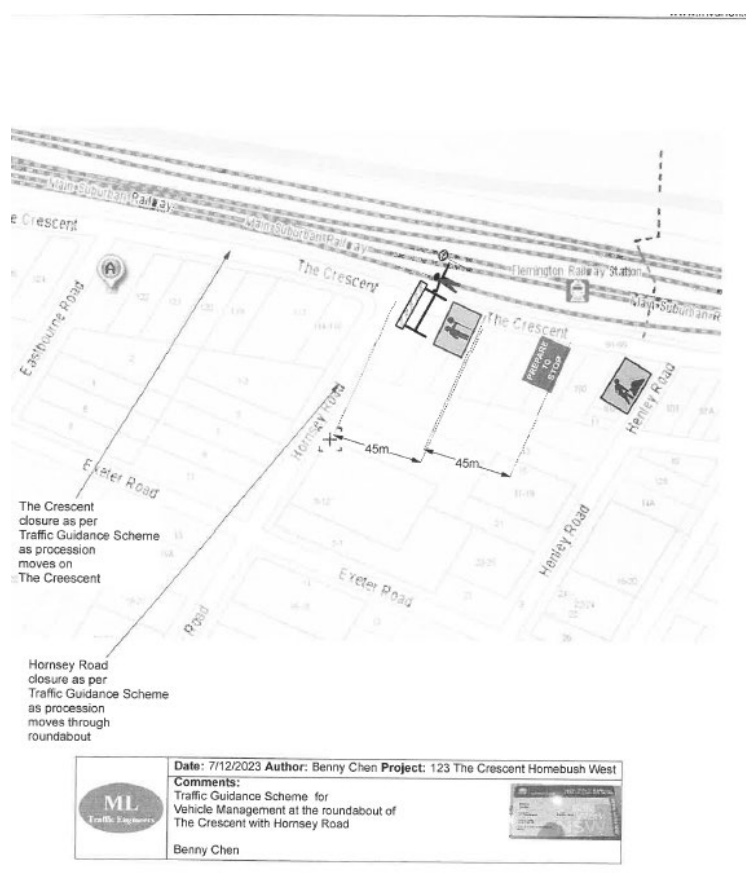
Figure 4 – Traffic Guidance Scheme for the closure of The Crescent

**Figure 5 – Traffic Guidance Scheme for closure of Exeter Road**

Note that the Traffic Management Plan to be submitted to Transport for NSW for concurrence is to also include a Traffic Guidance Scheme for the closure of Exeter Road.

Further measures proposed as part of the TMP are:

- Individual road closures as the procession passes through the area, with each road closure being assembled in advance of the procession and dismantled as the procession leaves.
- Specialised traffic control for the roundabout at the intersection of Hornsey Road and The Crescent as shown in Figure 6, with the roundabout to remain open to westbound traffic on The Crescent for them to execute a U-turn – while the procession is passing through this intersection, the U-turn movement will not be permitted at this roundabout and traffic controllers will assist in vehicle U-turns;
- Vehicles within the road closure areas will not be able to be moved during the event except in the case of an emergency;
- All tenants (commercial and residential) within the procession area will receive a letter drop 4 weeks in advance advising of the event and road closures; and
- All cars parked within the procession area to be closed off to the public will have a note placed on their windshield advising of the road closure 2, 4, and 6 hours prior to the event starting.



**Figure 6 – special Traffic Guidance Scheme for the roundabout at the intersection of Hornsey Road and The Crescent**





## TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING - 19 NOVEMBER 2024

## MINUTES

This event has operated well on an annual basis for the past 6 years, with all years having the event on a weekend except for 1 year that held the event on a Wednesday. Furthermore, all years except 2023 had the event over 1 day, where 2025 will be the second year to have the event over 2 days.

In the lead up to the 2024 event, 1 submission was received from a resident expressing their concern over access-related issues during the 2 days. While the resident did not have issues with the event in the past for 1 day, they felt that the event over 2 days adversely impacts the surrounding residents and their access to and from the residence. Following the event, the resident contacted Council to say that while the event went smoothly, they would still prefer the road closures for 1 day only.

No adverse traffic impacts are expected to occur from the event.

In addition to the measures proposed by the submitted Traffic Management Plan, the following conditions are to be placed on the event:

- Homebush West Public School is to be provided notice of the event prior to the end of the current school term to make allowance for communications and organisation for any activity occurring during the proposed event.

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council approve the full road closures for the Chariot Festival of the Sri Karpaga Vinayakar Temple for February 2025.
2. That the additional conditions listed in the report be provided to the Temple and a revised Traffic Management Plan be provided to Council.
3. That the revised Traffic Management Plan be provided to Transport for NSW for their concurrence.
4. That Transport for NSW note this is a Class 2 event.
5. That organisers and traffic controllers ensure that all participants remain within the confines of the event.

*(Voting on this item was unanimous)*



## 8. ROAD SAFETY

### 8.1 ROAD SAFETY OFFICERS REPORT – NOVEMBER 2024

#### Report prepared by Road Safety Officer

##### Issues

There are seven major Road Safety Projects for the 24/25 Year,

**1) Senior Drivers** with a focus on driving in School Zones and refreshing driving skills workshops 6x per year.  
BOOKINGS.

- Year to date, 61 Attended. Last workshop 31 October
- Next workshop Seniors Week lead up double 21 November 2024

##### Impact

- Reduce Strathfield's crash rate with people aged 60+.
- Better preparation Senior Drivers and promote skills refresh lessons as a positive experience.

**2) Teaching Learner Drivers** helping parent's teach their children to drive workshops 4x per year

Workshop held with Burwood, Inner West and Canada Bay in October 24, February and May 25

##### BOOKINGS.

- 90% Involvement from Schools
- Over 28 attendees so far for 20<sup>th</sup> March Workshop.

##### Impact

- Continuation of Strathfield's low crash rate with persons aged 17 – 24.
- Better preparation for learner drivers with a positive experience.

**3) Drink Driving** with a focus on activations and working with Local Liquor Accord.

*Projects:* Working with Burwood Liquor Accord next meeting in December 24

Promotions of new "Just Don't" campaigns from Liquor and Gaming NSW.

**4) Safety Around Schools**, continuing our only project and environmental upgrades.

##### *Projects:*

Working with Schools Crossing Supervisors program to better coordinate crossing programs.

Promotions of Road Safety Schools area

Schools' Crossing Audits 23/24 year.

Schools' orientation programs in the 1st term

**5) Pedestrian Safety**, with a focus on education and hot spot targeting in shopping areas.

*Projects:* New stencils program in HPAA across Strathfield, Homebush and Homebush West

**6) Occupant Restraints**, continuing our current program of 11 workshops per year.

Currently Council runs 11 child restraint checking day per year servicing on average 14 seat installations. We will be aiming for a productivity increase to 20 seats per session.

##### BOOKINGS.

- Vehicles Checked 24/25 as of December 2023 391
- Next Checking Day 12 November 2024 is fully booked.

**Impact**

- Positive promotions and feedback across mothers' groups and social media
- Driver education for each vehicle checked.
- Seatbelt related injuries 2021 have decreased to less than 0.3% of accidents.

**7) Senior Pedestrians**, continuing our current program of 6 workshops for 24/25 year.*Projects:*

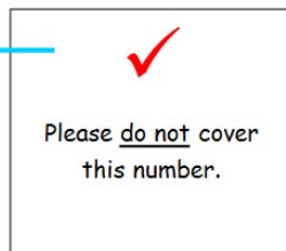
New stencils program in HPAA across Strathfield, Homebush and Homebush West

**BOOKINGS.**

- Next workshop Seniors Week lead up double in November 2024
- 3 More workshops being held at the Strathfield Community Centre

**Road Safety News of interest to the Community**

EVERY K COUNTS PLEASE SLOW DOWN IN STRATHFIELD – Bin stickers were sold out in 24hrs. After one e-news advertisement, we received over 50 requests for bin stickers. By combining this program with local traffic calming and speed warning radars, empowers council to provide a positive response to speeding.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Road Safety Officer Report be received and noted.

*(Voting on this item was unanimous)*

**Meeting Closed: 12:05PM**

**Next Meeting: 17 December 2024**



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12.2            REPORT FROM AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING ON 17  
OCTOBER 2024

AUTHOR:        David McQuade, Senior Governance Officer

APPROVER:     Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

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RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 17 October 2024 be noted and the recommendations be adopted.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [↓](#)     Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee 17 October 2024 - Minutes

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

# EXTRAORDINARY AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Strathfield Municipal Council

Thursday 17 October 2024

2:00pm

Community Meeting Room, The Cottage

65 Homebush Road, Strathfield

and

by Audio-Visual Link





EXTRAORDINARY AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 17  
OCTOBER 2024  
**MINUTES**

Minutes of the Extraordinary Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting of Strathfield Municipal Council held on 17 October 2024, in the Community Meeting Room, The Cottage, 65 Homebush Road, Strathfield and by Audio-Visual Link.

**COMMENCING:** 2pm

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Brian Hrnjak, Chairperson  
Alan Pigott (Audio-Visual Link)  
Catherine O'Mallon  
Sonja Hammond (Audio-Visual Link)

**ATTENDEES PRESENT:** Michael Mamo, General Manager  
Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community  
Cathy Edwards-Davis, Director Engineering and Operations  
Clare Harley, Director Planning and Environment  
Melissa Mallos, General Counsel  
Rodney Sanjivi, Chief Financial Officer  
Paul Reid, Manager, Resilience, Compliance and Commercial  
Simmi Gaur, Financial Strategy and Operations Lead  
Amanda Rutherford, Manager Governance and Procurement  
David McQuade, Senior Governance Officer

**INVITEES PRESENT:** Councillor Benjamin Cai  
Councillor Esther Kim  
Renee Meimaroglou, Audit Office NSW  
Celiua Withers, Audit Office NSW

**1. APOLOGIES**

Nil.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil.

**3. REPORTS**



EXTRAORDINARY AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 17  
OCTOBER 2024  
**MINUTES**

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**3.1 Draft Annual General Purpose Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

Mr Rodney Sanjivi, Chief Financial Officer, addressed the committee.

**RECOMMENDATION:** (Hammond / O'Mallon)

That the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) receive and note the update on the preparation and audit of the Draft General Purpose Financial Statements of Strathfield Council for the year ended 30 June 2024.

*Voting was unanimous*

**Meeting Closed: 2:50pm**

**Next Meeting: 26 November 2024**