

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA

Tuesday 27 May 2025

6:30pm

Council Chambers

65 Homebush Road, Strathfield



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 29 April 2025.....	7
Extraordinary Council Meeting 12 May 2025.....	42
7. Mayoral Minute(s)	
Nil	
8 Items by Exception	
9. Public Forum	
10. Notices of Motion	
10.1 Stray Cats - Councillor Rory Nosworthy	48
10.2 Pride Lights - Councillor Karen Pensabene	49
10.3 Installation of Digital Information Screens at Key Stations - Councillor Benjamin Cai	50
10.4 Night Time Economy - Strathfield Local Government Area - Councillor Benjamin Cai	52
10.5 Feasibility study - shelters and seating at the birdwatching area in Mason Park Wetlands - Councillor Esther Kim	54
10.6 Report on frequency of mowing parks, cleaning riverbanks and maintenance of cleaning - Councillor Esther Kim	55
10.7 A study to identify measures to enhance the safety of Strathfield Square - Councillor Esther Kim	56

11. Reports to Council

General Managers Unit

GMU1	Cessation of nonessential Council Events	57
GMU2	Automated External Defibrillators in Strathfield	62

Corporate and Community Services Reports

CCS1	Councillor Workshop 6 May 2025.....	68
CCS2	Investment Report - April 2025	71
CCS3	Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) for the Quarter Ended 31 March 2025	85
CCS4	Council Response to Safeguard Our Community - Resolution 34/25	95
CCS5	Sporting Club Memberships - Small Grants Program - Resolution 69/25	98
CCS6	Current Status of Council Resolutions	106
CCS7	Councillor Workshop 13 May 2025.....	110
CCS8	2025-2026 Determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal	113
CCS9	Tenders Advertised and Awarded April 2025	164

Planning and Environment Reports

PE1	Assessment Process - New Licensed Venues and Gaming Machines in NSW	165
PE2	Traditional Podium Carparks for Multi-Dwelling Apartments	229

Engineering and Operations Reports

Nil

12. Reports from Committees

12.1	Report from Traffic Committee meeting on 20 May 2025	234
12.2	Report from Budget Review and Finance Committee Meeting on 13 May 2025	262

13. Question With Notice

Nil

14. Matters of Urgency

15. Confidential Matters

GMU3 CONFIDENTIAL Shared Internal Audit Services Service Agreement

In accordance with Section 10A (2) (c) of the Local Government Act 1993 this matter will be considered in Closed Session as it relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business

CCS10 CONFIDENTIAL Strathfield Connector Bus Service - Resolution 32/25

In accordance with Section 10A (2) (c) of the Local Government Act 1993 this matter will be considered in Closed Session as it relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business

16. Conclusion of the Meeting

MICHAEL MAMO
GENERAL MANAGER

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday 29 April 2025

6:30pm

Council Chambers

65 Homebush Road, Strathfield



Minutes of the Council Meeting of Strathfield Municipal Council held on 29 April 2025, in the Council Chambers, 65 Homebush Road, Strathfield.

COMMENCING: 6:31pm

PRESENT: Councillor John-Paul Baladi, Mayor
Councillor Benjamin Cai, Deputy Mayor
Councillor Matthew Blackmore
Councillor Karen Pensabene
Councillor Sandy Reddy
Councillor Esther Kim

STAFF: Michael Mamo, General Manager
Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community
Dylan Porter, Acting Director Planning and Environment
Ian McCann, Acting Director Engineering and Operations
Melissa Mallos, General Counsel
Paul Reid, Manager, Resilience, Compliance and Commercial
Simmi Gaur, Financial Strategy and Operations Lead
David Vien, Acting Manager Governance and Procurement
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 ABSENCE**

Councillor Rory Nosworthy - Leave of Absence.

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

Councillor Kim declared a Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for Item *PE2 Homebush TOD Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan* and managed the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting during discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Kim declared that she lives in the TOD zone.

Councillor Baladi declared a Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for Item *PE2 Homebush TOD Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan* and managed the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting during discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Baladi declared that he owns a property in the TOD zone.

Councillor Baladi declared a Non-pecuniary/Non-Significant conflict of interest for Items *7.2 Mayoral Minute 06/25 - Valuation and Future Use of Right of Way at St Patrick's College, Strathfield* and *7.3 Mayoral Minute 07/25 - Lease Extension and New Licence for Hudson Park Oval* and managed the conflict of interest by remaining in the meeting during discussion and voting on these items. Councillor Baladi declared that he has held discussions with representatives of St Patrick's College, Strathfield and visited the school on two occasions.

Councillor Blackmore declared a Non-pecuniary/Non-Significant conflict of interest for Item *GMU2 Draft Delivery Program 2025-2029, Resourcing Strategies and Operational Plan 2025-2026, Including Draft Annual Budget, Statement of Revenue Policy, Capital Program and Draft Fees & Charges for 2025-2026* and managed the conflict of interest by remaining in the meeting during discussion and voting on these items. Councillor Blackmore declared that his daughter plays for a local sporting club impacted by the Draft Fees & Charges.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

5.1 ANZAC Day – Primary School Collaboration – Councillor Karen Pensabene

I wish to acknowledge Year 5 student Vincent Woo from St Patrick's College for his absolutely wonderful moving poem that he wrote for ANZAC Day. I would like the Council to display the poem in our library and some of the other poems that were listed second and third and the artworks that were presented to you for that day. This collaboration with our primary schools for ANZAC Day is absolutely brilliant and thank you to our General Manager Michael Mamo for his suggestion for it to happen and it's been going now for three years and is getting bigger and better and think bringing our schools into our ANZAC Day ceremony has really made it a very special occasion on the day.

5.2 Kapyong Monument at Ismay Reserve – Councillor Esther Kim

I would like to acknowledge Strathfield Council and its staff for their hard work, the Cumberland RSL sub-branch's strong support, in particular members Mr Jones and Mr Reed, and also the Sydney Korean Women's United Choir and other volunteers for their hard work.

5.3 Passing of Pope Francis – Councillor John-Paul Baladi

We join with Catholic communities across Strathfield and the world in mourning the passing of His Holiness

Pope Francis, born Jorge Bergoglio. His life of humility, compassion and service left a profound impact on the Catholic Church and beyond. We extend our condolences to our local Catholic institutions – which include four parish churches, three primary schools, a high school, the Australian Catholic University campus, and the Seminary of the Good Shepherd – as they grieve this loss.

5.4 Tamil New Year (Puthandu) – Councillor John-Paul Baladi

We wish all a happy Tamil New Year – Puthandu Vazhthukal! I was honoured to attend the Tamil Senior Citizens Association celebration and share in the joy, colour, and tradition of this significant occasion. Strathfield is proud to stand with our Tamil community in marking this new beginning.

5.5 Easter Celebrations – Councillor John-Paul Baladi

We extend warm Easter wishes to all who celebrated Easter across Strathfield's Christian churches. As a time of reflection, hope, and renewal, Easter continues to unite our diverse Christian communities in faith and fellowship.

5.6 Eid al-Fitr – Councillor John-Paul Baladi

We wish our Muslim community a joyful Eid al-Fitr, marking the end of Ramadan. May this special occasion bring peace, unity and happiness to all families celebrating in Strathfield and beyond. During Ramadan I was fortunate to join the Bulldogs NRL club for their annual Ramadan feast, a great privilege as a supporter of the club.

5.7 ANZAC Day at Davey Square Reserve – Councillor John-Paul Baladi

We thank all who attended our ANZAC Day service at Davey Square Reserve. In particular, we acknowledge the Cumberland RSL sub-Branch and its President, Mr Matt Jones, whose collaboration helped elevate this years' service to one of greater solemnity and scale. We look forward to continuing this tradition with the same spirit of reverence and community.

5.8 Battle of Kapyong Memorial Installation – Councillor John-Paul Baladi

We proudly marked the installation of the Battle of Kapyong Memorial at Ismay Reserve with a moving commemoration and unveiling service. Special thanks to the dedicated staff who worked tirelessly to complete the project in time. This marks the beginning of what we hope will become an enduring annual

tribute.

5.9 Farewell to Mr Rodney Sanjivi – Councillor John-Paul Baladi

Council acknowledges the service of Mr Rodney Sanjivi, our outgoing Chief Financial Officer. Rodney's leadership, especially in relation to continuing Council on its journey to financial sustainability which has left a lasting impact. We thank him for his dedication and wish him every success in his next chapter.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

76/25

RESOLVED: (Reddy / Pensabene)

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 March 2025, 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.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

77/25

RESOLVED: (Pensabene / Reddy)

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 17 April 2025, 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.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

Suspension of Standing Orders

78/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That Standing Orders be suspended so that Section 9. *Public Forum* be brought forward.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

9. PUBLIC FORUM

9.1 PE5 Proponent Led Planning Proposal - 204 Hume Highway, Chullora – Lot 1 DP 547215 – PP-2025-136 – Dr Shane Geha

Dr Shane Geha, applicant of the Planning Proposal addressed the meeting.

Dr Geha spoke in favour of the Planning Proposal - 204 Hume Highway, Chullora – Lot 1 DP 547215 – PP-2025-136.

9.2 7.2 Mayoral Minute 06/25 - Valuation and Future Use of Right of Way at St Patrick's College, Strathfield – Ms Bernadette Mikhael

Ms Bernadette Mikhael – Director of Business Services, St Patrick's College Strathfield addressed the meeting.

Ms Mikhael discussed issues and incidents experienced with current Right of Way and importance with child safeguarding of students.

9.3 7.3 Mayoral Minute 07/25 - Lease Extension and New Licence for Hudson Park Oval – Ms Bernadette Mikhael

Ms Bernadette Mikhael – Director of Business Services, St Patrick's College Strathfield addressed the meeting.

Ms Mikhael discussed the lease extension history and relevance.

9.4 7.4 Mayoral Minute 08/25 - Report on Restricting Early Morning Access to Synthetic Fields at Strathfield Park

Mr Paul Hassarati – Resident addressed the meeting.

Mr Hassarati discussed excessive noise in the early hours and night time.

Resumption of Standing Orders

79/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That Standing Orders resume.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

7. MAYORAL MINUTE(S)

7.1 Mayoral Minute 05/25 - Report on Increasing Maximum Allowable Underground Car Parking for Residential Developments

80/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi)

That Council:

Prepare a report for Council's consideration outlining planning options and mechanisms available to facilitate an increase in the maximum permissible number of underground car parking spaces in development applications for residential dwellings.

That the report include, but not be limited to:

- A review of Clause 4.6 and Schedule 1 of the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 (NSW) and any applicable Development Control Plans that may regulate underground car parking or driveway widths.
- Consideration of planning pathways (e.g. LEP or DCP amendments) to enable larger basement car parking areas for single dwellings or dual occupancies.
- Advice on any constraints under State Environmental Planning Policies (e.g. SEPP (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021), local planning instruments, or engineering standards that may restrict such increases.
- Recommendations on how increased underground parking may reduce on-street parking congestion and improve residential amenity.

That the report further consider whether incentive-based mechanisms could be developed to encourage underground parking instead of above-ground garages or carports, particularly in heritage conservation or low-density zones.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

Councillor Baladi declared a Non-pecuniary/Non-Significant conflict of interest for Items *7.2 Mayoral Minute 06/25 - Valuation and Future Use of Right of Way at St Patrick's College, Strathfield* and *7.3 Mayoral Minute 07/25 - Lease Extension and New Licence for Hudson Park Oval* and managed the conflict of interest by remaining in the meeting during discussion and voting on these items. Councillor Baladi declared that he has held discussions with representatives of St Patrick's College, Strathfield and visited the school on two occasions.

7.2 Mayoral Minute 06/25 - Valuation and Future Use of Right of Way at St Patrick's College, Strathfield

MOVED: (Baladi)

That Council:

- Note the receipt of a formal valuation from St Patrick's College Strathfield in relation to their proposal to acquire the Council-owned right of way currently located within their school grounds.
- Request that Council obtain an independent valuation of the subject right of way land for comparison and consideration.
- Request that a report be brought to Council outlining:
 - The outcome of the independent valuation.
 - Legal, planning, and community implications of collapsing or extinguishing the right of way.
 - Any relevant provisions under the *Local Government Act 1993* or the *Roads Act 1993* which may impact this pathway.
 - Current safety and security issues arising from public access to the school grounds via the right of way.

MOTION: (Baladi / Blackmore)

That Council:

- Note the receipt of a formal valuation from St Patrick's College Strathfield in relation to their proposal to acquire the Council-owned right of way currently located within their school grounds.
- Request that Council obtain an independent valuation of the subject right of way land for comparison and consideration.
- Request that a report be brought to Council outlining:

- The outcome of the independent valuation.
- Legal, planning, and community implications of collapsing or extinguishing the right of way.
- Any relevant provisions under the *Local Government Act 1993* or the *Roads Act 1993* which may impact this pathway.
- Current safety and security issues arising from public access to the school grounds via the right of way.
- Inclusion of any history on the right of way and its creation.

81/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Blackmore)

That Council:

- Note the receipt of a formal valuation from St Patrick's College Strathfield in relation to their proposal to acquire the Council-owned right of way currently located within their school grounds.
- Request that Council obtain an independent valuation of the subject right of way land for comparison and consideration.
- Request that a report be brought to Council outlining:
 - The outcome of the independent valuation.
 - Legal, planning, and community implications of collapsing or extinguishing the right of way.
 - Any relevant provisions under the *Local Government Act 1993* or the *Roads Act 1993* which may impact this pathway.
 - Current safety and security issues arising from public access to the school grounds via the right of way.
 - Inclusion of any history on the right of way and its creation.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

Councillor Baladi declared a Non-pecuniary/Non-Significant conflict of interest for Items *7.2 Mayoral Minute 06/25 - Valuation and Future Use of Right of Way at St Patrick's College, Strathfield* and *7.3 Mayoral Minute 07/25 - Lease Extension and New Licence for Hudson Park Oval* and managed the conflict of interest by remaining in the meeting during discussion and voting on these items. Councillor Baladi declared that he has held discussions with representatives of St Patrick's College, Strathfield and visited the school on two occasions.

7.3 Mayoral Minute 07/25 - Lease Extension and New Licence for Hudson Park Oval

82/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi)

That Council:

1. Grant a six-month extension to the current licence held by St Patrick's College Strathfield for the continued use of Hudson Park Oval, commencing upon expiry of the existing agreement. This extension is intended to provide operational certainty for the upcoming sporting season.
2. Invite St Patrick's College to prepare and submit a formal proposal to Council during the extension period, outlining a potential capital contribution toward the improvement, maintenance, or upgrade of Hudson Park Oval as part of future leasing discussions.
3. Request staff to continue engaging with St Patrick's College throughout the extension to guide and assist in developing an appropriate proposal and to bring a report back to Council when satisfied.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

7.4 Mayoral Minute 08/25 - Report on Restricting Early Morning Access to Synthetic Fields at Strathfield Park

MOVED: (Baladi)

That Council:

1. Prepares a report on the feasibility and implications of restricting access to the synthetic fields at Strathfield Park from evening closure until 8:00am daily.
2. That the report include consideration of the following:
 - Current usage patterns of the synthetic fields, including bookings by seasonal hirers and unregulated casual use.
 - Community feedback and complaints received, particularly from residents of Augusta Street and surrounding areas, regarding early morning noise and increased activity.
 - Potential signage, gating, or enforcement measures to prevent use before 8:00am.
 - The impact of such restrictions on regular hirers, maintenance schedules, and compliance with any existing licence agreements or permits.
 - Comparisons with access times and usage regulations for synthetic sports fields in neighbouring Local Government Areas.

MOTION: (Baladi / Reddy)

That Council:

1. Prepares a report on the feasibility and implications of restricting access to the synthetic fields at Strathfield Park from evening closure until 7:00am daily.
2. That the report include consideration of the following:
 - Current usage patterns of the synthetic fields, including bookings by seasonal hirers and unregulated casual use.
 - Community feedback and complaints received, particularly from residents of Augusta Street and surrounding areas, regarding early morning noise and increased activity.
 - Potential signage, gating, or enforcement measures to prevent use before 7:00am.
 - The impact of such restrictions on regular hirers, maintenance schedules, and compliance with any existing licence agreements or permits.
 - Comparisons with access times and usage regulations for synthetic sports fields in neighbouring Local Government Areas.

83/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That Council:

1. Prepares a report on the feasibility and implications of restricting access to the synthetic fields at Strathfield Park from evening closure until 7:00am daily.
2. That the report include consideration of the following:
 - Current usage patterns of the synthetic fields, including bookings by seasonal hirers and unregulated casual use.
 - Community feedback and complaints received, particularly from residents of Augusta Street and surrounding areas, regarding early morning noise and increased activity.
 - Potential signage, gating, or enforcement measures to prevent use before 7:00am.
 - The impact of such restrictions on regular hirers, maintenance schedules, and compliance with any existing licence agreements or permits.
 - Comparisons with access times and usage regulations for synthetic sports fields in neighbouring Local Government Areas.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

7.5 Mayoral Minute 09/25 - Investigation into Rezoning Industrial Land Near Residential Areas and Increasing Density in Key Centres

84/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi)

That Council:

- Prepare a report identifying areas within the Strathfield Local Government Area where existing industrial zones are located in close proximity to residential neighbourhoods and may no longer be suitable for heavy industrial use.
- That the report explore opportunities to:
 - Rezone or transition these industrial areas into more liveable, mixed-use or residential-friendly zones.
 - Improve land use compatibility and reduce negative impacts such as noise, air quality, and land-use conflict.
 - Address the increased volume of trucks and heavy vehicle traffic using local suburban roads, which poses safety risks and degrades residential amenity.
- That the report also identifies locations around shopping centres, train stations, and other strategic locations where increased residential density could be supported to offset the loss of industrial capacity, in line with strategic planning goals.
- Ensure that any proposed changes aim to improve housing choice, support vibrant neighbourhoods, enhance traffic safety, and protect existing local jobs where possible.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

7.6 Mayoral Minute 10/25 - Investigation into Incentive-Based Policy to Promote High-Quality Architectural Design in Strathfield

85/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi)

That Council:

1. Prepares a report for tabling at the Ordinary Council Meeting in July on the feasibility of developing

a new local planning policy that incentivises high-quality architectural design, particularly traditional or context-sensitive built form, in exchange for modest planning benefits (such as additional height, floor space, or density), where appropriate.

2. As part of the preparation of this report, the report is to:
 - Identify and engage with an advocacy organisation or expert body that promotes “city beautification,” classical architecture, or context-sensitive urban design.
 - Ensure that any recommended policy mechanisms operate within the existing framework of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, the *Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012*, and other relevant planning instruments.
 - Investigate best-practice models in comparable jurisdictions where architectural design excellence is rewarded through planning incentives, and how such models have been integrated legally and successfully.
3. That the report includes options for trialling such a policy in targeted locations (e.g. heritage interface areas or transition zones), and provide commentary on:
 - The potential urban design and community satisfaction benefits of such a policy.
 - Safeguards to ensure any bonus provisions are conditional on genuine, high-quality design outcomes, not generic uplift.
 - Whether the policy could be adopted as a Development Control Plan (DCP) guideline or incorporated into Council’s Community Participation Plan.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

8. ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

Items by Exception

86/25

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 Loftus Crescent Laneway - Possible Closure - Councillor Matthew Blackmore
- 10.4 Nipper Street and Columbia Lane - Pedestrian Access - Councillor Matthew Blackmore
- GMU1 Community Strategic Plan Review
- CCS1 Statistics On Calls, Complaints, Queries, Suggestions Etc. Received By The Council Service Desk
- CCS2 Investment Report - March 2025

- CCS4 Small Grants Third Quarter Round 2025
- CCS5 Councillor Workshop 8 April 2025
- CCS6 Tenders Advertised and Awarded March 2025
- CCS7 Current Status of Council Resolutions
- PE3 Cooks River Alliance Memorandum of Understanding Update
- PE4 Post-Exhibition: Alterations to Fees and Charges - Management of Animals
- PE8 Post Exhibition: Swimming Pool Barrier Inspection Program and Policy
- EO3 Draft Plaques, Memorials and Statues Policy - Community Feedback
- EO4 Inveresk Park - Fence
- 12.1 Report from Budget Review and Finance Committee Meeting on 8 April 2025
- EO5 Land and Property Strategy

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

Against the Motion: Nil

10.3 Loftus Crescent Laneway – Possible Closure – Councillor Matthew Blackmore

87/25

RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEW BLACKMORE

Moved by: (Baladi / Reddy)

That Council prepares a report for consideration of the closure of Loftus Laneway between Crane Street and Loftus Crescent.

The report includes the following:

Options to close which ensures access to the driveway at 43-45 Loftus Crescent, Homebush:

- Cost of beautification works to allow a passive outdoor area with seating areas with minimal ongoing maintenance cost to Council
- The increase in parking on Crane Street due to the closure
- Any possible grant funding opportunities or development contributions that can be used to fund the project

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

10.4 Nipper Street and Columbia Lane – Pedestrian Access – Councillor Matthew Blackmore

88/25

RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEW BLACKMORE

Moved by: (Baladi / Reddy)

That a report be prepared to an upcoming Ordinary Council Meeting in relation to:

- Opportunities to make safer pedestrian access from the Nipper Street and Columbia Lane, Homebush precinct to Homebush Station
- Grant funding opportunities for potential projects

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

GMU1 Community Strategic Plan Review

89/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That the revised Strathfield Community Strategic Plan Strathfield be endorsed.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS1 Statistics On Calls, Complaints, Queries, Suggestions Etc. Received By The Council Service Desk

90/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That the report be received and noted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS2 Investment Report - March 2025

91/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That the record of cash investments as at 31 March 2025 be received and noted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS4 Small Grants Third Quarter Round 2025

92/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That:

1. The report be received and noted.
2. The payment of small grants to the recommended recipient be approved.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS5 Councillor Workshop 8 April 2025

93/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That the report be received and noted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS6 Tenders Advertised and Awarded March 2025

94/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That Council tenders advertised and awarded in the month of March 2025 be received and noted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

CCS7 Current Status of Council Resolutions

95/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

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

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

PE3 Cooks River Alliance Memorandum of Understanding Update

96/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That:

1. Council notes the Cooks River Alliance Update.
2. Council endorses the new Draft Memorandum of Understanding.
3. Council approves the proposed expenditure for the next three years as part of the budget process.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

PE4 Post-Exhibition: Alterations to Fees and Charges - Management of Animals

97/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That:

1. Council adopt the amended Fees and Charges, and
2. The Fee and Charges for FY2024/25 be updated accordingly.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

PE8 Post Exhibition: Swimming Pool Barrier Inspection Program and Policy

98/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That Council endorses the draft Swimming Pool Barrier Inspection Program and Policy.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

EO3 Draft Plaques, Memorials and Statues Policy - Community Feedback

99/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That Council adopts the Plaques, Memorials and Statues Policy.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

EO4 Inveresk Park - Fence

100/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That a fence not be installed at Inveresk Park, on Beresford Road.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

12.1 Report from Budget Review and Finance Committee Meeting on 8 April 2025

101/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That the Minutes of the Budget Review and Finance Committee Meeting held on 8 April 2025 be noted and the recommendations be adopted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

EO5 Land and Property Strategy - Confidential Report

102/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That Council endorses the recommendations and prioritisation for the key sites as recommended in the attached confidential report.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

10.1 Park Enhancements Across the Strathfield Local Government Area – Councillor Esther Kim

103/25

RESOLVED: (Kim / Baladi)

That Council provide reports by the June 2025 Council Meeting to consider the feasibility of the following initiatives:

1. Drinking Water Stations – Audit and Maintenance

That a report be prepared outlining:

- The total number of drinking water stations within the Strathfield Council area,
- Their current condition and operational status (i.e. functional vs non-functional), and
- A proposed schedule for regular maintenance and cleaning.

Rationale

To ensure residents have reliable access to clean drinking water while walking, exercising, and participating in sporting activities, helping to prevent dehydration and support healthy lifestyles.

2. Proposal for an International Gardens Precinct at Hudson Park

That Council receive a report investigating the feasibility of establishing an International Gardens precinct within Hudson Park, including:

- A process for inviting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from multicultural community groups,
- The allocation of designated garden plots to successful applicants, and
- A framework that allows each group to design and maintain a garden reflecting their cultural heritage.

Note: the report should consider Council providing land only, with no costs incurred for the creation or ongoing maintenance of the gardens.

Rationale

Hudson Park offers significant green space that could be transformed into culturally themed gardens, celebrating Strathfield's multicultural identity, promoting inclusion, attracting visitors, and potentially supporting the development of an annual International Gardens Festival.

3. Palm Tree Planting in Key Parks

That Council investigate and report on the potential for planting palm trees in Hudson Park and other prominent parks across the local government area.

Rationale

To enhance visual appeal and contribute to a more vibrant, attractive park landscape.

4. Footpath Connectivity in Strathfield Park

That Council investigate and report on the construction of a connecting footpath in Strathfield Park,

linking the cricket ground, the old toilet block, and the synthetic soccer field.

Rationale

To improve accessibility, ensure user safety, and enhance the functionality and connectivity of park infrastructure.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

10.2 Consumer Protections for Illegal Building Works – Councillor Matthew Blackmore

MOVED: (Blackmore)

That a report be prepared to the July 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting in relation to the following:

1. The possibility of including the most recent plans of a property within the 10.7 Certificate for residential dwellings.
2. If the above is not feasibly possible, the potential of creating awareness of the potential risks of not doing due diligence within the 10.7 Certificate when ordered e.g. Very Visible Public Warnings written into the document.
3. Any other awareness that could assist in protecting consumers from the potential risks associated with purchasing a property which has illegal building works.
4. Any financial implications.

MOTION: (Blackmore / Baladi)

That a report be prepared to the July 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting in relation to the following:

1. The possibility of including the most recent plans of a property within the 10.7 Certificate for residential dwellings that were constructed after the introduction of private certification.
2. If the above is not feasibly possible, the potential of creating awareness of the potential risks of not doing due diligence within the 10.7 Certificate when ordered e.g. Very Visible Public Warnings written into the document.
3. Any other awareness that could assist in protecting consumers from the potential risks associated

with purchasing a property which has illegal building works.

4. Any financial implications.

104/25

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Baladi)

That a report be prepared to the July 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting in relation to the following:

1. The possibility of including the most recent plans of a property within the 10.7 Certificate for residential dwellings that were constructed after the introduction of private certification.
2. If the above is not feasibly possible, the potential of creating awareness of the potential risks of not doing due diligence within the 10.7 Certificate when ordered e.g. Very Visible Public Warnings written into the document.
3. Any other awareness that could assist in protecting consumers from the potential risks associated with purchasing a property which has illegal building works.
4. Any financial implications.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

10.5 Courallie Avenue – Widen Road – Councillor Benjamin Cai

MOVED: (Cai)

That Council investigate the possibility of widening the road at Courallie Avenue to support safe two-way vehicle passage and report to a future Council Meeting.

This is not only to accommodate buses, but also to ensure that in the event of an emergency, the over 4,000 residents who live in the area have a reliable and accessible evacuation route. The current road condition poses a significant safety risk, and timely improvements are critical.

MOTION: (Cai / Baladi)

1. That Council investigate the possibility of widening the road at Courallie Avenue to support safe two-way vehicle passage and report to a future Council Meeting.

This is not only to accommodate buses, but also to ensure that in the event of an emergency, the over 4,000 residents who live in the area have a reliable and accessible evacuation route. The current road condition poses a significant safety risk, and timely improvements are critical.

2. That Councillors be presented at a Workshop any previous plans regarding the widening of the road at Courallie Avenue.

105/25

RESOLVED: (Cai / Baladi)

1. That Council investigate the possibility of widening the road at Courallie Avenue to support safe two-way vehicle passage and report to a future Council Meeting.

This is not only to accommodate buses, but also to ensure that in the event of an emergency, the over 4,000 residents who live in the area have a reliable and accessible evacuation route. The current road condition poses a significant safety risk, and timely improvements are critical.

2. That Councillors be presented at a Workshop any previous plans regarding the widening of the road at Courallie Avenue.

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

Against the Motion: Councillor Pensabene

Suspension of Standing Orders

106/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That Standing Orders be suspended so that Item *PE5 Proponent Led Planning Proposal - 204 Hume Highway, Chullora - Lot 1 DP 547215 - PP-2025-136* be brought forward.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

PE5 Proponent Led Planning Proposal - 204 Hume Highway, Chullora - Lot 1 DP 547215 - PP-2025-136

107/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Blackmore)

1. That Council forward the *Planning Proposal – 204 Hume Highway, Chullora - Additional permitted uses* (Attachment 1) to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for a Gateway Determination under Section 3.34 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.
2. That the Acting Director – Planning and Environment be authorised to make minor editorial amendments to the Planning Proposal as required throughout the reporting process.
3. That Council endorse for public exhibition the Planning Proposal in accordance with the terms of the Gateway Determination issued by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in accordance with the *Strathfield Council Community Engagement Strategy*.
4. That a further report be provided to Council, seeking resolution to adopt the LEP amendments following the completion of the Gateway process.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

Resumption of Standing Orders

108/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That Standing Orders be resumed.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

10.6 Installation of a Zebra Crossing Near Flemington Station Lift – Councillor Benjamin Cai

109/25

RESOLVED: (Cai / Baladi)

That Council:

1. Recognises the safety concerns for pedestrians crossing The Crescent near the Flemington Station lift, where high foot traffic poses a significant risk.
2. Acknowledges that many pedestrians, including elderly residents, people with disabilities, parents with prams and commuters use the lift and cross the road immediately, often in unsafe conditions.

3. Requests a traffic and pedestrian safety assessment be provided at this location to evaluate the necessity and feasibility of a zebra crossing.
4. Engages with Transport NSW and relevant stakeholders to seek approvals and funding for the construction of a pedestrian crossing to improve safety and accessibility.
5. Commits to prioritising pedestrian safety in Strathfield by considering infrastructure improvements that reduce risks and support a walkable community.
6. A report be provided to the June Traffic Committee Meeting outlining findings and recommendations for implementing a zebra crossing near the Flemington Station lift.

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

Against the Motion: Councillors Blackmore and Pensabene

10.7 Centenary Park Complex – Commercial Entities – Councillor Benjamin Cai

110/25

RESOLVED: (Cai / Baladi)

That Council prepare a report to be brought back to the June Council Meeting, investigating the feasibility of allowing more commercial entities — including restaurants — within the Centenary Park complex.

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

Against the Motion: Councillors Blackmore and Pensabene

11. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Councillor Blackmore declared a Non-pecuniary/Non-Significant conflict of interest for Item *GMU2 Draft Delivery Program 2025-2029, Resourcing Strategies and Operational Plan 2025-2026, Including Draft Annual Budget, Statement of Revenue Policy, Capital Program and Draft Fees & Charges for 2025-2026* and managed the conflict of interest by remaining in the meeting during discussion and voting on these items. Councillor Blackmore declared that his daughter plays for a local sporting club impacted by the Draft Fees & Charges.

GMU2 Draft Delivery Program 2025-2029, Resourcing Strategies and Operational Plan 2025-2026, Including Draft Annual Budget, Statement of Revenue Policy, Capital Program and Draft Fees &

Charges for 2025-2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. The draft Delivery Program 2025-2029, and draft Operational Plan, including the draft Workforce Plan, Statement of Revenue Policy incorporating the draft Budget and draft Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2025-2026, attached to the report be updated with changes passed by resolution that are associated with related reports on this Council Meeting Agenda and/or minor formatting or text adjustments as a result of the final document review.
2. This be placed on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days in accordance with the requirements in the *Local Government Act 1993*.
3. A further report be prepared and submitted to a Meeting of Council to be held in June 2025 following the exhibition period.

Councillor Pensabene left the meeting, the time being 7:54pm.

Councillor Pensabene returned the meeting, the time being 7:56pm.

MOTION: (Baladi / Reddy)

That:

1. The draft Delivery Program 2025-2029, and draft Operational Plan, including the draft Workforce Plan, Statement of Revenue Policy incorporating the draft Budget and draft Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2025-2026, attached to the report be updated with changes passed by resolution that are associated with related reports on this Council Meeting Agenda and/or minor formatting or text adjustments as a result of the final document review.
2. This be placed on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days in accordance with the requirements in the *Local Government Act 1993*.
3. A further report be prepared and submitted to a Meeting of Council to be held in June 2025 following the exhibition period.
4. Seek to adjust the following Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2025-2026:
 - a) Venue Hires Sections 1-9. That for the year 2025/2026, fees and charges to be the same as 2024/2025. Draft prices to be rejected excluding any new fee amounts which are to reflect the

proposed fees for 2025/2026

- b) Open Space & Sportsfield Section 1. That the lesser fees and charges between 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 fees and charges, be the fee that go on exhibition for 2025/2026, excluding any new fee amounts which are to reflect the proposed fees and charges for 2025/2026
- c) Community Garden. That all fees and charges be waived for Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) residents only
- d) Corporate & Governance Section 2 – Business Papers. That business papers be made available free of charge to Strathfield LGA residents only upon request
- e) Open Space & Sportsfield Busking Section 5 – Busking. That the fee and charge for busking be reduced to \$10 for 2025/2026
- f) Environmental Health & Compliance Section 2 – Private Swimming Pools. That there be no fee and charge for Resuscitation Charts in 2025/2026

111/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That:

1. The draft Delivery Program 2025-2029, and draft Operational Plan, including the draft Workforce Plan, Statement of Revenue Policy incorporating the draft Budget and draft Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2025-2026, attached to the report be updated with changes passed by resolution that are associated with related reports on this Council Meeting Agenda and/or minor formatting or text adjustments as a result of the final document review.
2. This be placed on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days in accordance with the requirements in the *Local Government Act 1993*.
3. A further report be prepared and submitted to a Meeting of Council to be held in June 2025 following the exhibition period.
4. Seek to adjust the following Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2025-2026:
 - a) Venue Hires Sections 1-9. That for the year 2025/2026, fees and charges to be the same as 2024/2025. Draft prices to be rejected excluding any new fee amounts which are to reflect the proposed fees for 2025/2026
 - b) Open Space & Sportsfield Section 1. That the lesser fees and charges between 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 fees and charges, be the fee that go on exhibition for 2025/2026, excluding any new fee amounts which are to reflect the proposed fees and charges for 2025/2026
 - c) Community Garden. That all fees and charges be waived for Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) residents only
 - d) Corporate & Governance Section 2 – Business Papers. That business papers be made available

free of charge to Strathfield LGA residents only upon request

- e) Open Space & Sportsfield Busking Section 5 – Busking. That the fee and charge for busking be reduced to \$10 for 2025/2026
- f) Environmental Health & Compliance Section 2 – Private Swimming Pools. That there be no fee and charge for Resuscitation Charts in 2025/2026

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

Against the Motion: Nil

GMU3 Cessation of Non-essential Future Council Events

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

Based on feedback that was provided at the Councillor Workshop held on 31 March 2025 to discuss Council's Events Calendar for 2025 – 2028, Council continues hosting its calendar as it currently stands with the following amendments:

1. Organising Spring Festival on alternate years (e.g. 2026 and 2028) with funds from the year before placed into a financial reserve to ensure the year it is hosted has a larger budget.
2. \$25,000 from the annual Spring Festival budget be re-allocated to the Moon Festival budget which amends the Spring Festival budget to \$125,000 and increase the Moon Festival budget to \$75,000.
3. Movies in the Park is held at different venues, including but not limited to Strathfield Park, Hudson Park and Strathfield Square.

MOTION: (Baladi / Reddy)

That:

Based on feedback that was provided at the Councillor Workshop held on 31 March 2025 to discuss Council's Events Calendar for 2025 – 2028, Council continues hosting its calendar as it currently stands with the following amendments:

1. Organising Spring Festival on alternate years (e.g. 2026 and 2028) with funds from the year before placed into a financial reserve to ensure the year it is hosted has a larger budget.
2. \$25,000 from the annual Spring Festival budget be re-allocated to the Moon Festival budget which amends the Spring Festival budget to \$125,000 and increase the Moon Festival budget to \$75,000.
3. Movies in the Park is held at different venues, including but not limited to Strathfield Park,

Hudson Park and Strathfield Square.

AMENDMENT: (Blackmore / Pensabene)

That:

Based on feedback that was provided at the Councillor Workshop held on 31 March 2025 to discuss Council's Events Calendar for 2025 – 2028, Council continues hosting its calendar as it currently stands with the following amendments:

1. The cessation of the Spring Festival.
2. \$25,000 from the annual Spring Festival budget be re-allocated to the Moon Festival budget and increase the Moon Festival budget to \$75,000.
3. Movies in the Park is held at different venues, including but not limited to Strathfield Park, Hudson Park and Strathfield Square.
4. That the budget allocation for the Spring Festival be utilized to support local community groups hosting events.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene and Kim

Against the Motion: Councillors Cai, Reddy and Baladi

The Amendment when put with voting being equal, the Mayor exercised his casting vote Against the Amendment and declared it **Lost**.

The Motion was put.

MOTION: (Baladi / Reddy)

That:

Based on feedback that was provided at the Councillor Workshop held on 31 March 2025 to discuss Council's Events Calendar for 2025 – 2028, Council continues hosting its calendar as it currently stands with the following amendments:

1. Organising Spring Festival on alternate years (e.g. 2026 and 2028) with funds from the year before placed into a financial reserve to ensure the year it is hosted has a larger budget.
2. Movies in the Park is held at different venues, including but not limited to Strathfield Park, Hudson Park and Strathfield Square.

For the Motion: Councillors Baladi and Reddy

Against the Motion: Councillors Cai, Blackmore, Pensabene and Kim

The Mayor declared the Motion **Lost**.

CCS3 Appointment of Community Members on Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee

112/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

That Council endorses the appointment of successful community members of the Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee.

For the Motion: Councillors Cai, Reddy and Baladi

Against the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene and Kim

The Motion when put with voting being equal, the Mayor exercised his casting vote In Favour of the Motion and declared it **Carried**.

PE1 Amendment of the Strathfield Consolidated Development Control Plan 2005 - Review of Part A - Dwelling Houses, Secondary Dwellings and Ancillary Structures

113/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Reddy)

1. That Council approve the draft Part A - Dwelling Houses and Ancillary Structures of the *Strathfield Consolidated Development Control Plan (DCP) 2005* at Attachment 1 for the purposes of public exhibition for a 28-day period consistent with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and Council's Community Participation Plan.
2. Further, that Council delegates authority to the Acting Director – Planning and Environment to make any changes of a minor, administrative and/or non-policy nature to the DCP during the drafting exhibition process.
3. That the results of the public exhibition be reported back to Council for its consideration and seeking adoption of the amendments to the DCP.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

Councillor Kim declared a Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for Item *PE2 Homebush TOD Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan* and managed the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting during discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Kim declared that she lives in the TOD zone.

Councillor Baladi declared a Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for Item *PE2 Homebush TOD Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan* and managed the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting during discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Baladi declared that he owns a property in the TOD zone.

Councillor Kim left the meeting, the time being 8:26pm.

Councillor Baladi vacated the Chair and left the meeting, the time being 8:26pm.

Councillor Cai assumed the Chair.

PE2 Homebush TOD Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan

114/25

RESOLVED: (Reddy / Cai)

1. That Council endorses the amended draft Homebush Transport Oriented Development (TOD) Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2025, with an increased levy of 4%, be placed on Public Exhibition.
2. That Council authorises the General Manager to make technical updates prior to Public Exhibition to the draft Homebush TOD Local Infrastructure Contributions plan 2025 (including changes to apportionment costs in the work schedule), to ensure alignment with the draft Strathfield Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2024.
3. That Council authorises the lodgement of the draft Homebush TOD Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2025 with NSW Government for assessment and approval of a 4% higher rate section 7.12 contribution plan.
4. That a report be brought back to Council to seek adoption and provide an outline of consultation feedback following endorsement by the Minister.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Pensabene, Cai and Reddy

Against the Motion: Nil

Councillor Cai vacated the Chair.

Councillor Baladi returned to the meeting, the time being 8:27pm and assumed the Chair.

Councillor Kim returned to the meeting, the time being 8:27pm.

PE6 Strathfield Town Centre Masterplan - Project Update and Midway Consultation

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council endorse the draft Key Directions Report, as included in Attachment 1, for the purposes of public exhibition.
2. That following the conclusion of the public exhibition of the draft Key Directions Report a further report be prepared and submitted to Council summarizing the feedback received.
3. That the Acting Director – Planning and Environment be delegated to undertake minor modifications to any numerical, typographical, interpretation and formatting errors, if required, prior to the commencement of the public exhibition of the draft Key Directions Report.

MOTION: (Baladi / Pensabene)

That this not be put on public exhibition and a dedicated Councillor Workshop be organised week commencing 5 May 2025, followed by an Extraordinary Council Meeting to reconsider the matter.

115/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Pensabene)

That this not be put on public exhibition and a dedicated Councillor Workshop be organised week commencing 5 May 2025, followed by an Extraordinary Council Meeting to reconsider the matter.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

PE7 Proponent led Planning Proposal - 94-98 Cosgrove Road, Strathfield South (Lot 100 DP 862635)

116/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Cai)

1. That Council resolve to not progress the Planning Proposal for land at 94-98 Cosgrove Road, Strathfield South (Lot 100 DP 862635) which is seeking to amend the Strathfield LEP 2012 by:
 - Increasing the Height of Buildings (HOB) from 12m to 35m, and
 - Increasing the Floor Space Ratio from 1:1 to 1.6:1
2. That the proponent be advised of Council's decision.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

EO1 Return and Earn - Alternative Locations

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Support the installation of a Return and Earn facility at the Coronation Parade/Enfield Hall Car Park.
2. Delegate to the General Manager to negotiate a Licence with Tomra Collection Solutions Australia for the installation of a Return and Earn facility at the Coronation Parade/Enfield Hall Car Park.

MOTION: (Baladi / Blackmore)

That Council:

1. Support the installation of a Return and Earn facility at the Coronation Parade/Enfield Hall Car Park.
2. Delegate to the General Manager to negotiate a Licence with Tomra Collection Solutions Australia for the installation of a Return and Earn facility at the Coronation Parade/Enfield Hall Car Park.

For the Motion: Nil

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

EO2 Draft Car Share Policy - Community Feedback

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. Council adopts the Car Share policy.
2. Based on community feedback, the Car Share fees for 2025/2026 be set as follows:
 - Application fee \$900
 - Installation fee \$600
 - Annual fee \$500.
3. The Car Share fees be CPI reviewed on an annual basis.
4. Car Share parking not be provided in metered parking areas.

MOTION: (Baladi / Pensabene)

That:

1. Council adopts the Car Share policy.
2. Based on community feedback, an increase of 50% be applied to the average as identified in the report. That will apply to the various fees associated. An annual increase according to CPI should apply.

117/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Pensabene)

That:

1. Council adopts the Car Share policy.
2. Based on community feedback, an increase of 50% be applied to the average as identified in the report. That will apply to the various fees associated. An annual increase according to CPI should apply.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

Recommittal - Item EO2 Draft Car Share Policy - Community Feedback

118/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Pensabene)

That item EO2 Draft Car Share Policy - Community Feedback be recommitted to include:

3. Car Share parking not be provided in metered parking areas.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

EO2 Draft Car Share Policy - Community Feedback

MOTION: (Baladi / Pensabene)

That:

1. Council adopts the Car Share policy.
2. Based on community feedback, an increase of 50% be applied to the average as identified in the report. That will apply to the various fees associated. An annual increase according to CPI should apply.
3. Car Share parking not be provided in metered parking areas.

119/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi / Pensabene)

That:

1. Council adopts the Car Share policy.
2. Based on community feedback, an increase of 50% be applied to the average as identified in the report. That will apply to the various fees associated. An annual increase according to CPI should apply.
3. Car Share parking not be provided in metered parking areas.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

12. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Note: Reports from Committees were dealt with by Exception (resolution 101/25).

13. QUESTION WITH NOTICE

Nil.

14. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

15. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Note: Confidential Matters were dealt with by Exception (resolution 102/25).

16. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8:45pm.

The foregoing Minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the Council of the Municipality of Strathfield on 27 May 2025.

Chairman _____

General Manager _____

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday 12 May 2025

6:00pm

Council Chambers

65 Homebush Road, Strathfield



Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting of Strathfield Municipal Council held on 12 May 2025, in the Council Chambers, 65 Homebush Road, Strathfield.

COMMENCING: 6:01pm

PRESENT: Councillor John-Paul Baladi, Mayor
Councillor Benjamin Cai, Deputy Mayor
Councillor Matthew Blackmore
Councillor Esther Kim
Councillor Rory Nosworthy
Councillor Karen Pensabene
Councillor Sandy Reddy

STAFF: Michael Mamo, General Manager
Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community
Dylan Porter, Acting Director Planning and Environment
Ray Saleam, Acting Director Engineering and Operations
Melissa Mallos, General Counsel
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 ABSENCE**

Nil.

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

Nil.

5. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

5.1 **Congratulations – Australian Labor Party Federal Election Victory – Councillor Karen Pensabene**

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the fantastic Australian Labor Party on their historic win last Saturday night.

We are especially proud and delighted that our Federal Member of Parliament, Sally Sitou, has won back her seat with an increased majority — a true reflection of her dedication and the strong support from our community.

This victory represents not just a political success, but a commitment to real and meaningful policies that benefit all sections of our society — including improvements in aged care, a 20% reduction in HECS debt, more affordable childcare, and free TAFE. Locally, we are particularly excited about the upcoming urgent care unit and the much-needed funding to fix the DFO roundabout.

We acknowledge and thank all the hardworking volunteers and supporters whose tireless efforts helped achieve this result. We are proud to stand with the great Australian Labor Party and look forward to continuing our work with Sally Sitou to enhance the lives of everyone in the Strathfield Local Government Area.

5.2 National Road Safety Week 2025 – Councillor John-Paul Baladi

I acknowledge that we are all present wearing the National Road Safety Week ribbon, so I today have made the pledge as previous Mayor's have to promote Road Safety through good behaviour particularly this week so I hope all Councillors can be advocates in our own lives and community for road safety in Strathfield and beyond.

6. MAYORAL MINUTE(S)

6.1 Mayoral Minute 11/25 - Strathfield Council 140 Year Anniversary Celebrations

120/25

RESOLVED: (Baladi)

That Council:

1. Given the significance of the events being organised to celebrate the 140 year birthday of Strathfield Municipal Council there be an exception to the adopted Council Protocol 2024 to allow the order of proceedings for the Ceremonial Council Meeting which will take place on Monday 2 June 2025 to be as follows (with the Mayor to make amendments as required):
 - a. Mayor of Strathfield to provide opening speech
 - b. State Minister and Minister for Local Government to be invited to provide a speech

- c. General Manager of Strathfield Council to provide a speech
- d. A 10-minute historical speech is provided by a member of the Strathfield-Homebush District Historical Society

- 2. Approve the allocation of funding of \$22,000 to fund the cost of displaying a digital projection of historical images onto the Strathfield Plaza building for 1 week during the 140 years celebrations.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

7. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

CCS1 Works for Golf Driving Range - Hudson Park Loan

121/25

RESOLVED: (Reddy / Nosworthy)

That Council approves the below recommitted resolutions:

- a) That Council approves the making of an application to borrow Two Million dollars (\$2,000,000) via an external loan for the purposes of remediation works at Council's Golf Driving Range at Hudson Park as adopted in Council's 2024/2025 Operational Plan and Annual Budget.
- b) 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).
- c) That the General Manager be given delegated authority to execute the Loan Agreement(s) and affix the Council Seal if required.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

PE1 Strathfield Town Centre - Mid Way Consultation Report - Project Update

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That Council endorse the draft Key Directions Report, as included in Attachment 1, for the purposes of public exhibition.
- 2. That following the conclusion of the public exhibition of the draft Key Directions Report a further report be prepared and submitted to Council summarizing the feedback received.

3. That the Acting Director – Planning and Environment be delegated to undertake minor modifications to any numerical, typographical, interpretation and formatting errors, if required, prior to the commencement of the public exhibition of the draft Key Directions Report.

MOTION: (Reddy / Blackmore)

1. That Council endorse the draft Key Directions Report with the following change:
 - a. That Key Direction 1 read; Connecting with Strathfield's History, Culture and Country and to include the subtext:
That since the inception of Strathfield, the various histories and cultures that have contributed to the Strathfield Local Government Area community should be recognized, by respecting Strathfield's heritage. The heritage style facades can be respected whilst increasing greenery and having high quality buildings.
 - b. That the subtext mention possibility of a above and underground shops and also mentions high end retail potential e.g. Double Bay, Sydney or Rodeo Drive, Los Angeles.
 - c. That Key Direction Integrated Strathfield's Movement Network to add the subtext:
Explore potential opportunities for reduction of street based parking whilst providing ample underground parking.
2. That following the conclusion of the public exhibition of the draft Key Directions Report a further report be prepared and submitted to Council summarizing the feedback received.
3. That the Acting Director – Planning and Environment be delegated to undertake minor modifications to any numerical, typographical, interpretation and formatting errors, if required, prior to the commencement of the public exhibition of the draft Key Directions Report.
4. That the exhibition period be extended from 21 day to 28 days.

122/25

RESOLVED: (Reddy / Blackmore)

1. That Council endorse the draft Key Directions Report with the following change:
 - a. That Key Direction 1 read; Connecting with Strathfield's History, Culture and Country and to include the subtext:
That since the inception of Strathfield, the various histories and cultures that have contributed to the Strathfield Local Government Area community should be recognized, by respecting Strathfield's heritage. The heritage style facades can be respected whilst increasing greenery and having high quality buildings.
 - b. That the subtext mention possibility of a above and underground shops and also mentions high

end retail potential e.g. Double Bay, Sydney or Rodeo Drive, Los Angeles.

- c. That Key Direction Integrated Strathfield's Movement Network to add the subtext:
Explore potential opportunities for reduction of street based parking whilst providing ample underground parking.

2. That following the conclusion of the public exhibition of the draft Key Directions Report a further report be prepared and submitted to Council summarizing the feedback received.
3. That the Acting Director – Planning and Environment be delegated to undertake minor modifications to any numerical, typographical, interpretation and formatting errors, if required, prior to the commencement of the public exhibition of the draft Key Directions Report.
4. That the exhibition period be extended from 21 day to 28 days.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

8. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6:28pm.

The foregoing Minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the Council of the Municipality of Strathfield on 27 May 2025.

Chairman_____

General Manager_____

10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR NOSWORTHY

SUBJECT: STRAY CATS

I MOVE:

That Council Prepare a report for a solution to the high number of stray cats in the Homebush west area and the discouragement of behaviours that have exasperated the issue.

The report should consider options, including:

- Action to manage leaving of food scraps or other litter items in public areas through enforcement of the *Environmental Operations Amendment (Littering) Act 2000*.
- Use of the ranger team to undertake animal management procedures to work toward solving the issue.
- Contracting of a private company to provide population management solutions until the issue is resolved.
- Contracting the Sydney Dogs and Cats Home to provide low cost desexing services to prevent further breeding of stray cats.

Rationale

For years residents of Homebush West have complained about the stray cat issue. Unfortunately, one resident facilitated the problem through regular feeding of the cats which increase their rate of reproduction and perpetuate the problem. This has led to significant rubbish on left on the verge and attracts vermin which bring further waste to the local area.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council Prepare a report for a solution to the high number of stray cats in the Homebush west area and the discouragement of behaviours that have exasperated the issue.

The report should consider options, including:

- Action to manage leaving of food scraps or other litter items in public areas through enforcement of the *Environmental Operations Amendment (Littering) Act 2000*.
- Use of the ranger team to undertake animal management procedures to work toward solving the issue.
- Contracting of a private company to provide population management solutions until the issue is resolved.
- Contracting the Sydney Dogs and Cats Home to provide low cost desexing services to prevent further breeding of stray cats.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

10.2 NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PENSABENE
SUBJECT: PRIDE LIGHTS

I MOVE:

That Council shines the Town Hall in rainbow colours during Pride Month in June, on any dates where the lighting has not been pre-allocated for other events (e.g. the 140-Year Anniversary celebrations).

Rationale:

We need to show our support for the LGBTI community.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council shines the Town Hall in rainbow colours during Pride Month in June, on any dates where the lighting has not been pre-allocated for other events (e.g. the 140-Year Anniversary celebrations).

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

10.3 NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR CAI
SUBJECT: INSTALLATION OF DIGITAL INFORMATION SCREENS AT KEY STATIONS

I MOVE:

That:

1. Council prepares a report on the feasibility, cost, and implementation of installing digital information screens at three major transport stations within the Local Government Area ((LGA) such as Strathfield Station, Homebush Station, and Flemington Station) and maybe outside the Council.
2. The report should include options for using the digital screens to:
 - Promote Council policies, services, community events, and new regulations.
 - Share information about Council newsletters and how residents can subscribe.
 - Support local businesses by offering affordable advertising opportunities.
 - Include paid commercial advertising to help offset installation and maintenance costs.
3. Council Investigates potential partnerships or sponsorships with local businesses or advertising providers to support the rollout and ongoing management of the screens.
4. Report back to Council with findings and recommendations on August 2025 Council Meeting.

Rationale

Installing digital screens in high-traffic public areas will improve communication between Council and residents, promote transparency, support local business visibility and create a new revenue stream to fund the initiative.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council prepares a report on the feasibility, cost, and implementation of installing digital information screens at three major transport stations within the Local Government Area ((LGA) such as Strathfield Station, Homebush Station, and Flemington Station) and maybe outside the Council.
2. The report should include options for using the digital screens to:
 - Promote Council policies, services, community events, and new regulations.
 - Share information about Council newsletters and how residents can subscribe.
 - Support local businesses by offering affordable advertising opportunities.
 - Include paid commercial advertising to help offset installation and maintenance costs.
3. Council Investigates potential partnerships or sponsorships with local businesses or advertising providers to support the rollout and ongoing management of the screens.

4. Report back to Council with findings and recommendations on August 2025 Council Meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

10.4 NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR CAI
SUBJECT: NIGHT TIME ECONOMY - STRATHFIELD LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

I MOVE:

That Council:

1. Undertakes a feasibility study into developing and enhancing the night-time economy in the Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA), with a particular focus on the areas surrounding the three train stations — Strathfield, Homebush, and Flemington — as well as along the Parramatta Road corridor.
2. Explores opportunities to encourage a diverse range of evening and night-time activities, including but not limited to:
 - Late-night dining and entertainment options
 - Cultural and community events
 - Small business support and activation initiatives
 - Improved lighting, safety and transport access at night
3. Engages with local residents, business owners, transport authorities, and relevant stakeholders to gather input and ensure the development plan aligns with community needs and preferences.
4. Receives a report from Council officers detailing the outcomes of the feasibility study, including recommended strategies, potential costs, and partnership opportunities to support a vibrant and safe night-time economy in Strathfield.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Undertakes a feasibility study into developing and enhancing the night-time economy in the Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA), with a particular focus on the areas surrounding the three train stations — Strathfield, Homebush, and Flemington — as well as along the Parramatta Road corridor.
2. Explores opportunities to encourage a diverse range of evening and night-time activities, including but not limited to:
 - Late-night dining and entertainment options
 - Cultural and community events
 - Small business support and activation initiatives
 - Improved lighting, safety and transport access at night
3. Engages with local residents, business owners, transport authorities, and relevant stakeholders to gather input and ensure the development plan aligns with community needs and preferences.

4. Receives a report from Council officers detailing the outcomes of the feasibility study, including recommended strategies, potential costs, and partnership opportunities to support a vibrant and safe night-time economy in Strathfield.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

10.5 NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR KIM
SUBJECT: FEASIBILITY STUDY - SHELTERS AND SEATING AT THE BIRDWATCHING AREA IN MASON PARK WETLANDS

I MOVE:

That Council conducts a feasibility study on installing shelters and seating at the birdwatching area in Mason Park Wetlands.

Council Officers' Note:

Council is currently preparing designs to provide a shelter and viewing point as part of Mason Park Wetlands. This will be brought to Council at a future workshop for information, with officers aiming to provide this prior to December 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council conducts a feasibility study on installing shelters and seating at the birdwatching area in Mason Park Wetlands.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

10.6 NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR KIM
SUBJECT: REPORT ON FREQUENCY OF MOWING PARKS, CLEANING RIVERBANKS AND MAINTANACNE OF CLEANING

I MOVE:

That Council provide a report on the frequency of:

- a. Lawn mowing in parks within the Strathfield area;
- b. Cleaning along riverbanks, including Powell Creek and the Cooks River;
- c. Maintenance and cleaning of Strathfield Square and The Boulevard.

Council Officers' Note:

This report can be delivered by September 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council provide a report on the frequency of:

- a. Lawn mowing in parks within the Strathfield area;
- b. Cleaning along riverbanks, including Powell Creek and the Cooks River;
- c. Maintenance and cleaning of Strathfield Square and The Boulevard.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

10.7 NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR KIM
SUBJECT: A STUDY TO IDENTIFY MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE SAFETY OF STRATHFIELD SQUARE

I MOVE:

That Council undertakes a study to identify measures to enhance the safety of Strathfield Square for children, the elderly, and families, and to explore strategies for addressing the issue of street sleepers in the area.

Council Officers' Note

As part of the Strathfield Town Centre Masterplan a Crime Prevention by Environmental Design (CPTED) Assessment, will be completed as part of the technical work being undertaken.

This will include measures to improve the sense of personal safety within the town centre and provide opportunities for a range of visitors to enjoy Strathfield Square.

A separate study is not recommended at this time.

It is noted that Council also currently has a relationship with a local charity that tends to rough sleepers in the area when they are identified by Council staff.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council undertakes a study to identify measures to enhance the safety of Strathfield Square for children, the elderly, and families, and to explore strategies for addressing the issue of street sleepers in the area.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

GMU1 **CESSATION OF NONESSENTIAL COUNCIL EVENTS**
AUTHOR: Ayla Karabulut, Acting Manager Communications and Events
APPROVER: Michael Mamo, General Manager

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the recommendation provided in the Cessation of non-essential future Council events report that was prepared for the April Council Meeting, which outlines Council's events program for the 2025/26 financial year and remainder of the Council term or determines an alternative events program having regard to the available budget for FY 25/26.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To determine Council's future program of events for 2025 – 2028 as a decision was not made at the 2025 April Council Meeting. Council is required to endorse an events program for the 2025/26 financial year as a draft budget is currently on exhibition and will be recommended for adoption in June 2025.

REPORT

A workshop was held 31 March 2025 to discuss what Council would like to achieve through its Event Calendar, establish a Calendar of Events for Strathfield Council from 2025 to 2028 and outline Councillor involvement. Feedback that was received during this workshop was outlined in the Cessation of non-essential future Council events report that was prepared for the April Council Meeting which is an attachment to this report.

Council's Events Calendar as it currently stands:

Event	Date	Venue	Budget
Spring Festival	First Sat of Sept	Strathfield Park	\$150,000
Moon Festival	Sept/Oct	Henley Rd, Homebush West	\$45,000
Movies in the Park	8 screenings Oct – Mar	Strathfield Park	\$31,000
Community Christmas Party	Late Nov	Town Hall	\$30,000
Christmas Carols	First Sat of Dec	Strathfield Park	\$60,000
Australia Day	26 Jan	Strathfield Square	\$40,000
Lunar New Year	Feb 24	Homebush West	\$9,000
International Women's Day	8 Mar	Town Hall	\$15,000
★ Battle of Kapyong Memorial	April	Ismay Reserve	Funded by RSL
ANZAC Day	Thu 25 Apr	Davey Square	\$10,900
Homebush Vibes	May	Homebush Village	\$95,000
★ Winter Warmer	Mid July	Strathfield Square	\$230,000

★ Pending external funding – may not be guaranteed/successful

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Proposed Expenditure:

Funding for each event is currently available and outlined in the 2025/2026 Budget for adoption in June 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [Cessation of non-essential Council events - 29 April 2025 - Council Meeting Report](#)



COUNCIL MEETING
29 APRIL 2025

GMU3 **CESSATION OF NON-ESSENTIAL FUTURE COUNCIL EVENTS**
AUTHOR: **Ayla Karabulut, Acting Manager Communications and Events**
APPROVER: **Michael Mamo, General Manager**

RECOMMENDATION

That:

Based on feedback that was provided at the Councillor Workshop held on 31 March 2025 to discuss Council's Events Calendar for 2025 – 2028, Council continues hosting its calendar as it currently stands with the following amendments:

1. Organising Spring Festival on alternate years (e.g. 2026 and 2028) with funds from the year before placed into a financial reserve to ensure the year it is hosted has a larger budget.
2. \$25,000 from the annual Spring Festival budget be re-allocated to the Moon Festival budget which amends the Spring Festival budget to \$125,000 and increase the Moon Festival budget to \$75,000.
3. Movies in the Park is held at different venues, including but not limited to Strathfield Park, Hudson Park and Strathfield Square.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide details on what was discussed at the Councillor Workshop held on 31 March 2025 and determine Council's future program of events for 2025 – 2028.

REPORT

A Councillor Workshop was organised on 31 March 2025 to address the below Notice of Motion that was carried at the Council Meeting 25 February 2025:

10.4 Cessation of non-essential future Council events

31/25

RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEW BLACKMORE

Moved by: (Blackmore / Pensabene)

1. That a report be provided to a future Council Workshop and Meeting which outlines options to reduce funding and hosting any future events that are not essential or not located in either Strathfield Town Centre, Homebush Village and Homebush West Shops for the duration of this Council Term till September 2028.
2. This does not apply to any civic events such as Anzac Day, Citizenship Ceremonies or Remembrance Day.

For the Motion: Councillors Blackmore, Cai and Reddy

Against the Motion: Councillors Pensabene, Nosworthy and Kim

The Deputy Mayor used his Casting Vote For and declared the Motion carried.



The Councillor Workshop discussed what Council would like to achieve through its Event Calendar, establish a Calendar of Events for Strathfield Council from 2025 – 2028 and outline Councillor involvement.

Outcomes of Council Events:

The following suggestions were noted when Councillors discussed the outcomes they would like to see provided from Strathfield Council events:

- Boost trade for local businesses and introduce local businesses to new people
- Diversity of acts
- Use money wisely
- Councillors to be involved on the day
- Sharing cultures/display diverse cultures
- Community unification (boosting community happiness and including their involvement)
- Attractive and known to residents (hosting events people want to be at)
- Residents have fun and take something home about Council
- Inclusive of all local businesses, schools and community groups
- Foster community and connect locals – opportunities for people and residents to meet
- Sense of achievement with numbers (increased attendee numbers over the years)
- Promote Council brand
- Accessible for everybody

Council Events Calendar

Events Calendar – Current Situation

Event	Date	Venue	Budget
Spring Festival	First Sat of Sept	Strathfield Park	\$150,000
Moon Festival	Sept/Oct	Henley Rd, Homebush West	\$50,000
Movies in the Park	8 screenings Oct – Mar	Strathfield Park	\$32,165
Community Christmas Party	Late Nov	Town Hall	\$29,775
Christmas Carols	First Sat of Dec	Strathfield Park	\$60,000
Australia Day	26 Jan	Strathfield Square	\$41,600
Lunar New Year	Feb 24	Homebush West	\$9,000
International Women's Day	Wed 8 Mar 24	Town Hall	\$14,700
ANZAC Day	Thu 25 Apr 24	Davey Square	\$11,336
Homebush Vibes	May	Homebush Village	\$95,000
★ Winter Warmer	Mid July	Strathfield Square	\$230,000

★ Pending grant funding – may not be successful



The following feedback in relation to Council's Events Calendar was noted:

- All events are to be held annually except for Spring Festival. Following suggestions were made:
 - o Cancel Spring Festival and invest funds into other events like Moon Festival
 - o Host Spring Festival every 2 years
 - o Keep the Spring Festival and revamp the program
- Movies in the Park to be held at different venues
- Look into possibility of moving Moon Festival celebrations to The Crescent, Homebush West
- Christmas Carols to involve more carols with song books, seating and determine whether fireworks can be reintroduced
- Move Australia Day to a morning event in Strathfield Park → it was advised that the event format was previously organised in this way but was cancelled due to poor attendance. It has since been reintroduced as an afternoon event into the evening

There should be an action plan outlined with participating schools in events and focus on building relationships with relevant/key school contacts to increase their participation in Council events.

Further feedback and suggestions are to be provided at the respective event initiation and check-in meetings in the lead up to each major event.

Councillor Involvement:

It was agreed at the Councillor Workshop held on 31 March 2025 to invite Councillors to 2 Event Working Group meetings in the lead up to planning an event:

- Event initiation meeting (approximately 2 hours)
- Event Check-in meeting (approximately 1 hour)

An event run sheet will be emailed to Councillors before each event takes place.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Proposed Expenditure:

Funding for each event is currently available and will be outlined in the 2025/2026 Budget.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

GMU2 **AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS IN STRATHFIELD**
AUTHOR: Ayla Karabulut, Acting Manager Communications and Events
APPROVER: Michael Mamo, General Manager

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council hosts a Heart of the Nation Information Session in Strathfield Town Hall on Thursday 19 June 2025 to increase awareness within the community about the importance of automated external defibrillators during times of cardiac arrest.
2. Council approves the allocation of funding of \$10,000 to cover the cost of installing an automated external defibrillator in Homebush, Homebush West and Strathfield Town Centres. The funding will also cover the cost of hosting a Heart of the Nation Information Session.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

Provide suitable locations for the installation of an automated external defibrillator in Homebush, Homebush West and Strathfield Town Centres.

REPORT

An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a device that is used in conjunction with Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and delivers a controlled shock to an individual experiencing cardiac arrest, increasing their chances of survival.

There are Council owned and installed defibrillators at the following locations:

Council Administration Building, 65 Homebush Road, Strathfield	Customer Service
Council Town Hall, 65 Homebush Road, Strathfield	Town Hall (Near the Kitchen)
Council Library, 65-67 Rochester Street, Homebush	Ground Floor
Homebush West Community Centre, 54 Hampstead Road, Homebush West	Melville Hall
Bates Street Community Centre, 1B Bates Street, Strathfield	Hallway
High Street Community Centre, High Street, Strathfield	Near Alarm System
Council Depot, 1 Weeroona Road, Strathfield	Kitchen Area
The Dutton Centre, 40 August Street, Strathfield	Near Main Entrance

Council passed the following resolution at the 2025 February Council Meeting:

42/25

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Reddy)

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. That a briefing be presented to Council on Heart of the Nation hosting a community information session for the Strathfield LGA. The briefing to also consider Council funding for external AED's in each of our town centres, (Strathfield Town Centre, Homebush Village and Homebush West).
3. That as part of the briefing, consideration be given to placing new AED units in outside locations.

Voting on this item was unanimous

Three locations have since been identified for the installation of AEDs in three Strathfield LGA town centres that are easily accessible by members of the public:

- Homebush: Homebush Pharmacy - this location will require owner consent prior to installation taking place.
- Homebush West: Flemington Train Station (The Crescent) - this location will require owner consent prior to installation taking place.
- Strathfield: Café Crop - this property is owned by Council and does not require additional consent.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Proposed Expenditure:

Funding has not been provided in the current budget for this purpose. Should Council approve the expenditure, the source of funding will need to be identified in the budget.

ITEM	COST
Installation of 3x automated external defibrillators	\$9,000
Heart of the Nation Information Session	\$1,000

ATTACHMENTS

1. [Heart of the Nation - AED Locations](#)

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)

Installation at Strathfield, Homebush, and Homebush West

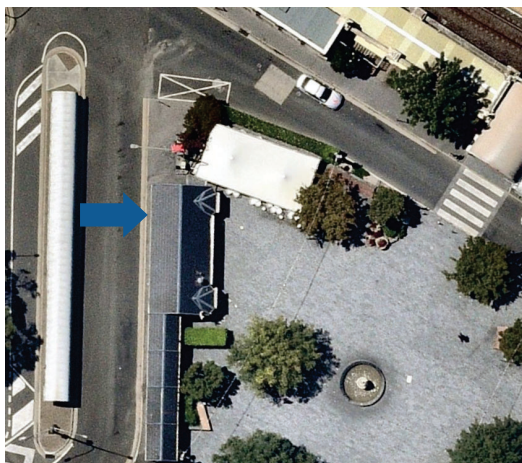
Prepared by Ben Michel, Landscape Architect, Engineering Department,
Strathfield Council

09 April 2025

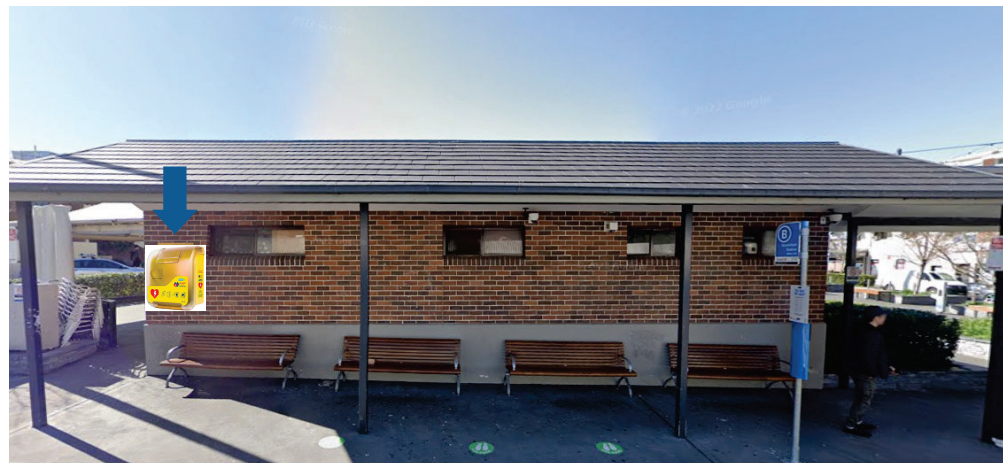


STRATHFIELD

Proposed location - aerial



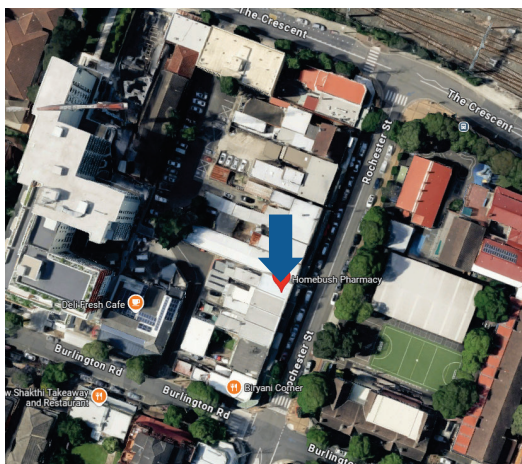
Proposed location - photograph



It is proposed to install a wall-mounted AED on the cafe wall in Strathfield Square. This cafe is owned by Council and therefore no consultation will be required with the cafe operator, although it would be courteous to inform the operator of the installation. There is more wall surface space on the road side of the cafe, as the square side features advertising, menu boards, windows, and a kiosk. It may be beneficial to place the AED on the road side and have signage on the square side directing a person to the AED in case of emergency.

HOME BUSH

Proposed location - aerial



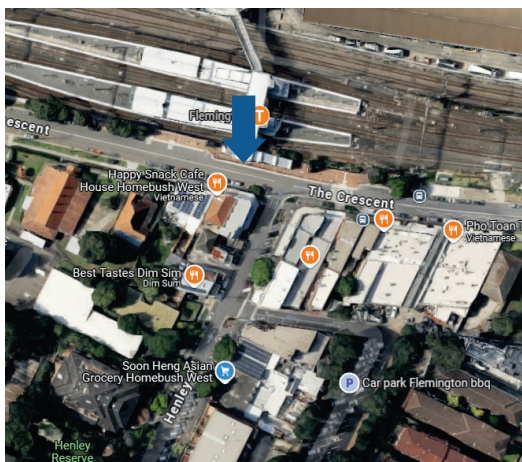
Proposed location - photograph



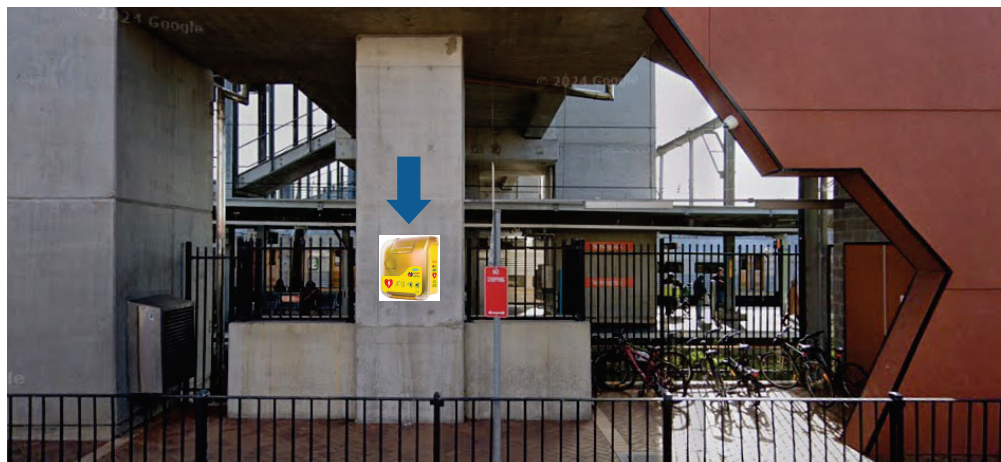
It is proposed to install a wall-mounted AED on the facade of 23 Rochester Street. Currently at this address is the Homebush Pharmacy which has proven to be a stable business in operation at the same spot since at least 2007 (evidenced from Google Streetview). Having an AED outside the pharmacy is a smart idea because someone in an emergency may instinctively run to the pharmacy for help, and having an AED outside the pharmacy means that staff may be able to assist in an emergency too. The pharmacy is also about half way down the shopping strip on Rochester Street. There is space on the wall as shown in the photograph above. Consultation would need to occur with the business owner.

HOMEBUSH WEST

Proposed location - aerial



Proposed location - photograph



It is proposed to install a wall-mounted AED on the train station facade. It is difficult to find a place to put the AED in the shopping strip of Henley Road because many businesses have produce stands on the street and the building facades are covered in advertising material which makes the facade cluttered. An AED should be placed on a wall with no clutter so that the device stands out. This location on the Sydney Trains facade is clean and in an obvious place. Consultation would need to occur with Sydney Trains to seek permission to install.

CCS1 COUNCILLOR WORKSHOP 6 MAY 2025
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 6 May 2025 and follow up action required.

REPORT

Attendees

Councillors Blackmore, Cai, Kim, Nosworthy, Pensabene and Reddy.

Invitees Present

John Renshaw, Noble Shore and Scott Davies, Hassell Studio.

Apologies

Councillor Baladi.

Declarations of Pecuniary or Conflict of Interest (Nature of interest to be disclosed)

Nil.

The Councillor Workshop commenced at 5:11pm and closed at 6:15pm.

The following item was discussed at the Councillor Workshop held on 6 May 2025:

Item	Title	Attendance	Summary	Follow Up Action
PE1	Strathfield Town Centre – Mid Way Consultation Report - Special Workshop	Councillors Blackmore, Cai, Kim, Nosworthy, Pensabene and Reddy Councillor Reddy left during discussion of this item, the time being 5:45pm	Council officers presented the draft Key Directions report that will be placed on public exhibition once resolved to at the Extraordinary Council Meeting 12 May 2025 and invited feedback from Councillors. Topics discussed and feedback from Councillors included but not limited to: Along with Connecting with Country, history of immigration to	To go to Extraordinary Council Meeting 12 May 2025

Item	Title	Attendance	Summary	Follow Up Action
			Strathfield by Russian, Nepalese, Lebanese and many other nationalities be considered • Would like community to get excited about, and support the Strathfield Town Centre Master Plan. • Council would like the town centre to appeal to all residents across the Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) and negate need for residents to visit neighbouring LGAs. • Significant number of students visit the town centre and a facility for students to spend time in ought to be explored. • Dining options to be diversified if possible to attract a wider demographic of visitors. Alternative language suggested instead of 'Korean and South Asian cuisine' be 'Multicultural authentic cuisine including Korean'. • Residents across the LGA have expressed safety concerns visiting the town centre so Council need to combat smoking, drinking and drug use in the town centre. A Police presence, improved lighting and CCTV cameras were suggested to address the forementioned issues. • Various pedestrian and transportation issues discussed such as railway crossing/connection, public transport, parking and pedestrian movement. • Document to include more images to express message to the	

Item	Title	Attendance	Summary	Follow Up Action
			community on future direction of the town centre.	
General Business - Extraordinary Council Meeting 12 May 2025 – the General Manager had notified Councillors that an additional report on the Hudson Park loan will be presented as a procedural motion is required to extend time frame - Issues surrounding parking meters at Homebush West are being investigated by Council to find suitable solution				

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report

CCS2 INVESTMENT REPORT - APRIL 2025
 AUTHOR: Salma Tandukar, Accountant
 APPROVER: Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

RECOMMENDATION

That the record of cash investments as at 30 April 2025 be received and noted.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To submit Council's record of cash investments as at 30 April 2025, pursuant to Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

Investment Allocation and Performance

Investment Portfolio as at 30 April 2025:

Call Accounts	Allocation (%)	Amount (\$)
Term Deposits	64.90	49,000,000
Cash At Bank and At Call Investment	35.10	26,497,515
Total Investments		75,497,515

Note: Investment Portfolio details are listed in the attachment

As at the end of April 2025, the portfolio was mainly directed to fixed term deposits (64.90%). The remaining portfolio is directed to various cash accounts (35.10%) for current liquidity needs.

Performance

Council's performance for the month ending April 2025 is summarised as follows:

Performance (Actual)	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year
Official Cash Rate	0.33%	0.98%	2.07%	3.55%	4.29%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	0.35%	1.04%	2.18%	3.70%	4.46%
Council's T/D Portfolio [^]	0.38%	1.11%	2.26%	3.70%	4.40%
Rel. Performance	0.03%	0.07%	0.09%	-0.01%	-0.06%

[^]Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings.

Performance (Annualised)	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year
Official Cash Rate	4.10%	4.10%	4.23%	4.28%	4.29%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	4.38%	4.34%	4.44%	4.46%	4.46%
Council's T/D Portfolio [^]	4.72%	4.64%	4.62%	4.45%	4.40%
Rel. Performance	0.35%	0.29%	0.18%	-0.01%	-0.06%

[^]Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings.

For the month of April, the total investment portfolio (excluding cash) provided a return of +0.38% (actual) or +4.72% p.a. (annualized), outperforming the benchmark AusBond Bank Bill Index return of +0.35% (actual) or +4.38% p.a. (annualized).

Council's **deposit** portfolio was yielding 4.57% p.a. (down 2bp from the previous month), with a weighted average duration of 183 days (~6 months).

Council has earned interest revenue totalling \$2,473,112.51 as at 30 April 2025, being 100.94% of the full year projected budget of \$2,450,000.

Cash Restrictions as at 30 April 2025:

Financial Reserves	Balance as at 30 April 2025
Externally Restricted Reserves	
Developers Contributions reserve	\$ 37,235,289
Planning Agreements Reserve	\$ 688,000
Stormwater Management reserve	\$ 810,415
Domestic Waste Management reserve	\$ 599,505
Special Purpose Unexpended Grants	\$ 12,713,343
SEPP - Advertising & Signage	\$ -
Roads Reserve	\$ -
Total External Restrictions	\$ 52,046,552
Internally Restricted Reserves	
Plant & Fleet Reserve	\$ 926,118
Employee Leave Entitlements	\$ 1,200,000
General Funded Carryover Works	\$ -
Deposits, Retentions, Bonds	\$ 13,213,096
Election Reserve	\$ 500,000
Hudson Park Driving Range	\$ 195,000
IT & Office Equipment	\$ 240,000
FAG - Paid in Advance	\$ -
Grant Co-Funding Reserve	\$ -
Risk & Legal Reserve	\$ 400,000
Work, Health & Safety	\$ -
Strategic Priorities	\$ 2,082,000
Public Liability Claims	\$ -
Business Improvement & Innovation	\$ -
Planning Proposals	\$ -
Affordable Housing	\$ -
Parking Infrastructure	\$ -
Contributions towards works	\$ 20,000
SRV Direct Funding Reserve	\$ -
SRV Loan Funding Reserve	\$ -
Commercial Loan Reserve	\$ -
Borrowings Against Consolidated Internally Restricted Reserves	\$ -
Infrastructure Renewal Reserve	\$ -
Adshel	\$ 270,000
Total Internal Restrictions	\$ 19,046,214
Total Restrictions	\$ 71,092,766
Unrestricted Cash	\$ 4,404,749
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 75,497,515

Certification – Responsible Accounting Officer

The Chief Financial Officer (Acting) 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. [Investment Report April 2025](#)



Investment Report

01/04/2025 to 30/04/2025



Portfolio Valuation as at 30/04/2025

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
Suncorp Bank	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	25/09/2024	15/05/2025	5.0000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	59,726.03	8,219.18
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	18/05/2021	19/05/2025	1.0000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	9,479.45	821.92
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	26/10/2023	04/06/2025	5.3800	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	54,536.99	8,843.84
BOQ	A-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	04/12/2024	04/06/2025	5.1600	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	41,845.48	8,482.19
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	23/12/2024	23/06/2025	5.0500	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	35,695.89	8,301.37
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	24/12/2024	24/06/2025	5.0500	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	26,564.38	6,226.03
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	08/04/2025	08/07/2025	4.7000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	5,923.29	5,923.29
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	26/10/2023	16/07/2025	5.3800	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	54,536.99	8,843.84
BOQ	A-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	23/01/2025	23/07/2025	5.0000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	26,849.32	8,219.18
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	24/07/2024	24/07/2025	5.3500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	41,187.67	4,397.26
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	07/08/2024	07/08/2025	5.0500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	36,941.10	4,150.68
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	11/12/2023	13/08/2025	5.2000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	144,460.27	8,547.95
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	11/12/2023	10/09/2025	5.1500	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	143,071.23	8,465.75
Bank of Us	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	28/04/2025	28/10/2025	4.5000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	739.73	739.73
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	27/10/2021	29/10/2025	1.5900	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	261.37	261.37
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	31/10/2024	31/10/2025	5.1700	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	51,558.36	8,498.63
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2024	14/11/2025	4.9600	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	70,663.01	8,153.42
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	04/09/2024	04/12/2025	4.8400	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	63,384.11	7,956.16



Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	20/12/2024	22/12/2025	5.0000	2,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	45,205.48	10,273.97
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	23/12/2024	23/12/2025	5.0000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	35,342.47	8,219.18
BOQ	A-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	26/03/2024	21/01/2026	4.8700	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	107,006.58	8,005.48
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2024	13/02/2026	4.8100	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	68,526.03	7,906.85
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	26/03/2024	18/03/2026	4.8000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	158,202.74	11,835.62
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	18/05/2021	15/05/2026	1.3000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	12,323.29	1,068.49
Bank of Us	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	14/08/2024	14/08/2026	4.7000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	66,958.90	7,726.03
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	27/10/2021	28/10/2026	1.8200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	299.18	299.18
Macquarie Bank	A+	CASH	GENERAL	Monthly	30/04/2025	30/04/2025	4.4000	1,301,572.92	1,301,572.92	4,690.66	4,690.66
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	GENERAL	Monthly	30/04/2025	30/04/2025	3.8500	3,830,183.44	3,830,183.44	25,285.20	25,285.20
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	GENERAL	Monthly	30/04/2025	30/04/2025	3.9000	21,365,758.48	21,365,758.48	76,126.49	76,126.49
TOTALS								75,497,514.84	75,497,514.84	1,467,391.67	276,488.93



Portfolio by Asset as at 30/04/2025

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	30/04/2025	30/04/2025	4.4000	1,301,572.92	1,301,572.92	4,690.66	4,690.66
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	GENERAL	Monthly	30/04/2025	30/04/2025	3.8500	3,830,183.44	3,830,183.44	25,285.20	25,285.20
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	GENERAL	Monthly	30/04/2025	30/04/2025	3.9000	21,365,758.48	21,365,758.48	76,126.49	76,126.49
CASH SUBTOTALS								26,497,514.84	26,497,514.84	106,102.35	106,102.35

Asset Type: TD

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
Suncorp Bank	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	25/09/2024	15/05/2025	5.0000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	59,726.03	8,219.18
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	18/05/2021	19/05/2025	1.0000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	9,479.45	821.92
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	26/10/2023	04/06/2025	5.3800	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	54,536.99	8,843.84
BOQ	A-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	04/12/2024	04/06/2025	5.1600	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	41,845.48	8,482.19
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	23/12/2024	23/06/2025	5.0500	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	35,695.89	8,301.37
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	24/12/2024	24/06/2025	5.0500	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	26,564.38	6,226.03
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	08/04/2025	08/07/2025	4.7000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	5,923.29	5,923.29
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	26/10/2023	16/07/2025	5.3800	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	54,536.99	8,843.84
BOQ	A-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	23/01/2025	23/07/2025	5.0000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	26,849.32	8,219.18



Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	24/07/2024	24/07/2025	5.3500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	41,187.67	4,397.26
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	07/08/2024	07/08/2025	5.0500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	36,941.10	4,150.68
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	11/12/2023	13/08/2025	5.2000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	144,460.27	8,547.95
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	11/12/2023	10/09/2025	5.1500	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	143,071.23	8,465.75
Bank of Us	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	28/04/2025	28/10/2025	4.5000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	739.73	739.73
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	27/10/2021	29/10/2025	1.5900	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	261.37	261.37
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	31/10/2024	31/10/2025	5.1700	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	51,558.36	8,498.63
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2024	14/11/2025	4.9600	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	70,663.01	8,153.42
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	04/09/2024	04/12/2025	4.8400	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	63,384.11	7,956.16
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	20/12/2024	22/12/2025	5.0000	2,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	45,205.48	10,273.97
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	23/12/2024	23/12/2025	5.0000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	35,342.47	8,219.18
BOQ	A-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	26/03/2024	21/01/2026	4.8700	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	107,006.58	8,005.48
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2024	13/02/2026	4.8100	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	68,526.03	7,906.85
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	26/03/2024	18/03/2026	4.8000	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	158,202.74	11,835.62
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	18/05/2021	15/05/2026	1.3000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	12,323.29	1,068.49
Bank of Us	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	Annual	14/08/2024	14/08/2026	4.7000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	66,958.90	7,726.03
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	27/10/2021	28/10/2026	1.8200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	299.18	299.18
TD SUBTOTALS								49,000,000.00	49,000,000.00	1,361,289.32	170,386.58



Portfolio by Asset Totals as at 30/04/2025

Type	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
CASH	26,497,514.84	26,497,514.84	106,102.35	106,102.35
TD	49,000,000.00	49,000,000.00	1,361,289.32	170,386.58
TOTALS	75,497,514.84	75,497,514.84	1,467,391.67	276,488.93



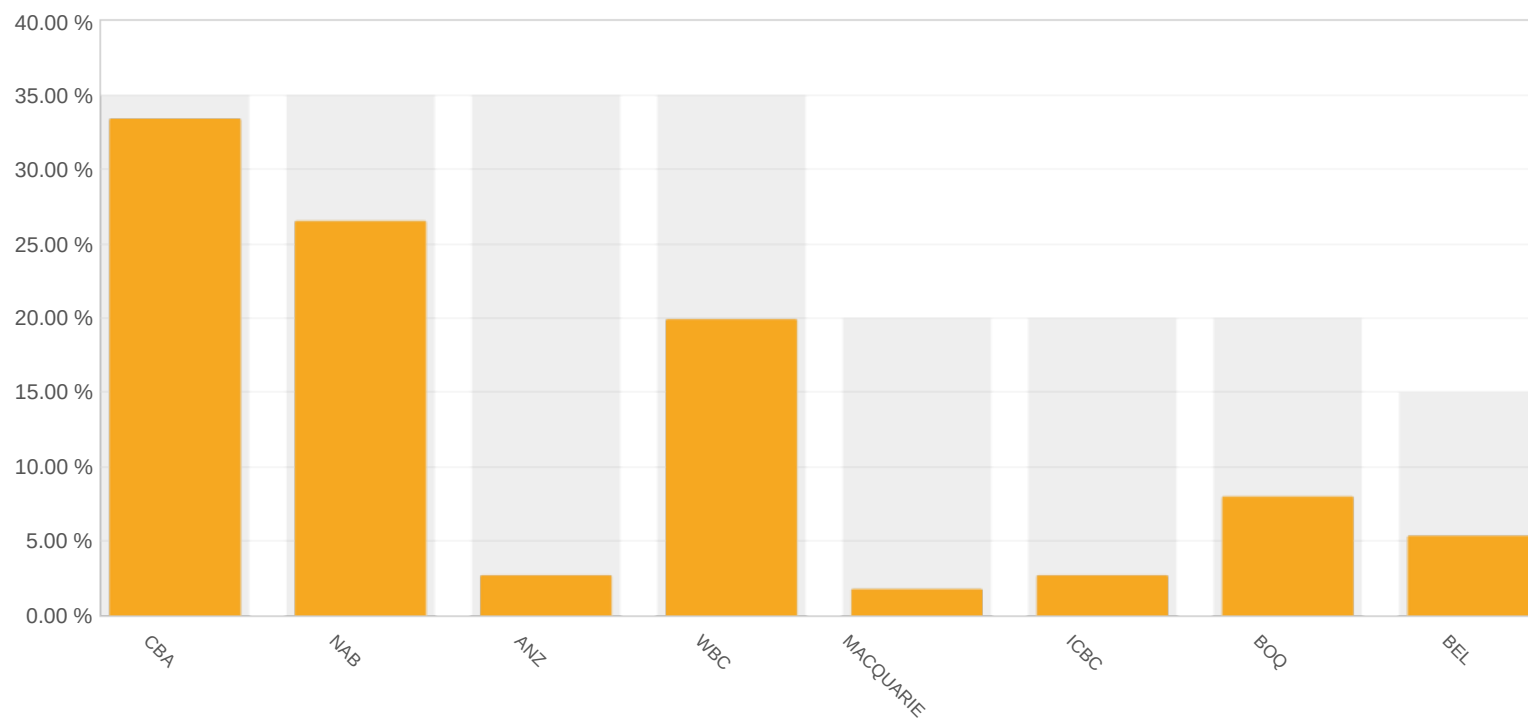
Counterparty Compliance as at 30/04/2025

Long Term Investments

Compliant	Bank Group	Term	Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Limit (\$)	Available (\$)
✓	Commonwealth Bank	Long	AA-	25,195,941.92	33.37	35.00	-	1,228,188.27
✓	NAB	Long	AA-	20,000,000.00	26.49	35.00	-	6,424,130.19
✓	ANZ Bank	Long	AA-	2,000,000.00	2.65	35.00	-	24,424,130.19
✓	Westpac	Long	AA-	15,000,000.00	19.87	35.00	-	11,424,130.19
✓	Macquarie Bank	Long	A+	1,301,572.92	1.72	20.00	-	13,797,930.05
✓	ICBC Sydney Branch	Long	A	2,000,000.00	2.65	20.00	-	13,099,502.97
✓	BOQ	Long	A-	6,000,000.00	7.95	20.00	-	9,099,502.97
✓	Bank of Us	Long	BBB+	4,000,000.00	5.30	15.00	-	7,324,627.23
TOTALS				75,497,514.84	100.00			



Counterparty Compliance - Long Term Investments



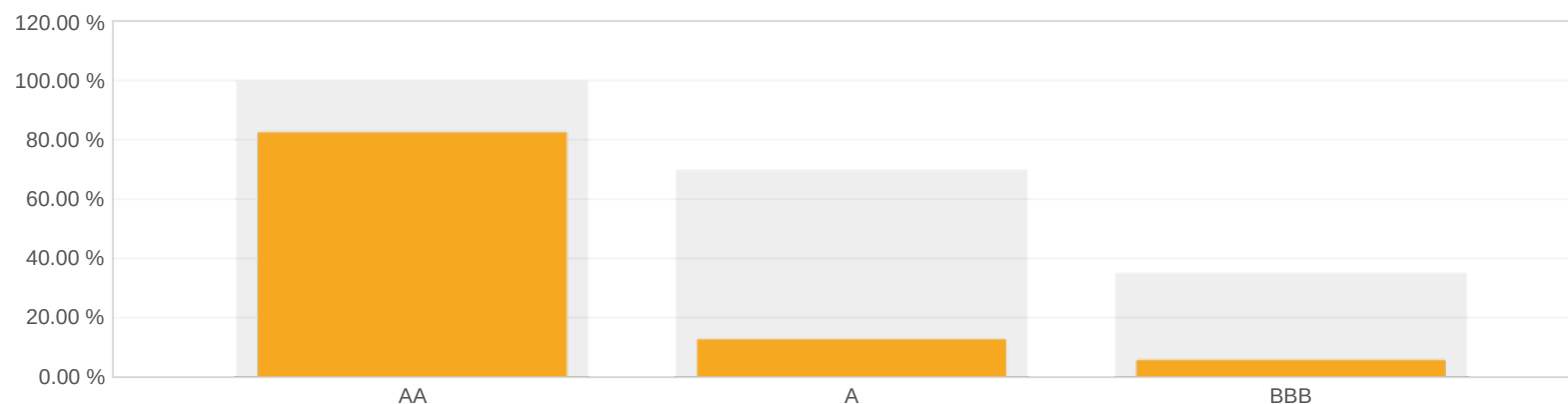


Credit Quality Compliance as at 30/04/2025

Long Term Investments

Compliant	Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	AA	62,195,941.92	82.38	100.00	13,301,572.92
✓	A	9,301,572.92	12.32	70.00	43,546,687.47
✓	BBB	4,000,000.00	5.30	35.00	22,424,130.19
TOTALS		75,497,514.84	100.00		

Credit Quality Compliance - Long Term Investments

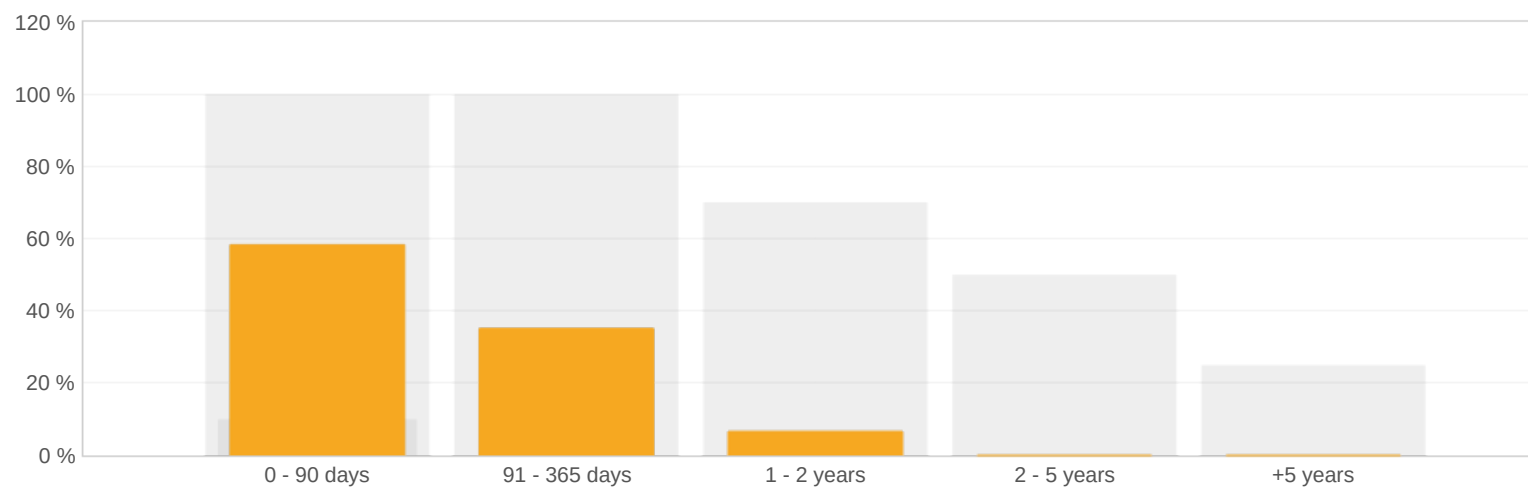




Maturity Compliance as at 30/04/2025

Compliant	Term	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Min Limit (%)	Max Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	0 - 90 days	43,997,514.84	58.28	10.00	100.00	31,500,000.00
✓	91 - 365 days	26,500,000.00	35.10	0.00	100.00	48,997,514.84
✓	1 - 2 years	5,000,000.00	6.62	0.00	70.00	47,848,260.39
✓	2 - 5 years	-	0.00	0.00	50.00	37,748,757.42
✓	+5 years	-	0.00	0.00	25.00	18,874,378.71
TOTALS		75,497,514.84	100.00			

Maturity Compliance



CCS3 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT (QBR) FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

AUTHOR: Simmi Gaur, Financial Strategy & Operations Lead

APPROVER: Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

RECOMMENDATION

That the Quarterly Budget Review Statement and associated budget adjustments for the quarter ended 31 March 2025 be approved and adopted.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To submit the Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBR) for quarter ended 31 March 2025 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 ended 31 March 2025 is set out in the attachment to this report.

The Chief Financial Officer, as Council's Responsible Accounting Officer, is of the opinion that the Budget Review Statement for the quarter ended 31 March 2025 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.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications as all proposed budget variations are expected to be accommodated within the Council's projection of income and expenditure for the financial year 2024/2025.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [2024 - 2025 Q3 Quarterly Budget Review Statement \(QBR\)](#)

Strathfield Municipal Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the Quarter Ended 31 March 2025

**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 31 March 2025 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:

Simmi Gaur

Responsible Accounting Officer (RAO)-Acting

Strathfield Municipal Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the Quarter Ended 31 March 2025

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)
Operating Budget Summary							
Total Income from Continuing Operations ¹	64,867	-	7,516	46	750	73,179	67,326
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	61,374	-	126	640	716	62,856	47,284
Net Operating Result	3,493	-	7,390	(594)	34	10,323	20,042
Capital Expenditure	26,903	7,358	5,927	(534)	(26)	39,628	11,192
Funding							
Transfer to Reserves	(36,700)			-	(56)	(36,756)	(12,646)
Transfer from Reserves	39,847	7,358	337	60	-	47,602	4,567
Repayment of Borrowings (Principal)	(240)					(240)	
Proceeds from Borrowings	10,000		(1,800)			8,200	5,457
Net Funding	12,907	7,358	(1,463)	60	(56)	18,806	(2,621)
Add Back: Non Cash Items	10,506					10,506	7,879
Cash Budget Result	3	-	(0)	-	4	7	14,108

Notes:

¹ - 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.

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the Quarter Ended 31 March 2025

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)
Income from Continuing Operations							
Rates and Annual Charges	40,989		-	570	70	41,629	41,977
User Charges and Fees	5,057		-	-	150	5,207	4,498
Interest and Investment Income	2,524		-	-	-	2,524	2,635
Other Revenues	2,696		-	-	470	3,166	2,619
Other Income	1,201		-	-	56	1,257	1,075
Operating Grants and Contributions	2,467		74	120	30	2,691	1,405
Capital Grants and Contributions	9,483		7,442	(644)	(26)	16,255	12,646
Net Gain from Disposal of Assets	450		-	-		450	472
Total Income from Continuing Operations	64,867	-	7,516	46	750	73,179	67,326
Expenses from Continuing Operations							
Employee Benefits and On-costs	26,236		-	-	904	27,140	21,283
Materials and Services	22,635		126	640	(188)	23,213	16,700
Depreciation and Amortisation	10,506		-	-	-	10,506	7,879
Borrowing Costs	518		-	-	-	518	678
Other Expenses	1,479		-	-	-	1,479	743
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	61,374	-	126	640	716	62,856	47,284
Net Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	3,493	-	7,390	(594)	34	10,323	20,042
Net Operating Surplus / (Deficit) before Capital Grants and Contributions	(5,990)	-	(52)	50	60	(5,932)	7,397

Strathfield Municipal Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the Quarter Ended 31 March 2025

Operation Budget Variations



Division	Description	Type	Operating Revenue	Operating Expenditure
Corporate & Community	Connecting Seniors Grant	Increase in Revenue	30,000	
Office of the General Manager	Legal Charges Recovered (transfer to reserve)	Increase in Revenue	56,100	
Planning & Environment	Parking Enforcement & Fines	Increase in Revenue	470,000	
Planning & Environment	Increase in Development Application Fees	Increase in Revenue	100,000	
Planning & Environment	Parking Meters Revenue	Increase in Revenue	50,000	
	Correction of NSW Govt Local Small Commitment Allocation			
Engineering & Operations	Program - Marlene Reserve Water Fountain	Reduction in Revenue	(25,800)	
Corporate & Community	Korean Oral History Program	Increase in Expense		20,000
Corporate & Community	Revision of Employee Benefits and On-Costs	Increase in Expense		904,063
Corporate & Community	140 years celebration-Digital Projection historical Images on Strathfield Plaza	Increase in Expense		27,000
Corporate & Community	Connecting Seniors Grant	Increase in Expense		30,000
Engineering & Operations	Repairs & Maintenance-Parks, Reserves & Sportsfield	Reduction in Expense		(300,000)
Office of the General Manager	Sister City Gapeyeong Visit	Reduction in Expense		(55,000)
Corporate & Community	Internal Audit	Increase in Expense		90,000
Corporate & Community	Increase in Rates Revenue	Increase in Revenue	70,000	
Total:			750,300	716,063

Strathfield Municipal Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the Quarter Ended 31 March 2025

Capital Budget Summary



Nb: The numbers presented in the table are rounded to the nearest thousands.

	2024/2025 Original Budget	2024/2025 Carryovers into 2024/2025	2024/2025 Sep Qtr Variations	2024/2025 Dec Qtr Variations	2024/2025 Mar Qtr Variations	2024/2025 Projected Year End Result	2024/2025 Year-to-Date Actuals
	(\$ 000's)	(\$ 000's)	(\$ 000's)	(\$ 000's)	(\$ 000's)	(\$ 000's)	(\$ 000's)
Capital Expenditure							
Roads, Bridges and Footpaths	10,160	3,596	6,406	(2,500)	0	17,662	4,872
Traffic Management		519	0	0	0	519	
Stormwater Drainage	1,700	1,665	0	0	0	3,365	852
Buildings	2,545	530	(652)	0	0	2,424	229
Parks and Reserves	6,725	758	136	1,856	(26)	9,449	3,197
Land		0	0	0	0	0	
Plant and Equipment	4,773	265	0	0	0	5,038	1,776
Information Technology		24	37	110	0	171	156
Other	1,000	0	0	0	0	1,000	111
Total Capital Expenditure	26,903	7,358	5,927	(534)	(26)	39,628	11,192
Funding Sources							
Capital Grants and Contributions	3,753	2,979	7,442	(644)	(26)	13,504	1,516
Developer Contributions	1,520	404	200			2,124	450
DWM reserve	1,600				0	1,600	
Externally Restricted Reserves	3,142		48		0	3,190	498
Internally Restricted Reserves	3,353	549	37			3,939	2,103
Internal Borrowings	450				0	450	
Loan Proceeds	10,000	0	(1,800)		0	8,200	5,457
General Funds	3,085	3,426		110	0	6,621	1,167
Total Capital Funding	26,903	7,358	5,927	(534)	(26)	39,628	11,192
Net Capital Funding - Surplus/(Deficit)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Strathfield Municipal Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the Quarter Ended 31 March 2025

Capital Budget Variations



Division	Program	Capital Project Description	Estimate - Increase / (Reduction)
Engineering & Operations	Parks and Reserves	NSW Government's Local Small Commitment Allocation Program - Marlene Reserve	(25,800)
Total:			(25,800)

Strathfield Municipal Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the Quarter Ended 31 March 2025

Cash and Investments Summary



Nb: The numbers presented in the table are rounded to the nearest thousands.

	2024/2025 Opening Balance (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Carryovers into 2024/2025 (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Net Sep Qtr Movements (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Net Dec Qtr Movements (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Net Mar Qtr Movements (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Projected Year End Balance (\$ 000's)	2024/2025 Year-to-Date Actuals (\$ 000's)
Externally Restricted Reserves							
Developer Contributions	28,418	3,847	(200)	-	-	32,065	32,130
Domestic Waste Management	3,286	(1,826)	(5)	(60)	-	1,395	3,687
Stormwater Management	589	312	-	-	-	901	790
Special Purpose Unexpended Grants	5,402	(3,142)	(48)	-	-	2,212	12,862
Total Externally Restricted Reserves	37,695	(808)	(253)	(60)	-	36,574	49,469
Internally Restricted Reserves							
Plant and Fleet Replacement	2,230	(2,050)	-	-	-	180	2,316
Employee Leave Entitlement	1,200	-	-	-	-	1,200	1,200
Carryover Works	3,426	(3,426)	-	-	-	(0)	2,207
Deposits, Retentions and Bonds	12,347	-	-	-	-	12,347	14,322
Adshel (Bus Shelters)	270	-	-	-	-	270	270
Council Election	350	(250)	-	-	-	100	338
Planning Agreements	688	159	-	-	-	847	688
Infrastructure Maintenance and Replacement	2,082	-	-	-	-	2,082	2,082
Risk, Audit and Legal	400	(65)	-	-	56	391	639
Hudson Park Golf Driving Range	195	-	-	-	-	195	195
Information Management and Technology (IMT)	140	-	(37)	-	-	103	103
Advance Financial Assistance Grant	1,437	-	-	-	-	1,437	479
SRV Funding	-	239	-	-	-	239	-
Loans unspent	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,370
Internal borrowings	-	(450)	(47)	-	-	(497)	-
Business Improvement and Innovation	-	20	-	-	-	20	-
Contributions towards works	20	-	-	-	-	20	20
Total Internally Restricted Reserves	24,785	(5,823)	(84)	-	56	18,934	27,229
Total Cash Restrictions	62,480	(6,632)	(337)	(60)	56	55,507	76,698
Unrestricted Cash	64	3	(0)	-	-	67	828
Total Cash and Investments	62,544	(6,629)	(337)	(60)	56	55,574	77,526

Strathfield Municipal Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the Quarter Ended 31 March 2025

Consultancies and Legal Expenses Summary



	Actual	Budget	Budgeted
Consultancies	780,931	1,161,737	Y
Legal Fees	343,266	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 31 March 2025

Contracts entered into for the period

Supplier	Contract detail & purpose	Contract Value	Contract Duration (Months)	Budgeted
Tynan Motors Pty Ltd	Plant Purchase Tipper	51,257	2	Y
Tynan Motors Pty Ltd	Plant Purchase - LDV T60 Max Pro	50,474	2	Y
Tynan Motors Pty Ltd	Plant Purchase - LDV T60 Max Pro	50,474	2	Y
Dean Trailers Australia P/L	Plant Purchase - Dean Trailer	166,063	4	Y
KJ Civil & Paving Pty Ltd	Road pavement renewals work at Ada Avenue, Strathfield	346,231	2	Y
KJ Civil & Paving Pty Ltd	Road works at Mcencroe St	152,831	4	Y
KJ Civil & Paving Pty Ltd	Road renewal works at Newton Rd	195,278	3	Y
KJ Civil & Paving Pty Ltd	Road pavement renewals at Homebush Road	165,856	2	Y
Complete Urban Pty Ltd	Begnell Park design	478,574	3	Y
Lansvale Motor Group	Plant Purchase Tipper	50,510	1	Y
Planet Civil Pty Ltd	Construction works at Barker Road / Marion Street intersection	212,477	1	Y
State Civil Pty Ltd	Road works at Morgan Lane	152,169	1	Y
Adtrans Hino	Truck Purchase - Hino 700S FH	366,064	2	Y
Leadsun Australia Pty Ltd	Cooks River Solar Lighting design	108,015	2	Y
Preferred Turf Pty Ltd	Supply and Install of Synthetic Grass for Hudson Driving Range	163,990	0	Y
Stefan Consulting Pty Ltd	Parking Meter Stage 3	117,980	3	Y
Highend Civil (Aust) Pty Ltd	Road mill & fill with Heavy patching Coronation Parade	149,548	5	Y
Highend Civil (Aust) Pty Ltd	Road Works on Maria St - From Dean Street to Clement St	230,169	14	Y
Hutcheon & Pearce Operations Pty Ltd	Plant Purchase - John Deere 1600 Turbo Terrain Cut	141,000	1	Y
Elec Comm Group Pty Ltd	Strathfield South Town Centre design supply and install banner pole	61,460	2	Y
Geoscapes Pty Ltd	Hudson Park design	583,440	5	Y
Play Matta Pty Ltd	Play Mats for Coronation Reserve supply and install	80,321	3	Y
Caroline Comino Pty Ltd	Hillcrest Street public art design and install	1,186,517	10	Y

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.

*contract duration is based on the estimate of the completion of the project

CCS4 COUNCIL RESPONSE TO SAFEGUARD OUR COMMUNITY - RESOLUTION 34/25

AUTHOR: Jack Britton, Manager Library and Community Services

APPROVER: Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the report responding to resolution 34/25 from Council Meeting 25 February 2025 on Response to Safeguard Our Community.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

Provide a summary of current activities of Council in relation to resolution 34/25 from Council Meeting 25 February 2025 on Response to Safeguard Our Community.

REPORT

At the Ordinary Council Meeting 25 February 2025, Council resolved:

34/25

RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR BENJAMIN CAI

Moved by: (Cai / Reddy)

1. *A report be prepared for a future Councillor Workshop and Council Meeting that:*
 - a. *Outlines where Council currently provides education and awareness around the impacts of discrimination within our communities*
 - b. *Outlines opportunities to provide education and awareness around the impacts of discrimination and any potential partnership opportunities (i.e. law enforcement, schools, and community organisations)*
 - c. *Where Council can further promote programs and initiatives that educate residents about diversity and inclusion*
2. *A report be prepared for a future Councillor Workshop and Council Meeting that reviews Council's current Community Safety Strategy, in relation to the following:*
 - a. *Engagement with culturally and religiously diverse groups to ensure their concerns are heard and addressed*
 - b. *Exploring the feasibility of increased security measures in public spaces, particularly during religious or cultural events*
 - c. *Support for the implementation of educational campaigns, events, or workshops in partnership with local organisations to combat discrimination*

- d. Commits to ongoing collaboration with other levels of government, advocacy groups, and community leaders to ensure a coordinated response to discrimination within the community.*

Responses

1)

- a) Council currently celebrates cultural diversity through acknowledgment and celebration of significant days and festivals. There are currently no identified programs that are specifically for impacts of discrimination within the community. This has not been identified as priority through community feedback sessions.
- b) Opportunities that are available to Council to raise awareness of discrimination can be achieved through:
 - Information sessions from NSW Police Multicultural Community Liaison Officer
 - Information sessions from Sydney Local Health District
 - Sharing resources on the Strathfield Council website from Multicultural NSW
 - Sharing resources on the Strathfield Council website from Anti-discrimination NSW
- c) Council can continue to promote diversity and inclusion through partnerships through local and state organisations:
 - Community Action for Better Living
 - Metro Assist
 - International Day of People with Disability
 - Chalmers Road Public School
 - Liam Benson – Verdure art exhibition
 - Senior Festival.

2.

- a) An excerpt of the current wording in the Community Safety Strategy includes:

Priority 2: Building Safe Neighbourhoods, 2.1 Social cohesion and resilience

...Social inclusion and safety are central to creating a cohesive society and a strong economy that enables future growth and prosperity. Strathfield is a diverse community and it is important for its residents to be included and valued for who they are....

Project	Action	Partners	Year
2.1 Social Cohesion and Resilience	Provide events to bring community together	Communications/Events Local Business	Years 1 to 4
	Provide activities and programs for vulnerable groups	Community Development Community organisations	Years 1 to 4
	Translate Council information in community languages	Community Development, Communications	Years 1 to 4
	Raise awareness on International Days that promote social inclusion and safety	Community Development/ Communications	Years 1 to 4
	Provide Community Safety education forums to inform on a range of safety issues	Community Development/ Communications, NSW Police Force	Years 1 to 4

An update can be made to the Community Safety Strategy to include feedback session for CALD community.

- b) This may require more specification as to what events this is in reference to. Current arrangements for Council run events have provided adequate community safety.
- c) Any local organisation would be eligible to apply for the Community Grants to help enable the delivery of educational campaigns, events, or workshops in partnership with local organisations to combat discrimination.

Council will continue to look for opportunities to apply for its own grant funding to add to existing educational campaigns, events, or workshops.

- d) This commitment is present in the Community Safety Strategy and agencies are engaged with by Council. Greater focus can be shifted to awareness of discrimination in the community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report

CCS5 SPORTING CLUB MEMBERSHIPS - SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM - RESOLUTION 69/25

AUTHOR: Jack Britton, Manager Library and Community Services

APPROVER: Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and note the report, acknowledging eligibility of local sporting clubs to apply for grants, through Council's Small Grants program.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

At the Ordinary Council Meeting 25 March 2025, Council resolved:

69/25

RESOLVED

Moved by: (Baladi / Blackmore)

- 1) That a report be provided to a Council meeting (in preparation for the 2026 Winter Sports Season) to:*
 - a) Lower fees or provide a discounted fee for seasonal hire of Sportsfields for local Strathfield based not for profit sporting groups who have been long term regular hirers of our sportsfields (more than 5 consecutive seasons).*
 - b) Identifying any opportunities or options for where the level of service and associated costs with providing and maintaining our sportsfields can be reduced in real terms to offset the potential reduction in revenue associated with any discounts that might be provided.*
 - c) Identifying options for the sporting groups to manage the use of the sportsfields lights based on actual required usage to allow the sporting groups to turn the lights on and off only for the periods they are required and to be charged based on the periods of usage only (to nearest hour).*
- 2) That Council writes to the NSW Minister for Sports and the NSW Premier to request the re-introduction of the \$100 active kids vouchers per child to support families in registering their children for active sport and to promote healthy and active lifestyle choices amongst children.*
- 3) That Council provides a separate report to the May 2025 Council meeting which considers allowing and encouraging our Strathfield based local sporting clubs to apply for grants as part of Council's Small Grants Program to be used to offset the cost of registration for those families who can demonstrate they are experiencing genuine financial hardship. This is intended to provide targeted relief for Strathfield families who are doing it tough and want to keep their children involved in playing active sports within the area.*

This report addresses number 3) of the Council resolution.

REPORT

Supporting Families Through Council's Small Grant Program

To assist families experiencing financial hardship, local sporting groups may apply for funding through Council's *Small Grant Program*. Please note that this program does not provide retrospective funding, and successful applicants will not be eligible to apply for support under Council's *Community Grants Program* for the same project or purpose.

Sporting clubs are also encouraged to explore alternative funding opportunities through the **NSW Office of Sport**, which offers a range of grants that may be more appropriate for certain initiatives: <https://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/grants>. Where relevant, Council officers will provide guidance to applicants and recommend the most suitable funding option based on the proposal submitted.

Under the *Small Grants Policy*, funding is capped at **\$2,500 per organisation or individual each year**, with applications assessed on a **quarterly** basis.

For successful applicants, it is essential to maintain appropriate records and complete Council's acquittal process. This includes providing **written confirmation** that financial assistance was used specifically to offset registration costs for families experiencing financial hardship.

Process for Small Grant Application and steps if successful:

1. **Prepare Application in Advance**
Prior to the commencement of the registration period, the sporting club prepares and submits an application under Council's *Small Grants Program*.
2. **Include Club Membership Fee Structure**
The application must clearly outline the structure of the club's membership or registration fees.
3. **Explain Hardship Assessment Method**
The application should detail how the club and assess families experiencing financial hardship (e.g. confidential application form, referral, or declaration process).
4. **Specify the Subsidy Approach**
The club should outline what proportion or percentage of the registration fees will be subsidised for eligible families.
5. **Maintain Accurate Records Post-Funding**
Once funding is received, the club must keep clear records of the discounts or subsidies applied, including dates, amounts, and the number of beneficiaries.
6. **Acquittal Submission to Council**
These records must be submitted as part of the formal acquittal process to Strathfield Council, demonstrating that the funding was used to offset registration fees for families experiencing financial hardship.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding has been provided in the current budget for this purpose as set out below:

Budget Item	Approved Budget	Expenditure To Date
Small Grants 748.10.448	\$20,000	\$9,998

ATTACHMENTS

- [1. !\[\]\(a9a7cf821bf949be41db724492f295be_img.jpg\) Small Grants Policy](#)

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

SMALL GRANTS POLICY

6 SEPTEMBER 2022



	SMALL GRANTS POLICY		
RESPONSIBILITY	Manager, Community Services		
DATE ADOPTED	6 September 2022	MINUTE	196/22
REVISED	n/a	REVIEW	2024
CM10 No	22/59677		
ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION	<i>Local Government Act 1993 (s.356 and s.377)</i>		
ASSOCIATED POLICIES	Strathfield Council Delivery Program 2022-2026 Annual Operational Plan including budget		

1. Introduction

1.1 Title and Commencement

This policy is titled Strathfield Small Grants Fund. This policy was adopted by Council resolution (196/22) after public exhibition from 4 August 2022 until 1 September 2022

1.2 Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide access to small financial assistance grants for local residents or community organisations for projects or activities of community benefit, and where an alternative grant program is not available.

This policy aligns with Council's Delivery Program Principal Action 2.1.2.6 *"provide funding and support for community projects to build and improve community capacity and services"*
Council's Operational Plan has allocated budget and actions for review and administration of local community grants programs.

1.3 Objectives of the policy

The objectives of this policy:

- to provide financial assistance to community organisations located in or servicing the Strathfield LGA to undertake initiatives of community benefit
- to provide financial assistance to individuals residing in the Strathfield LGA residents to participate or represent in an educative, sporting, artistic or environmental events at a representative level
- to outline the eligibility and approval requirements for the Small Grants Fund.

p1

2. Policy Statement

2.1 Background

Council occasionally receives requests or considers providing financial assistance to community organisations or individuals at times or for purposes not covered by Council's existing grant programs.

Council annually allocates \$20,000 to the Small Grants Fund program to manage financial assistance grants.

Grants are limited to \$2,500 per annum to an organisation or individual.

2.2 Small Grants Fund categories

Council may consider applications or proposals involving financial assistance in the following categories:

- individuals or groups representing the State of NSW or Australia in their chosen field, including sporting, academic, cultural, artistic or environmental endeavours may request financial assistance to attend conferences, training or compete in their chosen field
- 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 a fundraising event for a registered charity or not for profit organisation

2.3 Eligibility

The following individuals or groups are eligible to apply for financial assistance:

- residents of the Strathfield Local Government Area
- community groups, not for profit organisations, schools and/or registered charitable organisations that are located in or provide services to the Strathfield Local Government Area.

The following are not eligible:

- where the applicant has outstanding or non-acquitted grants
- commercial or profit-driven entities, including registered clubs
- State or Federal Government departments or agencies
- individuals who are not a resident of Strathfield Local Government Area
- requests for retrospective funding
- bulk mail requests.

p2

Council will not consider projects or activities that:

- have previously been awarded grants for the same purpose in the last twelve months; or
- similar proposals that were not awarded funding by Council in the previous round of Community Grants.

2.4 Applications

All requests for grants must be completed on Council's Small Grants Application form and submitted to the General Manager at Strathfield Council. Applicants are required to provide the following information:

Individuals

- Name, address and contact details of the individual applicant
- Amount requested
- Purpose of the grant i.e. description of the project or activity in which funding assistance is sought and how the funding will be spent
- Outline the key benefits to the residents of Strathfield LGA
- Bank account details

Community organisations and/or charities

- Name and contact details of office bearer, or authorised contact person
- Description of organisation and key objectives of the organisation
- Relevant incorporation details and copy of incorporation documentation and/or documentation validating charitable organisation status
- Amount requested
- Purpose of the grant i.e. description of the project or activity in which funding assistance is sought and how the funding will be spent
- Outline the key benefits to the residents of Strathfield LGA
- Bank account details

2.5 Assessment, Approval and Acquittals

The following principles apply to grant assessment, approvals and acquittals.

- Application must be in writing on Council's official form.
- Applications must meet eligibility requirements and provide completed information in accordance with policy requirements.
- Council may request additional information where required
- Council may refuse requests or applications that are non-conforming, eligible for alternative Council grant programs or where there is no available budget
- Council may also propose an alternative form of assistance to meet the stated objectives of a proposal

p3

- Assessment of applications will consider available budget, eligibility and compliance with policy requirements
- Financial assistance grants should be expended within the current financial year
- Following completion of the activity or event, applicants should provide written confirmation that the financial assistance was used for the purposes it was granted
- Decisions to approve financial assistance are made by Council resolution

3. Version Control

Date	Type	Minute
4 August 2022	Draft Policy placed on public exhibition	181/22
6 September 2022	Draft Policy with amendments adopted by Council	196/22

p4

CCS6 **CURRENT STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS**
AUTHOR: David McQuade, Senior Governance Officer
APPROVER: Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

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 approval budget as actions progress.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [📄](#) Outstanding Council Resolutions

Outstanding Council Resolution Actions

Meeting Date	Resolution	Subject	Comments
25 March 2025	68/25	Return to Traditional Podium Carparks for Multi-Dwelling Apartments	Report to go to May 2025 Council Meeting
25 March 2025	54/25	Lighting on the Crescent Between Kessell Avenue and Hampstead Road	Report to go to a future Councillor Workshop
25 March 2025	73/25	Hudson Park Driving Range: Alteration to Fees and Charges	Fees and Charges were on exhibition from 10 April 2025 to 8 May 2025. Final report for endorsement to be presented at the June 2025 Council Meeting
25 March 2025	72/25	Report on possible Geographical Names Board Application	In progress, consultation to commence in coming weeks
25 March 2025	61/25	Response to Mayoral Minute 12/24 - New Minimum Parking Requirements for Developments	Report provided to Council on March 2025. Consideration will be given to resolution as part of the review of the DCP.
25 March 2025	76/25	Homebush Movement and Place Connectivity and Streetscape Upgrade Project - Amended Design	Amendments to the amendments made to the Homebush Movement and Place Connectivity and Streetscape Upgrade Project (HMaPP) to be implemented
25 March 2025	49/25	Mayoral Minute 03/25 - MIST Treatment at High Street and Amaroo Avenue, Strathfield	To be actioned by Traffic Team and considered at a future Traffic Committee
25 March 2025	53/25	Pedestrian Crossing	To be considered at a future Traffic Committee
25 March 2025	47/25	Mayoral Minute 01/25 - 2025 Federal Election Campaign	In progress. To be completed by June 2025
25 March 2025	62/25	Draft Strathfield Development Control Plan 2025 - Dual Occupancy Development	Awaiting gateway determination for the additional and diverse housing planning proposal to exhibit DCP amendment concurrently
25 March 2025	50/25	Mayoral Minute 04/25 - New Parking Meters and Parking Permit Scheme	Report to go to future Council Meeting
25 March 2025	69/25	Local Sporting Club Energy Bill Relief	Report to go to future Council Meeting
25 February 2025	12/25	Strathfield Council 140 Year Anniversary Celebrations	In progress. Extraordinary Council Meeting confirmed for 2 June 2025
25 February 2025	32/25	Cessation timeframe of the Strathfield Connector Bus	To go to Council Meeting 27 May 2025
25 February 2025	42/25	Automated External Defibrillators in Strathfield	Council are investigating locations to install the AED in Strathfield, Homebush and Homebush West Town Centres. Also liaising with Heart of the Nation to organise a community information session in approximately

Meeting Date	Resolution	Subject	Comments
			June 2025
25 February 2025	34/25	Council Response to Safeguard Our Community	Report May 2025 Council Meeting
25 February 2025	30/25, 31/25	Litter in the Local Area	Application in progress
25 February 2025	5/25	Consideration of assessment of new gaming and licensed venues	Report to May 2025 Council Meeting
25 February 2025	9/25	Pictorial History of Strathfield District book	Budget to be allocated in Quarter 3 Budget Review
25 February 2025	6/25	Marketplace Trading	Continuing to work with Police. CCTV review underway to be completed in June
10 December 2024	302/24	Review of No Smoking Signs in Strathfield LGA	Report to June 2025 Council Meeting
10 December 2024	335/24	Strathfield Plaza	Progressing
10 December 2024	323/24	Lease Assignment	Progressing
26 November 2024	279/24	Draft Planning Proposal – Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 – Housekeeping Amendments 2024	Planning Proposal is currently in Public Exhibition until 6 June 2025
26 November 2024	267/24	Mayoral Minute 11/24 – School Maths Day	Date being organised - possibly August 2025
26 November 2024	269/24	Establishment of a Cultural, Arts and Performance Centre in the Strathfield LGA	Information being prepared for presentation to future Councillor Workshop
23 July 2024	183/24	Homebush, Homebush West and Strathfield South Centres – Proposed Review of Centres	Report to July 2025 Council Meeting
14 November 2023	287/23	Review of Part A – Dwelling Houses and Ancillary Structures Amendment of the Strathfield Consolidated Development Control Plan 2005	Draft DCP presented to Council Meeting 29 April 2025 and will go on public exhibition
1 November 2022	237/22	Community Garden in Strathfield South	To be considered as part of the Recreation and Wellness Strategy
1 November 2022	239/22	Shade Covers Over Playgrounds	To be considered as part of the Recreation and Wellness Strategy

Acquitted Council Resolutions

Meeting Date	Resolution	Subject	Comments
29 April 2025	100/25	Inveresk Park – Fence	Resolved that a fence not be installed at Inveresk park, on Beresford Road
25 March 2025	48/25	Mayoral Minute 02/25 - Adjustment of Budget for the Gapyeong Trip	Budget adjusted and Gapyeong Trip organised
25 March 2025	75/25	Cooks River Alliance Update & Branding Guide	Report received and noted and new Branding Guide for Cooks River Alliance
25 February 2025	43/25	Land and Property Strategy – Confidential Report	Councillor Workshop on Land and Property Strategy held
25 February 2025	22/25	Alterations to Fees and Charges - Management of Animals	Report presented to 29 April 2025 Council Meeting
25 February 2025	38/25	2025 National General Assembly Conference Delegates and Motions	Motions prepared and delegates confirmed
25 February 2025	33/25	Establishment of the Strathfield Community and Business Excellence Awards	Report presented to 29 April 2025 Council Meeting

CCS7 COUNCILLOR WORKSHOP 13 MAY 2025
 AUTHOR: Gina Nobrega, Governance and Corporate Support 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 13 May 2025 and follow up action required.

REPORT

Attendees

Councillors Baladi (by Audio-Visual Link), Blackmore, Cai (by Audio-Visual Link), Nosworthy and Pensabene.

Apologies

Councillor Kim

Declarations of Pecuniary or Conflict of Interest (Nature of interest to be disclosed)

Nil.

The Councillor Workshop commenced at 4:34pm and closed at 5:58pm.

The following items were discussed at the Councillor Workshop held on 13 May 2025:

Item	Title	Attendance	Summary	Follow Up Action
PE1	Traditional Podium Carparks for Multi-Dwelling Apartments	Councillors Baladi by Audio-Visual Link, Blackmore, Cai by Audio-Visual Link, Nosworthy and Pensabene	Council officers gave a presentation in response to Resolution 68/25 on traditional podium carparks and the comparison to underground parking for multi-dwelling apartments.	To go to Council Meeting 27 May 2025
GMU1	Shared Internal Audit Services Service Agreement - CONFIDENTIAL	Councillors Baladi by Audio-Visual Link, Blackmore, Cai by Audio-Visual Link, Nosworthy and Pensabene	A presentation was received on Shared Services Agreement for the Internal Audit Function.	For Noting

Item	Title	Attendance	Summary	Follow Up Action
CCS1	Town Hall Accommodation	Councillors Baladi by Audio-Visual Link, Blackmore, Cai by Audio-Visual Link, Nosworthy and Pensabene Councillors Baladi and Blackmore left the meeting, the time being 5:27pm	Councillors were presented with initial design concepts outlining the necessity for internal relocations within the Town Hall due to the current overflow of staff, to which positive feedback was provided in support of the proposal.	For Noting
CCS2	Council Response to Safeguard Our Community – Resolution 34/25	Councillors Cai by Audio-Visual Link, Nosworthy and Pensabene	A summary of Council's current activities was provided, rising from resolution 34/25 in the Minutes of Council Meeting 25 February 2025, relating to the issue of Safeguarding Our Community.	To go to Council Meeting 27 May 2025
CCS3	Sporting Club Memberships - Small Grants Program – Resolution 69/25	Councillors Cai by Audio-Visual Link, Nosworthy and Pensabene	Eligibility of local sporting clubs to apply for grants, through Council's Small Grants program.	To go to Council Meeting 27 May 2025
CCS4	Community Grant and Small Grants 2025	Councillors Cai by Audio-Visual Link, Nosworthy and Pensabene	Councillor were informed on the procedures for Community Grants and Small Grants, which are to be promoted shortly for the 2025/2026 Financial Year.	For Noting
CCS5	Insurance Review – CONFIDENTIAL	Councillors Cai by Audio-Visual Link, Nosworthy and Pensabene	Councillors were updated on Council's recent Insurance Review.	For Noting
CCS6	Strathfield Connector Bus Services – Resolution 32/25 CONFIDENTIAL	Councillors Cai by Audio-Visual Link, Nosworthy and Pensabene	A presentation informing confirming the cessation of the Connector Bus Service along with an estimate of annual costs to maintain a Community Bus for hire.	To go to Council Meeting 27 May 2025
PE2	Assessment Process - New Licensed Venues and Gaming Machines in NSW	Councillors Cai by Audio-Visual Link, Nosworthy and Pensabene	Council officers gave a presentation in response to Resolution 5/25 – Assessment Process – New Licensed Venues and Gaming Machines in NSW	To go to Council Meeting 27 May 2025
PE3	SUD Bin Audit & Collection Operation	Councillors Cai by Audio-Visual Link, Nosworthy and Pensabene	Councillors were updated on results from the Waste Team's internal bin count audit of residential SUD properties. An outline plan to address unauthorised additional bins being serviced without appropriate payment	For noting

Item	Title	Attendance	Summary	Follow Up Action
			being made, along with the completed bin count audit (including red, green, and yellow bin numbers) was presented.	
PE4	Mobile Licence Plate Recognition Update	Councillors Cai by Audio-Visual Link, Nosworthy and Pensabene	Councillors were briefed on the new Mobile License Plate Recognition (MLPR) technology being planned for our parking officers.	For Noting
EO1	Tenders Awarded	Councillors Cai by Audio-Visual Link, Nosworthy and Pensabene	Council officers provided details of Planning Proposal received for 204 Hume Highway.	For Noting
Mayor's Update Mayor Councillor Baladi today attended the official launch of the Bulldogs Game-Changer Program. An education initiative developed by Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs Rugby League Club to equip high school students with the practical life skills they need to succeed in today's world.				
General Manager's Update - The Sister City Delegation will be departing Sydney early Wednesday, 14 May 2025, commencing their trip to Gapyeong, Korea. - A review of the Parking Meters will take place and brought back to Council following a June Workshop. - Preparations are underway for a Ceremonial Council Meeting on 2 June 2025, as part of Council's 140 Anniversary celebrations, to take place in the Town Hall. 7 - 8 June 2025, Homebush Vibes will take place in conjunction with of the 140 Year Celebrations along with many activities during that week.				

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report

CCS8 2025-2026 DETERMINATION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REMUNERATION
TRIBUNAL

AUTHOR: Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

APPROVER: Michael Mamo, General Manager

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal's determination regarding the mayoral and councillor fees for the 2025–2026 financial year, effective from 1 July 2025.
2. Fix the annual fees for councillors and the mayor at the maximum allowable amounts for the 'Metropolitan Small' category, as determined by the Tribunal.
3. Include the adjusted fees in the draft 2025–2026 Operational Plan and Budget for consideration and adoption by Council in June 2025.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Council of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal's 2025 determination regarding mayoral and councillor fees and to recommend the adoption of the maximum fees applicable to Strathfield Municipal Council's category for the 2025–2026 financial year.

REPORT

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal has determined a 3% increase in the minimum and maximum fees payable to mayors and councillors for the 2025–2026 financial year, effective from 1 July 2025. This determination is made under sections 239, 248, and 249 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Strathfield Municipal Council is categorized as a '**Metropolitan Small**' council. According to the Tribunal's determination, councils are required to fix and pay an annual fee to councillors and mayors based on their respective categories. A council cannot fix a fee higher than the maximum amount determined by the Tribunal. If a council does not fix a fee, the council must pay the minimum fee determined by the Tribunal.

General Purpose Councils – Metropolitan

Councillor/Member Annual Fee (\$) effective 1 July 2025

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Principal CBD	31,640	46,420
Major CBD	21,120	39,100
Metropolitan Major	21,120	36,970
Metropolitan Large	21,120	34,820
Metropolitan Medium	15,830	29,550
Metropolitan Small	10,530	23,220

Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee* (\$) effective 1 July 2025

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Principal CBD	193,650	254,810
Major CBD	44,840	126,320
Metropolitan Major	44,840	114,300
Metropolitan Large	44,840	101,470
Metropolitan Medium	33,630	78,480
Metropolitan Small	22,420	50,650

The Tribunal last undertook a significant review of the categories as part of its 2023 determination and will next review these categories in 2026. The Tribunal found that the allocation of most councils into the current categories continued to be appropriate, having regard to the 2023 review, the current category model and criteria, and the evidence put forward in the submissions received.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is recommended that Council fix the annual fees for councillors and the mayor at the maximum allowable amounts for the '**Metropolitan Small**' category, as determined by the Tribunal, and include these adjusted fees in the draft 2025–2026 Operational Plan and Budget for consideration and adoption in June 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [Council Circular 25-10 – 2025/26 Determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal](#)
2. [LGRT-2025-Annual-Determination](#)

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government



Circular to Councils

Subject/title	2025/26 Determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal
Circular Details	Circular 25-10 / 21 May 2025 / A958620
Previous Circular	<u>Council Circular 24-08 2024/25 Determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal - Office of Local Government NSW</u>
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers
Contact	Council Governance Team / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Council to Implement

What's new or changing?

- The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) has determined an increase of 3% to mayoral and councillor fees for the 2025-26 financial year, with effect from 1 July 2025.
- The Tribunal is required to determine the remuneration categories of councils and mayoral offices at least once every 3 years under section 239 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act). The Tribunal last undertook a significant review of the categories as part of its 2023 determination and will next review these categories in 2026.
- The Tribunal found that the allocation of most councils into the current categories continued to be appropriate having regard to the 2023 review, the current category model and criteria, and the evidence put forward in the submissions received.
- However, the Tribunal has reclassified Mid Coast Council from a Regional Centre to Regional Strategic area with effect from 1 July 2025, as a result of its meeting the required criteria.

T 02 4428 4100 TTY 02 4428 4209, E olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541
www.olg.nsw.gov.au



What will this mean for council?

- Sections 248 and 249 of the Act require councils to fix and pay an annual fee to councillors and mayors from 1 July 2025 based on the Tribunal's determination for the 2025-26 financial year.

Key points

- The level of fees paid will depend on the category the council is in.
- A council cannot fix a fee higher than the maximum amount determined by the Tribunal.
- If a council does not fix a fee, the council must pay the minimum fee determined by the Tribunal.

Where to go for further information

- The Tribunal's report and determination is available [here](#).
- For further information please contact the Council Governance Team on 02 4428 4100 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brett Whitworth".

Brett Whitworth
Deputy Secretary, Office of Local Government

OFFICIAL

**Local Government
Remuneration Tribunal**

Annual Determination

Report and determination
under sections 239 and 241 of the
Local Government Act 1993

17 April 2025



OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Contents

Executive Summary	3
Categories	3
Fees	3
Section 1 – Introduction	4
Background	4
Section 2 – 2024 Determination	5
2024 Annual Determination	5
Section 3 – 2025 Review	6
2025 Annual Review process	6
Submissions Received – Remuneration Structure	18
Section 4 – 2025 Fees	23
Submissions – 2025 Fees	23
Conclusion	28
Section 5 – Determinations	29
Determination No. 1 – Allocation of councils into each of the categories as per section 239 of the LG Act effective 1 July 2025	29
Determination No. 2 - Fees for Councillors and Mayors as per section 241 of the LG Act effective from 1 July 2025	33
Appendices	36
Appendix 1 Criteria that apply to categories	36

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Executive Summary

The *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act) requires the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) to report to the Minister for Local Government by 1 May each year on its determination of categories of councils and the maximum and minimum amounts of fees to be paid to mayors, councillors, as well as chairpersons and members of county councils.

Categories

Section 239 of the LG Act requires the Tribunal to determine the categories of councils and mayoral offices at least once every 3 years. A review of categories was last carried out by the Tribunal in 2023.

The Tribunal will next consider the model, the criteria for each group, and the allocation of councils in the 2026 review.

The criteria for each category is published in Appendix 1 of the Determination and remains unchanged from 2023.

It should be noted that **the Tribunal determined that one Council - Mid Coast Council – would be re-categorised from a Regional Centre to Regional Strategic Area from 1 July 2025** as a result of meeting the criteria at Appendix 1.

Fees

The Tribunal has determined a **3%** per annum increase in the minimum and maximum fees applicable to each category from **1 July 2025**.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Section 1 – Introduction

Background

1. Section 239 of the LG Act requires the Tribunal to determine the categories of councils and mayoral offices at least once every 3 years. The Tribunal last undertook a comprehensive review of the categories and the allocation of councils into each of those categories in 2023.
2. The Tribunal will next conduct a full review of the categories and the allocation of councils as required by the LG Act in the 2026 Annual Review.
3. Section 241 of the LG Act provides that the Tribunal determine the minimum and maximum amount of fees to be paid to mayors and councillors of councils, as well as chairpersons and members of county councils for each of the categories determined under s.239.
4. The Tribunal can also determine that a council be re-categorised into a different category, existing or new, with a higher range of fees.
5. The Tribunal's Annual Determination takes effect from 1 July each year.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Section 2 – 2024 Determination

2024 Annual Determination

6. In 2024, the Tribunal received 19 written submissions, which included two requests for re-categorisation.
7. The Tribunal found that the current allocation of the councils remained appropriate, with the exceptions outlined below.
8. The Tribunal closely reviewed population and data relating to council operations in the 2024 Annual Determination process to ensure categorisation of councils was consistent with the criteria.
9. For reasons explained at paragraphs 35-39 of the Local Government Annual Determination 2024, Hilltops Council and Muswellbrook Shire Council were reclassified as Regional Rural Councils.
10. The Tribunal determined that fees would increase by 3.75% for the minimum and maximum fees applicable to each category from 1 July 2024.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Section 3 – 2025 Review

2025 Annual Review process

11. The Tribunal's 2025 Annual Review commenced in October 2024, when it wrote to all councils inviting submissions regarding fees. The Tribunal noted that it is only required to review the categories every three years and will next consider the model, the criteria applicable to each category and the allocation of councils in the 2026 Annual Review.
12. The invitation noted that it is expected that submissions are endorsed by respective councils.
13. The Tribunal also wrote to the President of Local Government NSW (LGNSW) inviting a submission.
14. The Tribunal received 16 written submissions from individual councils and one submission from LGNSW.
15. The Tribunal acknowledges and thanks all parties for their submissions.

Submissions Received – Requests for Re-categorisation

16. Seven of the 16 council submissions received requested re-categorisation or changes to current category criteria.
17. LGNSW also advocated for changes to factors affecting categorisation of councils.
18. Berrigan, City of Parramatta, Gilgandra Shire, Lake Macquarie City, City of Ryde, City of Sydney and Blacktown put forward cases for re-

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

categorisation, or changes to category criteria, and the creation of new categories, for the Tribunal's consideration.

Requests for Re-classification

19. **Berrigan Shire Council** requested re-categorisation from Rural to Rural Large, despite acknowledging that they do not meet all the benchmarks in the criteria for this category.
20. The criteria for Rural Large is outlined at Appendix 1 of the 2024 Annual Determination, page 38 which states:

“Councils categorised as Rural Large will have a residential population greater than 10,000, and a councillor to resident ratio of at least 1 to 1200.

Other features may include:

- *one or two significant townships combined with a considerable dispersed population spread over a large area and a long distance from a major regional centre*
- *a limited range of services, facilities and employment opportunities compared to Regional Rural councils*
- *local economies based on agricultural/resource industries.”*

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

21. Council's submission states they are currently at 86% of the population target threshold and 90% of the representation ratio but are meeting other criteria benchmarks.
22. Given that Council does not currently satisfy the population and ratio thresholds specified for Rural Large, the Tribunal is not persuaded to include Berrigan Shire Council in Rural Large at this time.
23. **City of Parramatta Council** requested that it be re-categorised to the highest category of general purpose councils, Principal CBD, in order to recognise its size, rate of growth, economic and global influence, operational budget, and strategic and geographical importance.
24. Council put forward a similar case for re-categorisation as part of the 2024 annual determination process, which was unsuccessful. In addition to the reasons put forth in paragraph 20 of the 2024 annual determination, the Council has included the following reasons for its re-categorisation request:
 - A local economy that has more than 30% of Australia's top 500 companies with offices in Parramatta, and estimated public and private investments in the next 5 years of \$20 billion
 - It is estimated by 2050 that Parramatta will be a city with a population of more than 500,000 people
 - The expected accessibility of the City, being a 'gateway to Sydney' with more people expected to live west of Parramatta than to its

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

east by 2050, and being accessible by 2.3 million people within 45 minutes

- Key infrastructure in Parramatta, including but not limited to the Parramatta PHIVE, Commbank Stadium, the new Parramatta Light Rail, the Westmead Institute for Medical Research, Sydney Olympic Park and construction of Powerhouse Parramatta
- Expansion of education and innovation precincts, with Parramatta's education and training sector being valued at \$1.6 billion, and
- Significant operating and capital works budget of \$607 million, including multiple town centres, and sports and cultural hubs.

25. The Council also argues that a re-classification would reflect the additional skills and abilities that representing a growth council requires.
26. The City of Parramatta notes that the number of electors that each councillor represents is higher than the City of Sydney's. The submission states that the elected councillors represent more than 125,000 enrolled electors, compared to City of Sydney's elected councillors representing 45,891 enrolled electors.
27. Parramatta was classified as a Major CBD, following the 2017 Annual Determination. The Tribunal had found that Parramatta Council was significantly different from other large metropolitan councils on the basis of its secondary CBD status, as recognised by the State Government, at paragraph 21 of the 2017 annual determination. As a result, the

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

description of Major CBD has remained specific to the City of Parramatta. Similarly, the Principal CBD criteria remained specific to the City of Sydney, since its inception in 2017.

28. Given the specific nature of both Major CBD and Principal CBD categories, the City of Parramatta's request for re-categorisation will require a change in the categories' criteria. As stated above, the Tribunal is not considering the criteria applicable to each category in the 2025 Annual Review process. The Tribunal will next consider the categories and criteria as part of the 2026 Annual Review process.
29. **Gilgandra Shire Council's** submission requests that it be re-categorised from Rural to Rural Large. Gilgandra Shire Council's case to be included in Rural Large category is based on two main points. The first point being Council offers a diverse range of services, and secondly these services result in higher levels of accountability and responsibilities for councillors.
30. Council submits it offers a diverse range of services over and above traditional local government services, which includes being the primary service provider for the community in the aged care and disability services. These include:
 - Age care and disabilities services
 - Meals on wheels and community transport
 - Home care package delivery
 - Operation of a villa retirement village
 - Indigenous specific residential age care facility

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

- Residential aged care nursing home
 - Supported employment service for adults with intellectual disabilities
 - Special disability accommodation properties for adults with intellectual disabilities
 - Supported Living Services through the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and
 - Day activities centre to support clients with unique challenges.
31. The submission notes these services not only entail a higher level of accountability and responsibility from Council (due to changes in the regulatory environment) but also generate larger revenue and employment opportunities that is comparable to a Rural Large category.
32. Council further submits that when assessing categories to place councils in, the Tribunal should also give due consideration to other factors than those outlined in the s.240 of the LG Act, such as services provided; financial responsibility; scale of operation; and number of employees.
33. While the Tribunal notes Council's request, it does not satisfy the population and ratio thresholds specified for the category of Rural Large. Further, the changes to criteria suggested would require a change in categories, which is not being considered this year. For these reasons, the Tribunal is not persuaded to include Gilgandra Shire Council in Rural Large at this time.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

34. Similar to last year, **Lake Macquarie City Council** requested that it be re-categorised from Regional Strategic Area to Major Strategic Area. Council also advocated for the population threshold of Regional Strategic Area be adjusted from its current threshold of 300,000 down to 200,000.
35. Council argues that its population, scale and output of council operations is significantly greater than other councils categorised as Regional Strategic Area, and more aligns with the Central Coast, as the council classified as a 'Major Strategic Area'.
36. Lake Macquarie City Council's request for re-categorisation is based on the following:
- Lake Macquarie being the second largest non-metropolitan council by population in NSW, with a larger population than Newcastle and Wollongong, which are classified as Major Regional Cities.
 - A population density that is 'significantly larger' than other Regional Strategic Areas and supported by 5 precincts in the Lake Macquarie LGA that have been identified for inclusion in the NSW Government Transport Oriented Development Program, which aims to encourage housing development near transport hubs, and are argued to lead to population growth near the hubs; and
 - A Gross Regional Product that is comparable to those of Major Strategic Areas and Major Regional City, rather than other Regional Strategic Areas.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

37. Council provided population data to support its case for the population threshold of Regional Strategic Area to be adjusted from its current threshold of 300,000 down to 200,000. The data was also provided as justification for its claim of a 'significant disparity within the Regional Strategic Area category' between Lake Macquarie and other councils:
- Lake Macquarie: 219,249 residents, 24,769 non-residents
 - Shoalhaven: 108,895 residents, 4,632 non-residents
 - Tweed: 98,967 residents, 7,755 non-residents
 - Maitland: 95,958 residents, 15,305 non-residents
38. As stated in paragraph 28 of the 2024 Annual Determination, all categories were determined by extensive evidence examined and considered by the Tribunal. It was determined that the population threshold for the Major Strategic Area was appropriate. As a result, the Tribunal is currently not persuaded to modify the criteria for the Major Strategic Area.
39. **City of Ryde Council** provided a submission requesting it be re-classified from its existing category of Metropolitan Large to Metropolitan Major. Council's case to be re-classified includes:
- The LGA having an area of 40.651 km², 16 suburbs, 3 wards, a population of 135,000 residents and over 54,000 rateable properties within its boundaries
 - A local economy that consists of 92,000 local jobs, 14,300 businesses and a gross regional product of \$19.2 billion

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

- An innovation district within its west ward that has a long history of investment from all tiers of government, ultimately contributing \$13.6 billion annually to the NSW economy
 - Future growth opportunities linked to the Governments Transport Oriented Development Accelerated Precincts, which Macquarie Park is identified as, that will bring increased housing, amenities and job retention, and
 - Plans to build 2 new schools, 11,600 new homes, the redevelopment of Ryde Hospital and bringing together a range of organisations to create a fully integrated academic health sciences centre at Macquarie University Hospital.
40. As stated in Council's own submission, currently it does not satisfy the population threshold criteria required for Metropolitan Major. Accordingly, the Tribunal is not persuaded at this time to include City of Ryde in the category of Metropolitan Major.
41. The Tribunal also notes **Wollondilly Council's** submission confirming its adopted position to remain classified as a Regional Centre.
42. The Tribunal acknowledges each of the Council's requests for re-categorisation. Whilst the Tribunal has not been persuaded at this time to grant these requests, any council that provides a submission in the 2026 annual review, which includes a request for re-categorisation, will of course be considered.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Requests for New Classifications

43. The **City of Sydney** Council requested the Tribunal change the classification name from Principal CBD to the previously used term “Principal City”.
44. The category “Principal City” was last used in the 2016 Determination. It was changed to Principal CBD in 2017 as a result of a review of categories. This review was undertaken in the context of Local Government reform, and council amalgamations, reducing the number of councils from 152 to 128.
45. Council’s submission outlines the history of boundary changes, including its expansion of the City of Sydney as a consideration in reverting to the 2016 category name.
46. Sydney City Council contends that reverting to the category term “Principal City” recognises that the council’s significance and contribution extends beyond the Sydney CBD.
47. The Tribunal notes the City of Sydney’s request would constitute modification to the category of “Principal CBD”. As stated above, the category “Principal CBD” is specific to City of Sydney and the Tribunal is not considering changes to the criteria applicable to each category in the 2025 Annual Review.
48. **Blacktown Council** requested re-categorisation from its current category of Metropolitan Major to a newly created category of “Metropolitan Major – High Growth”.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

49. Council's case to be re-categorised to a newly created category is based on the following:
- Council asserts that it is the largest and one of the fastest growing local government areas in NSW, and
 - It undertakes several transformational projects, including projects funded from NSW Government and Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants.
50. Further, Council submits that the category of Metropolitan Major fails to account for the transformational nature of projects undertaken by Council, including the economic and strategic impacts for NSW, and impact on its local government area (LGA), which results in attracting new residents and people to the LGA.
51. The Tribunal notes that a new category, Metropolitan Major, was introduced in 2023, to address generally the issues raised in the current submission.
52. As explained in the Tribunal's letter inviting submissions, the Tribunal is required to review the categories at least once every three years. The Tribunal will next consider the model, the criteria applicable to each category and the allocation of councils in the 2026 Annual Review process.
53. As such, the Tribunal is not persuaded at this time to create a new category.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

54. **LGNSW** submitted that the Tribunal should, as part of its determination for the categorisation of councils, consider the demographic and economic shifts impacting the complexity of council operations, and the communities that councils serve.
55. The LGNSW submission provides examples of recent demographic shifts the Tribunal should consider, as factors affecting categorisation of councils, including:
- The NSW Government's Transport Oriented Development Program, where the resulting accelerated growth drastically increases demands on the strategic and infrastructure planning functions of councils affected
 - The Renewable Energy Zones, which drive tens of billions of dollars of investment in rural and regional LGAs, and creates additional impacts in said councils, including population growth and growing infrastructure for transport and utilities, or
 - The Renewable Energy Planning Framework, which includes benefit sharing guidelines for councils to ensure their communities share the benefits of the project and require additional responsibility and management from affected councils.
56. Section 240 of the LG Act notes that the Tribunal is to determine categories for councils and mayoral offices according to prescribed matters. One such matter is the 'nature and extent of the development of areas', which could reasonably be accepted to include the items listed by LGNSW.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

57. However, this matter would also require a change to the categories' criteria, in order to identify areas of high development. As stated above, the Tribunal is not considering any modifications to the categories as part of the 2025 Annual Review process. However, the Tribunal will consider proposed modifications to categories as part of the 2026 Annual Review process.

Reclassification due to population thresholds

58. As was the case last year, the Tribunal reviewed applicable data as part of this review, to determine if any councils have met relevant benchmarks, therefore requiring a move in category.
59. The Tribunal identified that **Mid-Coast Council** met the population benchmark to be considered a Regional Strategic Area. As a result, Mid-Coast Council will be classified as a Regional Strategic Area in the 2025 Annual Determination.
60. The Tribunal will continue to monitor and review applicable data to ensure categorisation of councils remain consistent with the current criteria.

Submissions Received – Remuneration Structure

61. The current state of the remuneration structure continues to be a key issue of concern raised in submissions. A significant number of submissions received provide commentary on the structure, including examples of how it could be improved. These are addressed in the points below.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Fees for Deputy Mayors

62. The issue of fees for deputy mayors was once again raised.
63. Three submissions asserted that the position of deputy mayor should attract its own distinct independent fee, beyond the fee provided for in s.249(5) of the LG Act.
64. The Tribunal dealt with this issue in its 2024 Annual Determination at paragraph 53-55. It was noted that the Tribunal lacked the powers to implement changes to the fee structure that would include a distinct independent fee for the position of deputy mayor.
65. There has been no change to the legislation to permit such a change. Therefore, the Tribunal is currently unable to introduce a remuneration structure that would include a distinct independent fee for the position of deputy mayor.

Changes to the role of Mayors and Councillors

66. It was suggested that the current remuneration structure is not fit for purpose as it no longer recognises the roles and responsibilities required of councillors and mayors.
67. Multiple submissions, including the LGNSW's submission, highlighted how the role of the councillor and mayor have changed over the past 9 years. Submissions identified a variety of factors that have impacted the roles of councillors and mayors, including the impact of NSW Government

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

priorities and investments, and amendments to the LG Act (e.g. via the *Local Government Amendment (Governance and Planning) Bill 2016*).

68. It has been suggested that these changes have impacted the volume, nature and workload of the role, whilst remuneration has not been increased accordingly.
69. The recent submissions to the Tribunal, along with its own observations, highlight that the role of mayor in civic leadership, advocacy and representation has become more complex and demanding – an issue that must be addressed.
70. Community expectations are increasing on the mayor from both the council and the community to be seen and immediately present during times of natural disasters, major events or crisis.
71. Additionally, the disparity in the council categorisation between the annual fees for councillors and the mayor needs to be more consistent, so as not to be seen to be devaluing the role of mayor in some circumstances.
72. The Tribunal is not suggesting a fundamental review of the role of mayors and notes that people that enter local government representation do so from a sense of civic service, rather than remuneration.
73. However, the Tribunal has a statutory function, and not unlike the governing body of a council, mayors and councillors, its role, responsibility and functions are clear. The same can be said in relation to the clear functions of the general manager of a council.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL



74. As previously stated, many of the matters raised in both council and LGNSW submissions are beyond the remit of the Tribunal, and to a degree, were addressed in the 2023 determination.

Regional and Rural mayors and councillors

75. Several submissions, including LGNSW, also raised concerns regarding the inadequacy of the remuneration structure, for rural and regional councils.
76. Specifically, that the remuneration provided to regional and rural councillors does not reflect the significant stressors that regional and rural councils in NSW face and that consideration should be given to the additional demands placed on mayors and councillors in rural and regional councils.
77. One submission suggested that fees for rural councils should be commensurate with fees for regional and metropolitan councils – arguing that mayors and councillors, regardless of their location, are required to possess a wide range of skills and knowledge.

Fees set by councils

78. Submissions received by the Tribunal regarding the current state of the remuneration framework raised concerns about councils setting their own fees, asserting that it could potentially be seen as a conflict of interest.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

79. It was suggested that a possible solution would be for the Tribunal to determine a fixed annual fee for mayors and councillors.
80. Whilst the Tribunal acknowledges and understands the concern raised, as explained in the 2024 Annual Determination at paragraph 68-69, such a change to the framework, to determine a fixed annual fee for mayors and councillors, would require legislative change.
81. As there has been no changes to the legislative scheme, it is not within the Tribunal's remit to determine a fixed annual fee for mayor and councillors' remuneration.

Request for a Review of the Remuneration Structure

82. For the reasons outlined above, several submissions suggested the Tribunal undertake a comprehensive review of the framework.
83. One submission went so far as to request the Tribunal recommend to the Minister for Local Government that a comprehensive review of the framework and LG Act be undertaken. Others suggested the Tribunal actively seek a referral from the Minister to undertake such a review.
84. The LG Act does not specify that the Tribunal is able to carry out a comprehensive review of the framework. As such, it is not within the Tribunal's remit to undertake such a review, unless such a function is conferred or imposed on it by the Minister, as per s.238(2) of the LG Act.
85. Should such a function be conferred on the Tribunal, it will of course carry out its functions and undertake a review.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Section 4 – 2025 Fees

Submissions – 2025 Fees

86. LGNSW's submission to the Tribunal advocated for an increase in the minimum and maximum fees payable to mayors and councillors of at least 4%, to:

- Assist in reversing the fee erosion which occurred under the previous NSW Public Sector Wages Policy
- Mitigate economic pressures and the rising cost of living
- Ensure councillors and mayors receive fair and reasonable remuneration for the work they perform, and
- Address historic undervaluation of the work performed by elected representative in local government in NSW.

87. Economic data provided to the Tribunal by LGNSW to support their claim for an increase of at least 4% included:

- An annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase of 3.8% for the 12 months to June 2024
- The Fair Work Commission (FWC) awarding a 3.75% increase to the minimum pay for modern awards, and increasing the national minimum wage to \$915.90, as well as the FWC's comments regarding the growing cost of living and deterioration of disposable income, and
- The rate peg for the 2025-26 financial year being between 3.6%-5.1%.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL



88. LGNSW also noted that the annual wage review, state wage case, award increases and the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal all had a clear theme on the increasing financial pressures on councils and its officers, which warrant increases in revenue and wages.
89. During its meeting with the Tribunal and assessors, LGNSW asserted that the current fees paid to mayors and councillors do not reflect their responsibilities. Nor do the current level of fees contribute to attracting a diverse range of candidates to stand for local government elections.
90. LGNSW also raised the issue of superannuation. It was contended that the payment of superannuation be mandated. Current arrangements require that a council pass a resolution at an open meeting to make such payments.
91. Four submissions received from individual councils directly addressed the issue of quantum increase to the minimum and maximum fees. These submissions sought an increase ranging from 3% to 10%.
92. The City of Sydney Council notes in its submission that it was not seeking an increase in fees payable for the Lord Mayor of Sydney.
93. The Tribunal is empowered under the s.241 of the LG Act to set minimum and maximum fees payable. It is then up to council to fix payment of annual fees for the mayor as outlined in s.249 of the LG Act.
94. It was suggested that the current fees, particularly in rural and remote communities, do not recognise or value the role of mayor and councillor,

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

with fees set at a level that is commensurate to unqualified or inexperienced personnel.

95. The Tribunal was provided with a number of examples to demonstrate the financial impact, by way of lost wages, under the current fee rates.
96. Furthermore, 4 submissions compared the remuneration for NSW mayors and councillors with mayors and councillors in Victoria and Queensland as well as state Members of Parliament. The figures were provided to the Tribunal to demonstrate that the remuneration for NSW mayors and councillors is lower than all comparison examples provided.
97. It was also asserted that the low level of fees set for mayors and councillors devalues the importance and responsibility of the roles, diminishing the work undertaken on behalf of the community and is a significant barrier as to why people do not run for council.

“If councillors were paid a full-time wage I would have run again. Nothing surer.”

98. Another submission suggested that fees need to reflect the part-time or full-time nature of the work carried out by mayors and councillors. The setting of fees at such a rate would appropriately recognise and value this important work, whilst also mitigating any financial loss incurred by those members of the community elected to carry out these critical functions.
99. Nine submissions supported an increase, whilst not making a direct comment on the quantum. Other submissions advocated for remuneration to be set at a level that:

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

- Is in line with responsibilities and challenges councillors' face
- Reflects the public profile and exposure of the role
- Reflects the growing complexity of the role
- Reduces the gap between minimum and maximum fees for each category
- Accounts for the rising cost of living challenges
- Reflects the commitment, accountability, workload, skills and knowledge required to perform the role of councillor and mayor regardless of location
- Establishes and maintains parity with mayors and councillors in other States and Territories
- Is 'determined outside of council so as councillors are not determining their own payments', and
- Overcomes economic barriers that prevent diverse members of the community from participating as a mayor or councillor.

Fee Increase

100. The Tribunal considered a range of factors in determining the amount to increase minimum and maximum fees payable to councillors and mayors.

This included a wide range of economic data such as:

- Consumer Price Index for the 12 months to December each year
- Wage Price Index for the 12 months to December each year

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

- Full-time average weekly ordinary time earnings for the 12 months to November each year
- NSW Public Sector Salaries increases
- Local Government State Award increases
- IPART Rate Peg Base Cost Change
- Public Service Senior Executive remuneration determinations, by the Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal, and
- State Members of Parliament Basic Salary remuneration determinations by the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal.

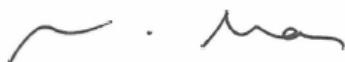
101. On this occasion the Tribunal has determined that a **3%** increase will apply to the minimum and maximum fees applicable to existing categories.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Conclusion

102. The Tribunal's determination has been made with the assistance of the Assessors, Ms Kylie Yates and Mr Brett Whitworth.
103. Determination 1 sets out the allocation of councils into each of the categories as per s.239 of the LG Act.
104. Determination 2 sets out the minimum and maximum fees paid to councillors and mayors and chairpersons of county councils as per s.241 of the LG Act.
105. The Tribunal acknowledges and thanks the Remuneration Tribunal secretariat for its excellent research and support to facilitate the successful completion the 2025 Annual Determination.



Viv May PSM

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Dated 17 April 2025

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Section 5 – Determinations

Determination No. 1 – Allocation of councils into each of the categories as per section 239 of the LG Act effective 1 July 2025

General Purpose Councils – Metropolitan

Principal CBD (1)

- Sydney

Major CBD (1)

- Parramatta

Metropolitan Major (2)

- Blacktown
- Canterbury-Bankstown

Metropolitan Large (10)

- Bayside
- Cumberland
- Fairfield
- Inner West
- Liverpool
- Northern Beaches
- Penrith
- Ryde
- Sutherland

- The Hills

Metropolitan Medium (8)

- Campbelltown
- Camden
- Georges River
- Hornsby
- Ku-ring-gai
- North Sydney
- Randwick
- Willoughby

Metropolitan Small (8)

- Burwood
- Canada Bay
- Hunters Hill
- Lane Cove
- Mosman
- Strathfield
- Waverley
- Woollahra

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

General Purpose Councils - Non-Metropolitan

Major Regional City (2)

- Newcastle
- Wollongong

Major Strategic Area (1)

- Central Coast

Regional Centre (22)

- Albury
- Armidale
- Ballina
- Bathurst
- Blue Mountains
- Byron
- Cessnock
- Clarence Valley
- Coffs Harbour
- Dubbo
- Eurobodella

Regional Strategic Area(5)

- Lake Macquarie
- Maitland
- Mid-Coast
- Shoalhaven
- Tweed
- Hawkesbury
- Lismore
- Orange
- Port Macquarie-Hastings
- Port Stephens
- Queanbeyan-Palerang
- Shellharbour
- Tamworth
- Wagga Wagga
- Wingecarribee
- Wollondilly

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Regional Rural (14)

- Bega
- Broken Hill
- Goulburn Mulwaree
- Griffith
- Hilltops
- Kempsey
- Kiama
- Lithgow
- Mid-Western
- Muswellbrook
- Nambucca
- Richmond Valleys
- Singleton
- Snowy Monaro

Rural Large (16)

- Bellingen
- Cabonne
- Cootamundra-Gundagai
- Cowra
- Federation
- Greater Hume
- Gunnedah
- Inverell
- Leeton
- Moree Plains
- Murray River
- Narrabri
- Parkes
- Snowy Valleys
- Upper Hunter
- Yass

Rural (38)

- Balranald
- Berrigan
- Bland
- Blayney
- Bogan
- Bourke
- Brewarrina
- Carrathool
- Central Darling
- Cobar
- Coolamon
- Coonamble
- Dungog
- Edward River

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

- Forbes
- Gilgandra
- Glen Innes Severn
- Gwydir
- Hay
- Junee
- Kyogle
- Lachlan
- Liverpool Plains
- Lockhart
- Murrumbidgee
- Narrandera
- Narromine
- Oberon
- Temora
- Tenterfield
- Upper Lachlan
- Uralla
- Walcha
- Walgett
- Warren
- Warrumbungle
- Weddin
- Wentworth

County Councils

Water (4)

- Central Tablelands
- Goldenfields Water
- Riverina Water
- Rous

Other (6)

- Castlereagh-Macquarie
- Central Murray
- Hawkesbury River
- New England Tablelands
- Upper Hunter
- Upper Macquarie

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Determination No. 2 - Fees for Councillors and Mayors as per section 241 of the LG Act effective from 1 July 2025

The annual fees to be paid in each of the categories to Councillors, Mayors, Members, and Chairpersons of County Councils effective on and from 1 July 2024 as per section 241 of the *Local Government Act 1993* are determined as follows:

Table 4: Fees for General Purpose and County Councils

General Purpose Councils – Metropolitan

Councillor/Member Annual Fee (\$) effective 1 July 2025

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Principal CBD	31,640	46,420
Major CBD	21,120	39,100
Metropolitan Major	21,120	36,970
Metropolitan Large	21,120	34,820
Metropolitan Medium	15,830	29,550
Metropolitan Small	10,530	23,220

Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee* (\$) effective 1 July 2025

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Principal CBD	193,650	254,810
Major CBD	44,840	126,320
Metropolitan Major	44,840	114,300
Metropolitan Large	44,840	101,470

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Metropolitan Medium	33,630	78,480
Metropolitan Small	22,420	50,650

General Purpose Councils - Non-Metropolitan

Councillor/Member Annual Fee (\$) effective 1 July 2025

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Major Regional City	21,120	36,690
Major Strategic Area	21,120	36,690
Regional Strategic Area	21,120	34,820
Regional Centre	15,830	27,860
Regional Rural	10,530	23,220
Rural Large	10,530	18,890
Rural	10,530	13,930

Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee* (\$) effective 1 July 2025

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Major Regional City	44,840	114,300
Major Strategic Area	44,840	114,300
Regional Strategic Area	44,840	101,470
Regional Centre	32,940	68,800
Regional Rural	22,420	50,680
Rural Large	16,820	40,530
Rural	11,210	30,390

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

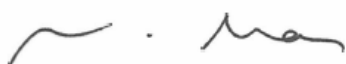
County Councils**Councillor/Member Annual Fee (\$) effective 1 July 2025**

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Water	2,090	11,620
Other	2,090	6,930

Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee* (\$) effective 1 July 2025

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Water	4,490	19,080
Other	4,490	12,670

*This fee must be paid in addition to the fee paid to the Mayor/Chairperson as a Councillor/Member (s.249(2)).



Viv May PSM

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Dated: 17 April 2025

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Appendices

Appendix 1 Criteria that apply to categories

Principal CBD

The Council of the City of Sydney (the City of Sydney) is the principal central business district (CBD) in the Sydney Metropolitan area. The City of Sydney is home to Sydney's primary commercial office district with the largest concentration of businesses and retailers in Sydney. The City of Sydney's sphere of economic influence is the greatest of any local government area in Australia.

The CBD is also host to some of the city's most significant transport infrastructure including Central Station, Circular Quay and International Overseas Passenger Terminal. Sydney is recognised globally with its iconic harbour setting and the City of Sydney is host to the city's historical, cultural and ceremonial precincts. The City of Sydney attracts significant visitor numbers and is home to 60 per cent of metropolitan Sydney's hotels.

The role of Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney has significant prominence reflecting the CBD's importance as home to the country's major business centres and public facilities of state and national importance. The Lord Mayor's responsibilities in developing and maintaining relationships with stakeholders, including other councils, state and federal governments, community and business groups, and the media are considered greater than other mayoral roles in NSW.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Major CBD

The Council of the City of Parramatta (City of Parramatta) is the economic capital of Greater Western Sydney and the geographic and demographic centre of Greater Sydney. Parramatta is the second largest economy in NSW (after Sydney CBD) and the sixth largest in Australia.

As a secondary CBD to metropolitan Sydney the Parramatta local government area is a major provider of business and government services with a significant number of organisations relocating their head offices to Parramatta. Public administration and safety have been a growth sector for Parramatta as the State Government has promoted a policy of moving government agencies westward to support economic development beyond the Sydney CBD.

The City of Parramatta provides a broad range of regional services across the Sydney Metropolitan area with a significant transport hub and hospital and educational facilities. The City of Parramatta is home to the Westmead Health and Medical Research precinct which represents the largest concentration of hospital and health services in Australia, servicing Western Sydney and providing other specialised services for the rest of NSW.

The City of Parramatta is also home to a significant number of cultural and sporting facilities (including Sydney Olympic Park) which draw significant domestic and international visitors to the region.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Metropolitan Major

Councils categorised Metropolitan Major will typically have a minimum residential population of 400,000.

Councils may also be categorised Metropolitan Major if their residential population combined with their non-resident working population exceeds 400,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population must exceed 50,000.

Other features may include:

- total operating revenue exceeding \$300M per annum
- the provision of significant regional services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities
- significant industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors
- high population growth.

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Major will have a sphere of economic influence and provide regional services considered to be greater than those of other metropolitan councils.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Metropolitan Large

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Large will typically have a minimum residential population of 200,000.

Councils may also be categorised as Metropolitan Large if their residential population combined with their non-resident working population exceeds 200,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population must exceed 50,000.

Other features may include:

- total operating revenue exceeding \$200M per annum
- the provision of significant regional services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities
- significant industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors
- high population growth.

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Large will have a sphere of economic influence and provide regional services considered to be greater than those of other metropolitan councils.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Metropolitan Medium

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Medium will typically have a minimum residential population of 100,000.

Councils may also be categorised as Metropolitan Medium if their residential population combined with their non-resident working population exceeds 100,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population must exceed 50,000.

Other features may include:

- total operating revenue exceeding \$100M per annum
- services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities
- industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors
- high population growth.

The sphere of economic influence, the scale of council operations and the extent of regional servicing would be below that of Metropolitan Large councils.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Metropolitan Small

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Small will typically have a residential population less than 100,000.

Other features which distinguish them from other metropolitan councils include:

- total operating revenue less than \$150M per annum.

While these councils may include some of the facilities and characteristics of both Metropolitan Large and Metropolitan Medium councils the overall sphere of economic influence, the scale of council operations and the extent of regional servicing would be below that of Metropolitan Medium councils.

Major Regional City

Newcastle City Council and Wollongong City Councils are categorised as Major Regional City. These councils:

- are metropolitan in nature with major residential, commercial and industrial areas
- typically host government departments, major tertiary education and health facilities and incorporate high density commercial and residential development

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

- provide a full range of higher order services and activities along with arts, culture, recreation, sporting and entertainment facilities to service the wider community and broader region
- have significant transport and freight infrastructure servicing international markets, the capital city and regional areas
- have significant natural and man-made assets to support diverse economic activity, trade and future investment
- typically contain ventures which have a broader State and national focus which impact upon the operations of the council.

Major Strategic Area

Councils categorised as Major Strategic Area will have a minimum population of 300,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included.

Other features may include:

- health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community
- a full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres
- total operating revenue exceeding \$250M per annum

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

- significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention
- a proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.

Currently, only Central Coast Council meets the criteria to be categorised as a Major Strategic Area. Its population, predicted population growth, and scale of the Council's operations warrant that it be differentiated from other non-metropolitan councils. Central Coast Council is also a significant contributor to the regional economy associated with proximity to and connections with Sydney and the Hunter Region.

Regional Strategic Area

Councils categorised as Regional Strategic Area are differentiated from councils in the Regional Centre category on the basis of their significant population and will typically have a residential population above 100,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included.

Other features may include:

- health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community
- a full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres
- total operating revenue exceeding \$250M per annum

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

- significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention
- a proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.

Currently, only Lake Macquarie Council meets the criteria to be categorised as a Regional Strategic Area. Its population and overall scale of council operations will be greater than Regional Centre councils.

Regional Centre

Councils categorised as Regional Centre will typically have a minimum residential population of 40,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included.

Other features may include:

- a large city or town providing a significant proportion of the region's housing and employment
- health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community
- a full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres
- total operating revenue exceeding \$100M per annum
- the highest rates of population growth in regional NSW

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

- significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention
- a proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.

Councils in the category of Regional Centre are often considered the geographic centre of the region providing services to their immediate and wider catchment communities.

Regional Rural

Councils categorised as Regional Rural will typically have a minimum residential population of 20,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included.

Other features may include:

- a large urban population existing alongside a traditional farming sector, and are surrounded by smaller towns and villages
- health services, tertiary education services and regional airports which service a regional community
- a broad range of industries including agricultural, educational, health, professional, government and retail services
- large visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and events.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Councils in the category of Regional Rural provide a degree of regional servicing below that of a Regional Centre.

Rural Large

Councils categorised as Rural Large will have a residential population greater than 10,000, and a councillor to resident ratio of at least 1 to 1200.

Other features may include:

- one or two significant townships combined with a considerable dispersed population spread over a large area and a long distance from a major regional centre
- a limited range of services, facilities and employment opportunities compared to Regional Rural councils
- local economies based on agricultural/resource industries.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Rural

Councils categorised as Rural will typically have a residential population less than 10,000.

County Councils - Water

County councils that provide water and/or sewerage functions with a joint approach in planning and installing large water reticulation and sewerage systems.

County Councils - Other

County councils that administer, control and eradicate declared noxious weeds as a specified Local Control Authority under the Biosecurity Act 2015.

OFFICIAL

CCS9 TENDERS ADVERTISED AND AWARDED APRIL 2025

AUTHOR: David McQuade, Senior Governance Officer

APPROVER: Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

RECOMMENDATION

That the presentation be received and noted.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report details Council tenders advertised and awarded in in the month of April 2025.

REPORT

Tenders advertised in April 2025

Date Advertised	Date Closing/Closed	Tender Description	Status
15/01/2025	19/02/2025	Insurance Services	Under assessment

Tenders awarded in April 2025

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report

PE1 **ASSESSMENT PROCESS - NEW LICENSED VENUES AND GAMING MACHINES IN NSW**
AUTHOR: Rita Vella, Executive Planner, Strategic Planning
APPROVER: Dylan Porter, Acting Director Planning and Environment

RECOMMENDATION

1. That a dedicated page be created on Council's website, providing links to Liquor and Gaming resources, Local Impact Assessments, and guidance on how to make a submission.
2. That Councillors are advised of any future Local Impact Assessments received for venues in the Strathfield LGA.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this briefing report is to address the points raised in Council's resolution relating to the assessment process for new licensed venues and gaming machines in NSW.

REPORT

Council, at its meeting on 25 February 2025 resolved the following:

1. *Council be provided with a briefing on the assessment process new licensed venues and Gaming Machines in NSW. This includes changes brought about by NSW Government to streamline approval pathways for licenced venues.*
2. *Further, that a summary be provided on the impacts to community and individual safety that have occurred since the advent of the Liquor and Gaming reforms and promotion of night-time economies in town centres generally.*
3. *Recommendations be provided as to possible initiatives that Strathfield Council might deploy to managed licenced venues within or close to our centres and villages.*
4. *That a report be prepared to a future Council Meeting with the pathway or capability to restrict any new approvals of Licenced Gambling & Alcohol Venues within Strathfield LGA.*

Reforms to the Gaming Machines Amendment (Leasing and Assessment) Act 2018

Liquor & Gaming NSW (L&GNSW) administers the regulatory framework for the liquor, gaming, wagering, casino, and registered club sectors in NSW. Various gaming machine reforms commenced on 3 April 2018 as part of the Gaming Machines Amendment (Leasing and Assessment) Act 2018.

These reforms involved amendments to the Gaming Machines Act 2001 and the Gaming Machines Regulation 2010. These legislative amendments implemented recommendations from the 2017 Local Impact Assessment (LIA) Review and introduced the Gaming Machine Entitlement (GME) leasing scheme.

Key reforms include:

Reform	Summary of Reform
Caps on gambling machine numbers	All clubs and hotels in NSW are subject to an individual threshold on how many gaming machines they are permitted to operate. This is known as their Gaming Machine Threshold (GMT), against which they can purchase or lease Gaming Machine Entitlements (GME) from other venues.
Reducing problem gambling risks	Under the changes to the LIA process, smaller areas of around 10,000 people (Statistical Areas) replace Local Government Areas for determining the type of assessment required. This allows for more targeted measures to localised areas. Search Statistical Areas Notice Board Greater weight is given to socioeconomic factors in local communities when assessing applications for extra gaming machines.
Consultation	More agencies and organisations are consulted on application to increase gaming machine numbers. These include welfare and financial assistance providers, Aboriginal, legal and health services, and local Gambling Help services. There are longer consultation periods, giving local communities to have their say.
Community contributions	The Responsible Gambling Fund manages a central fund for contributions from venues seeking gaming machine increases. The fund supports local community projects that help prevent or reduce harm linked to gaming machines and other social and health issues. The process is more transparent and ensures contributions provide the most worthwhile and effective benefits to local communities.
Transparency	Detailed statistics on gaming machine activity in every NSW LGA can be access on the Liquor and Gaming NSW website LIA Public Register - Liquor & Gaming NSW Data is updated every six months and includes the numbers of machines in individual venues and within LGAs, net profits for each LGA and rankings of net profit for all NSW venues.

All clubs and hotels in NSW are subject to an individual threshold on how many gaming machines they are permitted to operate. This is known as their Gaming Machine Threshold (GMT), against which they can purchase or lease Gaming Machine Entitlements (GME) from other venues.

Hotels and registered clubs who wish to increase their gaming machine threshold (GMT) need to complete a Local Impact Assessment (LIA).

All clubs and hotels in NSW are subject to an individual threshold on how many gaming machines they are permitted to operate. This is known as their Gaming Machine Threshold (GMT), against which they can purchase or lease Gaming Machine Entitlements (GME) from other venues.

There are two types of licences that allow a venue to operate gaming machines:

Licence Type	
Hotel Gaming Licence	May include gaming machine entitlements (GMEs) and poker machine permits (PMPs) A hotel's Gaming Maximum Threshold (GMT) is limited by the floor space of the premises of the hotel. Hotels can have up to a maximum of 30 gaming machines. If you have more than 10 gaming machines you must have them in a separate Hotel Gaming Room.
Club Gaming Licence	Gaming machine entitlements (GMEs). A club's GMT is limited by the floor space of the premises of the club. No maximum

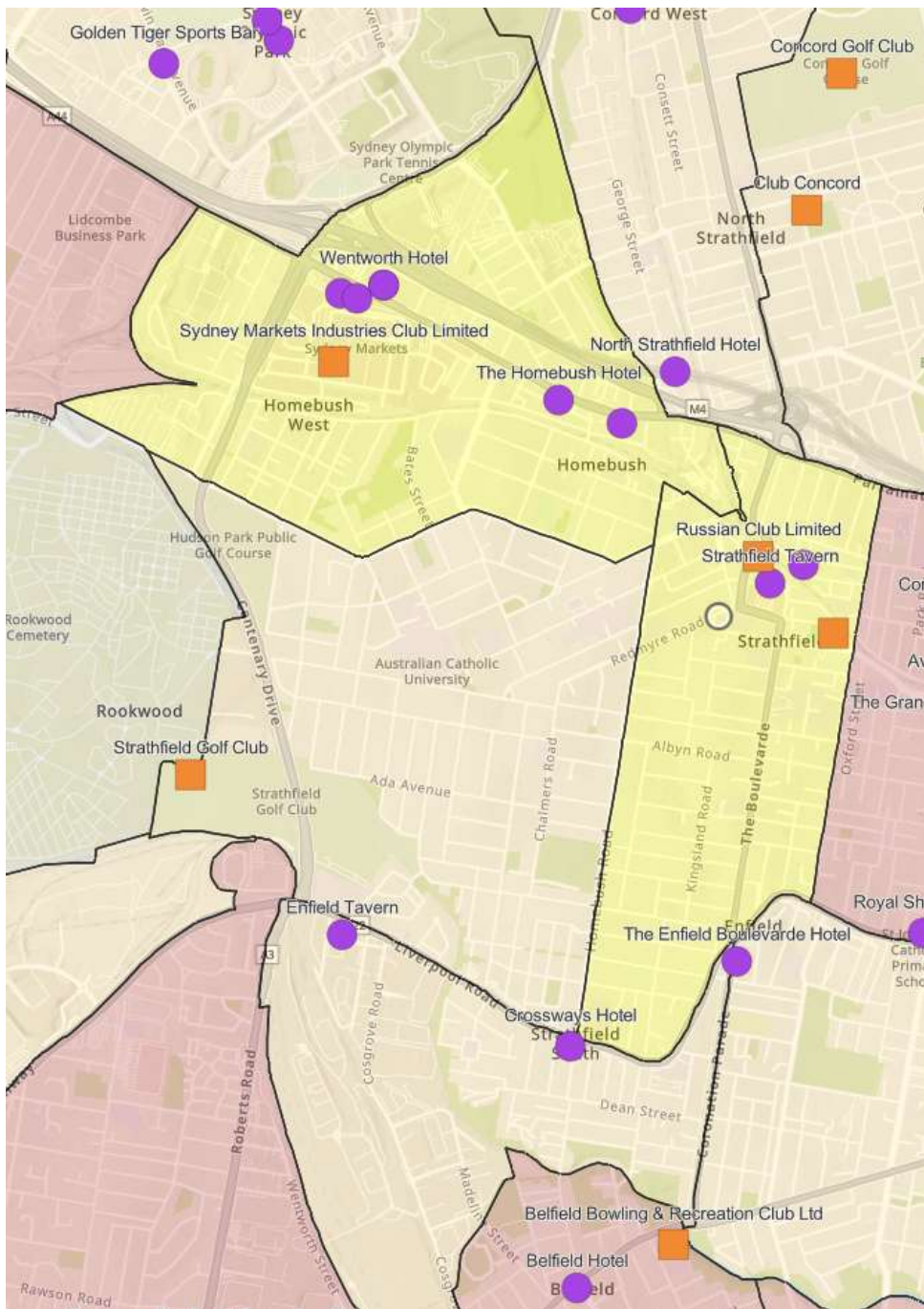
Depending on the classification of the Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) where a club or hotel is located and the size of increase, the venue may or may not be required to undertake a Local Impact Assessment (LIA) when applying for an increase in its GMT.

Hotels and registered clubs who wish to increase their gaming machine threshold (GMT) need to complete a Local Impact Assessment (LIA).

Gaming Machines in the Strathfield LGA

The following information has been taken from the Liquor and Gaming NSW website:

Hotel/Club	Gaming Machines
Flemington Hotel	0
Homebush Hotel	15
Markets Hotel	21
Sydney Markets Industries Club	88
The Homebush Hotel	20
Horse & Jockey Hotel	29
Russian Club	0
Strathfield Tavern	0
Strathfield Hotel	15
Enfield Tavern	0
Crossways Hotel Strathfield South	25
Information taken from LIA Band Map Tool Find my LIA Band - Liquor & Gaming NSW	



Source: LIA Band Map Tool [Find my LIA Band - Liquor & Gaming NSW](#)

Local Impact Assessment (LIA)

All clubs and hotels in NSW that operate gaming machines are classified in a risk ranking system based on the location of the venue,

The purpose of a Local Impact Assessment (LIA) is to inform and support a community consultation process to enable the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority to determine whether approving an increase to a venue's GMT will make a positive contribution to the local community.

The LIA process is designed to assess the impact of introducing additional gaming machines into an area, i.e., where a venue seeks to fill their GMT by sourcing GMEs from other parts of NSW.

ILGA can only approve a Class 1 or Class 2 LIA if it satisfies matters specified in the legislation, including that:

- It demonstrates that the proposed increase in gaming machines will provide a positive impact towards (Class 1), or overall positive impact on (Class 2) the local community.
- Any community concerns raised in the consultation process are adequately addressed.

A Class 1 LIA: requires the applicant to demonstrate that the proposed increase in the GMT will provide a positive contribution to the local community. A positive contribution is defined as a financial contribution amount. This financial contribution is based on the following formula and is made to the Responsible Gambling Fund:

15% of average profit of existing gaming machines before tax x GMT increase x 5 years

A Class 2 LIA: requires the applicant to demonstrate that the proposed increase in the GMT will have an overall positive impact on the local community. A positive impact is defined as a financial contribution amount. This financial contribution is based on the following formula and is made to the Responsible Gambling Fund:

40% of average profit of existing gaming machines before tax x GMT increase x 5 years

Additional positive contributions may also be made by the venue and may include:

- the putting in place of harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures that are in addition to measures already required by law,
- for clubs, money paid into the ClubGRANTS Fund over and above their annual liability, and
- for clubs, money paid into Category 1 of ClubGRANTS that is spent on harm minimisation in excess of the amount required by law.

The ILGA has released Guidelines for venue operators to follow with respect to the Local Impact Assessment process. Copies of the Guidelines (Class 1 and Class 2) are included at Attachment 1 and 2 respectively.

Council's Role in the LIA Process

As part of the LIA process, venue operators **must** provide a copy of the application and LIA to the local council and the local police. Council has 60 calendar days to make a submission to the ILGA.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority (ILGA) is the decision-maker responsible for liquor, registered club, and gaming machine regulatory functions including licensing and disciplinary matters under the legislation.

Council has **no decision-making role** in this process – there is no pathway or capability to restrict any new approvals of licensed gaming and alcohol venues in Strathfield LGA via a prohibition.

The IGLA assesses all submissions made in response to the LIA and venues are required to respond to all issues that have been raised in submissions. In assessing a venue's LIA and any response to a submission made during the LIA process, the ILGA will have regard to:

- the issues raised by the submission
- whether the issues that have been raised in the submission are relevant to the venue's GMT increase application
- the extent to which the venue responds to specific concerns, including relevant facts, figures and research, and personal experiences raised by the submission, and
- the extent to which the venue amends its application or LIA in response to specific concerns.

Council's role is to ensure that when a LIA has been referred, that it is reviewed and where appropriate makes a submission in response to the LIA. Council officers regularly meet with local police to understand whether there are any issues with respect to venues that serve liquor and operate gaming machines, and this feedback is a good starting point for the development of any submission to the ILGA.

The following recommended initiatives are proposed to ensure that there is additional transparency with respect to future applications for new/increased gaming machines in venues located in the Strathfield LGA.

1. **Improve access to information for community** – dedicated page on Council's website – information linking to Liquor and Gaming information; LIA and how to make a submission. Council could include its submission to LIA on this page.
2. **Review all LIAs** – ensure all LIA are reviewed, and where appropriate submissions are made. Councillors will be made aware of any future LIA that relate to venues in the Stratfield LGA and can provide feedback for consideration in Council's submission. Where a submission is made, a copy of Council's submission will be sent to all Councillors for their information.
3. **Continue to work closely with Liquor and Gaming and Police** – we will continue to work closely with relevant authorities and report and compliance breaches and ensure that there is follow up through the relevant channels.

NSW Government's Vibrancy Reforms

The NSW Government's Vibrancy Reforms aim to encourage the return of music, live performance, local street life and a vibrant night-time economy that doesn't come at the expense of safety. The Vibrancy Reforms are a cross-government initiative developed in consultation with key government agencies, industry, councils and stakeholders to improve the night-time economy through both legislative and policy reforms.

The legislative reforms were made through the *24-Hour Economy Commissioner Act 2023* and the *24-Hour Economy Legislation Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Act 2023*.

In October 2024, the NSW Parliament passed the *24-Hour Economy Legislation Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Act 2024*. Key areas of change include:

- Removing barriers to support existing live music venues and encourage the growth of new ones.

- Amending the *Major Events Act* so it can be used to streamline event delivery and support recurring significant events like Vivid and Sydney Festival.
- Since 1 January 2024, food and drink premises and registered clubs can permanently use their private land and car parking spaces for outdoor dining as exempt development. The rules also apply to artisan food and drink industries, such as microbreweries.
- Since 1 July 2024, small bars, general bars and live music and performance venues can access Special Event Extended Trading
- Further enhancing the framework to support councils to create more Special Entertainment Precincts throughout the state – with better incentives for venues and councils to take part.
- Empowering Councils to approve temporary street closures for outdoor dining, performance and extension of foyer space. This means councils do not need to apply to Transport for NSW regarding unclassified roads. For classified roads, councils will still need agreement from Transport for NSW.
- Development of a Cultural State Environmental Planning Policy will amend state environmental planning policies and local environmental plans to support creative, cultural and hospitality uses.

In 2025, there will be additional changes introduced, including:

- The introduction of a one-stop-shop sound complaint portal
- 'Switching off' conditions of development consent or plans of management at all licensed premises that prohibit particular music genres, the number or types of instruments, the number of musicians, the playing of original music, whether dancing occurs, the presence of a dancefloor, the direction a stage faces or use of decorations (e.g. mirror balls)
- 'Switching off' conditions of development consent or plans of management that prohibit 'live entertainment' **at hotels, clubs and small bars (only)**
- Changes to enable automatic notation on planning certificates about whether a property is in a Special Entertainment Precinct.
- Referral pathway to mediation for significant live music or performance venues involved in a dispute
- Development of regulations and guidance material for mutual recognition of mobile outdoor businesses across local government areas.
- Entertainment sound guidelines published on system design and acoustic sound management for venues.

The reforms were created with community safety at the forefront and are designed to diversify NSW's nightlife. The NSW Government is working closely with NSW Health and the NSW Police Force to monitor the implementation of the reforms, including measuring impacts on public health and antisocial behaviour through key data.

The Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner measures the success of the proposed reforms quarterly by tracking data on the performance of the night-time economy at a NSW and local level, including expenditure, mobility, demographic information, crime, business composition and licensing data.

The Data After Dark platform [Data after Dark Quarterly Insights | NSW Government](#), provides quarterly reports which capture key trends, metrics and developments that shape the social, economic and cultural aspects of NSW's night-time landscape.

These reports aim to:

- **Share key insights:** Deliver up-to-date data to help businesses, councils and the community understand the pulse of the night-time economy.
- **Empower growth:** Offer data-driven insights that support a thriving, safe and sustainable night-time economy for NSW.

The quarterly report provides transparency, and the Office of the 24-Hour Economy encourages proactive engagement with the community. A copy of the latest report (December Quarter 2024) is included at Attachment 3.

Impacts of the Reforms on Community Safety

To date, Council has not received any complaints or reports regarding community or individual safety issues arising from the Liquor and Gaming reforms or the promotion of night-time economies in our centres.

Council continues to advocate for ongoing consultation around the details and implementation of future reforms to ensure that there continues to be a balance between enhancing the cultural and economic vibrancy of communities and protecting the safety and amenity of neighbourhoods.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [Attachment 1 - Class 1 - Local Impact Assessment Guidelines](#)
2. [Attachment 2 - Class 2 - Local Impact Assessment Guidelines](#)
3. [Attachment 3 - Night Time Economy Insights \(December Quarter 2024\)](#)

GL4014

Class 1 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines



A statutory board established under the Gaming and Liquor Administration Act 2007

The Class 1 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines (the Guidelines) are issued by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority under section 36C of the *Gaming Machines Act 2001* (the Act).

The Guidelines are intended to provide applicants and members of the community with guidance on:

- ▲ how applications for a gaming machine threshold increase should be made,
- ▲ how to undertake a Class 1 Local Impact Assessment,
- ▲ how to make a submission on a Class 1 Local Impact Assessment,
- ▲ what the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority considers to be a 'positive contribution' for a local community for the purposes of a Local Impact Assessment,
- ▲ what other factors the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may consider in assessing a gaming machine threshold increase application, and
- ▲ what conditions the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may impose on its approval of a Class 1 Local Impact Assessment.

A checklist for venues is also included at Appendix A of this document.

These Guidelines are intended to give additional information to applicants and the community, and may not need to be read in their entirety for a Local Impact Assessment to be conducted.

The Guidelines do not limit the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority's discretion when deciding a particular application, including what may be a 'positive contribution' for the local community.

These Guidelines are subject to, and are in addition of, any requirement set out in the Act or Gaming Machines Regulation 2019 (the Regulation).

For information on the Class 2 Local Impact Assessment process, visit liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au.

Overview

All clubs and hotels in NSW are subject to an individual threshold on how many gaming machines they are permitted to operate. This is known as their Gaming Machine Threshold (GMT), against which they can purchase or lease Gaming Machine Entitlements (GME) from other venues.¹

Depending on the classification of the Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) where a club or hotel is located and the size of increase, the venue may or may not be required to undertake an Local Impact Assessment (LIA) when applying for an increase its GMT.

The LIA process is designed to assess the impact of introducing additional gaming machines into an SA2, such as where a venue seeks to fill their GMT by sourcing GMEs from other parts of NSW.

What is the gaming machine threshold?

The GMT is a number that limits:

- ▲ for a club, the number of GMEs that the club is approved to hold,
- ▲ for a hotel, the number of GMEs and poker machine permits (PMP) the hotel is approved to hold. For a hotel the GMT is capped at 30.

In the case of a new hotel, or new club premises, the GMT for the hotel or club premises is set at zero. This includes:

- ▲ relocation to another venue,
- ▲ establishment of a new venue,
- ▲ establishment of a club in new development areas.

Note that an increase in a venue's GMT does not mean there will be more gaming machines in NSW. Venues wishing to fill an increase in their GMT can only do so by sourcing existing GMEs from other venues. When GMEs are traded among venues, a portion of the GMEs are (with some exceptions) forfeited to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority.

continue overleaf

¹ For hotels, Poker Machine Permits may be traded but not leased.

Class 1 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

What are 'Statistical Area Level 2s' and how are they classified into 'Bands'?

An SA2 is a geographical boundary set by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Each SA2 is classified by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority into Band 1 (low risk), Band 2 (medium risk) and Band 3 (high risk) depending on the gaming machine density, gaming machine expenditure and the relative socio-economic disadvantage of the SA2.

Each SA2 is assigned a score with a weighting of:

- ▲ 70% [Socio-Economic Indexes for Area \(SEIFA\)](#)
- ▲ 15% gaming machine expenditure per capita
- ▲ 15% number of gaming machines per capita.

All SA2s in NSW are then ranked into Band 1, Band 2, Band 3 according with the:

- ▲ bottom 20% (i.e. those with the highest levels of socio-economic disadvantage) are put into Band 3
- ▲ next 30% are put into Band 2
- ▲ remaining 50% (i.e. those with the lowest levels of socio-economic disadvantage) are put into Band 1.

Further information of the classifications of SA2s, including an interactive map that provides information on your community, is available [here](#).

What are the different types of LIA and when are they required?

The purpose of an LIA is to inform and support a community consultation process that will enable the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority to determine whether approving the application to increase a venue's GMT will provide either a positive contribution to the local community or an overall positive impact on the local community.

There are two types of LIA that may be required to be completed before a GMT increase application can be approved by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority:

- ▲ a Class 1 LIA requires the applicant to demonstrate that the proposed increase in the GMT will provide a positive contribution to the local community
- ▲ a Class 2 LIA requires the applicant to demonstrate that the proposed increase in the GMT will have an overall positive impact on the local community.²

An LIA is required to accompany any application for an increase in a venue's GMT according to the following rules:

Band	Low Range increase (up to 20)	Mid-Range increase (21 to 40)	High Range increase (over 40)
1	No LIA req'd	Class 1 LIA	Class 2 LIA
2	Class 1 LIA	Class 2 LIA	Class 2 LIA
3	No GMT increases permitted via an LIA process ³		

When are LIAs not required?

An LIA is not required in certain circumstances, largely where machines are moving within a local area. This is because there was previously an assessment of the impact on the local community when existing GMTs were granted, and the purpose of the LIA is to assess the impact of increased machines in a particular area, not the impact of an increase at a specific venue.

A venue in a Band 3 SA2 seeking to increase its GMT is not required to undertake an LIA where it is acquiring additional GMEs from a venue:

1. in the same SA2, or
2. in another Band 3 SA2 in the same Local Government Area, or
3. in any directly bordering Band 3 SA2, even if this is in a different Local Government Area (note: this does not apply to the Fairfield Local Government Area).

A venue in a Band 2 SA2 seeking to increase its GMT is not required to undertake an LIA where it is acquiring additional GMEs from a venue:

1. in the same SA2, or
2. in another Band 2 SA2 in the same Local Government Area, or
3. in any directly bordering Band 2 or 3 SA2, even if this is in a different Local Government Area (note: this does not apply to the Fairfield Local Government Area).

Venues in Band 1 can increase their GMT without an LIA where they are acquiring additional GMEs from a venue in any SA2 in the same Local Government Area, or if the total of the all GMT increases granted for the venue over the past 12 months was 20 or less.

continue overleaf

² These Guidelines do not deal with Class 2 LIAs.

³ Threshold increases may be approved where a venue is acquiring entitlements or permits from another venue listed in section 35(2)(b)-(d) of the Act.

Class 1 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

For example, Figure 1 shows a portion of the Blacktown Local Government Area (right side of map) and Penrith Local Government Area (left side of map). In Figure 1, Band 3 is red, Band 2 is amber and Band 1 is green.

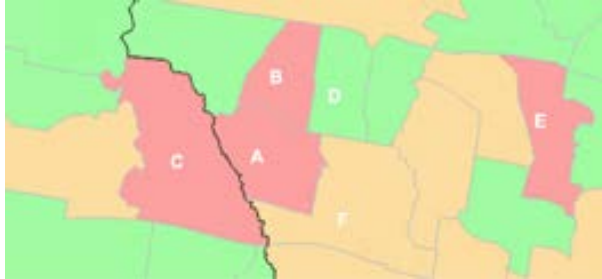


Figure 1

In Figure 1, a venue in SA2 "A" can apply for a GMT increase without an LIA where it is acquiring GMEs from a venue in:

- ▲ SA2 "A" (same Band 3 SA2)
- ▲ SA2 "B" or SA2 "E" (Band 3 SA2s in same Local Government Area)
- ▲ SA2 "C" (directly bordering Band 3 SA2)

SA2 "A" is a Band 3 and is subject to an area cap. As no additional gaming machines can be introduced from non-Band 3 SA2s, a venue in SA2 "A" cannot source GMEs from "D" or "F".

As SA2 "F" is a Band 2 SA2, a venue in SA2 "F" can acquire entitlements from SA2 "A", "B" or "E" without undertaking an LIA as all SA2s are in the same Local Government Area, but cannot acquire from a venue in SA2 "D" without undertaking an LIA as SA2 "D" is a lower banding.

continue overleaf

Class 1 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

Preparing a Class 1 LIA

Overview

The purpose of a Class 1 LIA is to inform and support a community consultation process that will enable the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority to determine whether approving an increase to a venue's GMT will make a positive contribution to the local community.

Approving an LIA

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may only approve a Class 1 LIA if it is satisfied that the LIA:

- ▲ complies with the requirements under the Act or Regulation,
- ▲ demonstrates that gambling activities at the venue will be conducted in a manner consistent with sound gambling harm minimisation principles and practices,
- ▲ demonstrates that the proposed increase in gaming machines for the venue will provide a positive contribution to the community in which the venue is situated,
- ▲ if the venue is a new hotel or club, the venue is not in the immediate vicinity of a school, place of public worship or hospital, and
- ▲ community concerns arising out of the community consultation process have been appropriately addressed by the venue.

Format

All Class 1 LIAs should following the following format:

- ▲ executive summary of LIA of no more than one (1) page,
- ▲ details of the venue and local community comprising no more than two (2) pages,
- ▲ harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures,
- ▲ details of the benefits that the venue will provide to the local community if the threshold increase application is approved comprising no more than two (2) pages, and
- ▲ any attachments required to provide further information of the application.

Executive summary

The executive summary should provide the reader with a high level overview of the venue's application and should be no more than one (1) page.

The executive summary should concisely detail:

- ▲ the venue's location, including which SA2 it is in,
- ▲ the venue's current GMT,
- ▲ current number of GMEs and/or PMPs held by the venue,
- ▲ current harm minimisation and responsible gambling practices and services offered by the venue, and
- ▲ the positive contribution the venue proposes to make if the GMT increase application is approved.

Details of the venue and local community

An LIA should provide the reader details of the venue and the local community in which it sits within, which should be no more than two (2) pages.

Venue applicants are encouraged to include a map of the surrounding area, which identifies the venue, and the SA2 it sits within, as well as any other SA2s within five (5) kilometres.

An interactive map that provides information on all venues is available [here](#). This map may be used by applicants in preparing an LIA.

Clause 33 of the Regulation provides that where the LIA is made in relation to a new hotel or a new club, the venue is also required to include a map showing the location of the venue and the location of any school, place of public worship or hospital within 200 metres of the venue.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority must be satisfied that the new venue is not in the immediate vicinity of these types of premises.

Venue applicants are required to provide information on the venue itself, including:

- ▲ the size of the venue,
- ▲ the floor space of the venue, including the location and floor space dedicated (or to be dedicated) to gaming,
- ▲ other facilities or services offered by the venue at the premises where the additional gaming machines are proposed to be offered
- ▲ the venue's current GMT,
- ▲ current number of GMEs or PMPs held by the venue.

continue overleaf

Class 1 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

In addition to a map of the local area, venue applicants are encouraged to provide information on the community, including:

- ▲ population, SEIFA ranking, number of gaming machines per capita and gaming machine expenditure ranking for the SA2 (this information can be accessed for all SA2s [here](#))
- ▲ for clubs, the number of members that live within the SA2 and those that live outside of the SA2
- ▲ other relevant demographic information, such as:
 - 18 years and over population
 - population growth
 - age and sex distributions
 - education
 - occupation
 - ethnicity
 - individual and household income distribution
 - employment, unemployment and not in the labour force
 - housing costs
 - housing tenure type and landlord type
 - household type.

This data can be found on the [Australian Bureau of Statistics website](#).

Harm Minimisation and Responsible Gambling Measures

Clause 33 of the Regulation requires a LIA to include details of the harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures that are in place at the venue.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority considers “harm minimisation” to mean interventions and measures to prevent or reduce the negative social, economic and physical harms that can occur from gambling.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority consider that the concept of “responsible gambling” is a broad one which recognises gambling is a legitimate, lawful and regulated activity in NSW and that there are benefits associated with gambling activities, but also that gambling can cause personal and social harms. Activities that promote responsible gambling include those which seek to:

- ▲ enable persons to make informed decisions about their participation in gambling,

- ▲ minimise the potential for, and incidence of, harm associated with gambling, and
- ▲ reduce the incidence and prevalence of problem gambling

A venue's current and proposed harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures will be used by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority to understand what the impact of additional gaming machines at the venue will be on the community. These proposed harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures must satisfy the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority that gambling activities at the venue will be conducted in a responsible manner.

All hotel and clubs in NSW are required by law to offer a suite of harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures.

The LIA should detail clearly what harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures are offered by the venue, and specifically differentiate between measures that are required to be offered by law and those that the venue has voluntarily offered.

Mandatory harm minimisation requirements include:

- ▲ gambling signage, including counselling, chance of winning and gaming machine notice,
- ▲ Gambling Help wording on all player activity statements, ATMs and cash-back terminals and cash-back terminals operated by a player card,
- ▲ having a self-exclusion scheme in place, including publicising the availability of the self-exclusion scheme,
- ▲ minors must be prohibited from entering gaming areas of the venue,
- ▲ prohibition on any externally visible gaming machine advertising or signage,
- ▲ restrictions on use of cheques as a method of payment for use of gaming machines and payment of any prizes, including cheque prize limit of \$5,000,
- ▲ restrictions on cash payments,
- ▲ prohibition on the placement of ATMs in gaming areas, including prohibition on ATMs that dispense cash from a credit card account,
- ▲ where a player reward or player account card system is offered, player activity statements must be provided,

continue overleaf

Class 1 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

- ▲ all staff involved in gambling related duties hold Responsible Conduct of Gambling qualifications, and
- ▲ mandatory gaming machine shutdown

Additional harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures may include:

- ▲ Gambling help counselling services funded or hosted by the venue, including details on its hours of operation and who can (and does) access it
- ▲ Pre-commitment player cards
- ▲ Activities designed to prevent and highlight potential harms from gambling, for example an education program for vulnerable groups about the potential harms from gambling and how to seek help.

Positive contribution the local community

Under the Act, where an LIA must be approved, a venue is required to satisfy the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority that the proposed increase in the number of gaming machines at the venue will make a positive contribution to the community. Further information on how the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will determine what constitutes a positive contribution is detailed below.

Clause 33 of the Regulation requires an LIA to include details of the benefits that the venue will provide to the local community if the threshold increase application is approved. This information should be no more than two (2) pages.

Where a venue is required to make a financial contribution to satisfy the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority that the additional machines will make a positive contribution to the community, the venue must make this financial contribution to the Responsible Gambling Fund. The method for determining the amount of financial contribution a venue will be required to make to the Responsible Gambling Fund is detailed below.

A venue may also be able to make additional positive contributions that will be taken into account by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority. Where a venue has already made an additional positive contribution in connection with the proposed gaming machine threshold increase, or where they are proposing to do so, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may take this into account when assessing what additional financial contributions the venue will be required to provide to the Responsible Gambling Fund.

Where a venue provides information of additional positive contributions it is making or will make, it must have regard to the criteria that the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will use in assessing whether the GMT will provide a positive contribution to the community, which is detailed below.

continue overleaf

⁴Section 36B of the Act allows for other actions to be considered additional positive contributions where they are prescribed in the Regulation. There are currently no additional actions prescribed.

Class 1 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

What constitutes a “positive contribution” for a Class 1 LIA?

Financial contribution amount

In assessing the impact of additional gaming machines on a community, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority is required to determine whether the additional gaming machines would make a positive contribution to the community.

In assessing whether a donation proposed to support a Class 1 LIA satisfies the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority that the donation should be considered a positive contribution, the Authority will have regard to the following formula:

15% of average profit of existing gaming machines before tax x GMT increase x 5 years.

For example:

Hotel A currently holds 10 GMEs with an average annual profit of \$40,000 per machine. Hotel A applies for a GMT increase of five (5). In order to satisfy the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority that the proposed increase will provide a benefit to the community, Hotel A may be required to pay \$30,000 (15% of \$40,000 = \$6,000 x GMT increase of five (5) = \$30,000) each year for five (5) years. Over the 5 years the hotel will be required to pay \$150,000.

Club A holds 50 GMEs with an average annual profit of \$20,000 per machine. Club B applies for a GMT increase of five (5). In order to satisfy the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority that the proposed increase will provide a benefit to the community, Club B may be required to pay \$15,000 (15% of \$20,000 = \$3,000 x GMT increase of five (5) = \$15,000) each year for five (5) years. Over the 5 years the club will be required to pay \$75,000.

Assessing financial contributions for new venues

For new venues, such as those being established in a new development area, the net profit of the proposed gaming machines may not be known, nor can it be reliably estimated.

In assessing whether a financial contribution proposed to support a Local Impact Assessment in respect of a new venue satisfies the requirements of the Act, the Authority will have regard to the following formula:

For new hotels

15% of average annual profit of existing gaming machines before tax of existing hotels in the Local Government Area (avg profit), multiplied by the number of GMEs to be added by the GMT increase, per year over 5 years, ie:

15% x avg profit x GMT increase x 5

Where there is no existing hotel in the Local Government Area, the Authority will apply the following formula.

15% of the actual annual profit before tax (act profit) of gaming machines operated by the venue following the GMT increase, multiplied by the GMT increase, per year over 5 years, ie:

15% x act profit x GMT increase x 5

For new clubs

15% of average annual profit of existing gaming machines before tax of existing clubs in the Local Government Area (avg profit), multiplied by the number of GMEs to be added by the GMT increase, per year over 5 years, ie:

15% x avg profit x GMT increase x 5

Where there is no existing club in the LGA, the Authority will apply the following formula.

15% of the actual annual profit before tax (act profit) of gaming machines operated by the venue following the GMT increase, multiplied by the GMT increase, per year over 5 years, ie:

15% x act profit x GMT increase x 5

continue overleaf

⁴ Section 36B of the Act allows for other actions to be considered additional positive contributions where they are prescribed in the Regulation. There are currently no additional actions prescribed.

Class 1 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

Payment of financial contributions for new venues

Payment for the financial contributions by new venues will be paid annually with the first payment to be made within four weeks of the approval in line with the following:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
10% of total financial contribution	15% of total financial contribution	20% of total financial contribution	25% of total financial contribution	30% of total financial contribution

Review of financial contributions for new venues

After 2 years of gaming machine operations, a new venue may request a review of the quantum of its financial contribution. This provides for situations where a venue's actual per machine profit is less than the average per machine profit of the local area (as used for the calculation of their community contribution obligations).

When reviewing the financial contribution, the Authority will apply the following formula.

15% of the average annual profit before tax (avg GM profit) of gaming machines operated by the venue following the GMT increase, multiplied by the GMT increase, per year over 5 years, LESS the contributions already made in years 1 and 2, to be paid per year over the remaining 3 years.

$(15\% \times \text{avg GM profit} \times \text{GMT increase} \times 5) - \text{years 1 \& 2/3}$

Why are funds required to be directed to the Responsible Gambling Fund

Financial contributions made as part of the LIA process are now required to be paid to the Responsible Gambling Fund.

The new requirement commenced on 3 April 2018 following a review of the LIA scheme, which found that a centralised fund would ensure that funds generated through the LIA process would be specifically targeted at gambling harm minimisation, health and social related services for the local community.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority requires venues to make financial contributions into the Responsible Gambling Fund to ensure that contributions are transparent, and to ensure community organisations interested in making a submission during an LIA process are free to either support or oppose a GMT application without fear of losing an opportunity to gain funding.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority is of the view that venues should primarily be providing funding to the Responsible Gambling Fund, as this will allow the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority to more easily assess whether the proposed GMT increase is a positive benefit.

Additional positive contributions

While all financial contributions are required to be made to the Responsible Gambling Fund, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority must have regard to any additional positive contributions made by the venue in connection with the proposed increase to the venue's GMT.

Under Section 36B of the Act, where the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority takes into account additional positive contributions that a venue offers, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may reduce the amount of financial contributions that the venue may be required to pay to satisfy the community benefit requirement.

The Act prescribes that additional positive contribution may include:

- ▲ the putting in place of harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures that are in addition to measures already required by law,
- ▲ for clubs, money paid into the ClubGRANTS Fund over and above their annual liability, and
- ▲ for clubs, money paid into Category 1 of ClubGRANTS that is spent on harm minimisation in excess of the amount required by law.⁴

Criteria for assessing additional positive contribution

In assessing additional positive contributions, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will have regard to the following questions:

continue overleaf

Class 1 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

Is the additional positive contribution being made in excess of any requirement under law?

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority is required to determine whether the venue is going above and beyond any mandatory requirement with respect to harm minimisation, responsible gambling or community contributions.

Venues must clearly explain how the additional positive contribution is different from those required by law.

For example, Hotel B spends \$25,000 a year training staff involved in gaming operations in Responsible Conduct of Gambling. Hotel B is required by law to ensure staff are properly accredited. This expenditure cannot be considered as in excess of a requirement under law.

Is the additional positive contribution being made in connection with the proposed increase in GMT?

In considering this issue, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will consider whether the additional contribution would be made even if the GMT application was not approved.

Venues must clearly explain how the additional positive contribution is additional to what it already does.

Venues should provide clear evidence of any contributions made, or harm minimisation and responsible gambling services offered, over the past five years and clearly explain how the proposed additional contribution is not connected with these past activities.

These additional positive contributions will also be considered in light of any financial benefit that the venue may receive from making these additional positive contributions, including any reduction in tax liability the venue may receive by making the additional positive contribution.

For example, Club B currently is required to provide \$25,000 per year to ClubGRANTS but has paid \$35,000 every year for the past five years. The additional \$10,000 it has paid into ClubGRANTS could not be said to be connected to the GMT increase.

For example, Hotel C currently provides a 1 day a week counselling service costing \$20,000 per year. Hotel C increases the counselling service to 2 days a week at the same time it is preparing its LIA, costing an additional \$15,000 per year. The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may consider the additional \$15,000 to be connected to the GMT increase and may reduce

the financial contribution amount Hotel C is required to pay to the Responsible Gambling Fund by up to \$15,000 per year.

Is the additional positive contribution being made in excess of any requirement that would be required under law if the GMT increase is approved?

In considering this question, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will have regard to whether the additional gaming machines that the venue is seeking approval for would result in its obligations under the law increasing because of the additional gaming machines.

For example, Club C currently has 26 GMEs earning annual average profit of \$38,000 per machine (total gaming machine revenue of \$988,000). Under current ClubGRANTS requirements, Club C is not required to contribute funding to ClubGRANTS.

Club C seeks an additional 26 GMEs, which is likely to increase its total gaming revenue to over \$1 million, at which point Club C will be required to pay 1.85% of its revenue over \$1 million into ClubGRANTS (Category 1 and 2), as well as 0.4% of its revenue over \$1 million into the ClubGRANTS Fund (Category 3). In this scenario, if Club C's revenue increases to \$1.8 million, it would be required to pay \$14,800 into Category 1 and 2 and \$3,200 into Category 3.

Where Club C proposes in its LIA to make a contribution of \$14,800 to harm minimisation services through ClubGRANTS over the next gaming machine tax year, which would represent its obligation if the additional machines were acquired, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may not consider that this contribution is sufficiently additional to allow it to reduce an additional financial contribution to the Responsible Gambling Fund.

How are funds allocated through Category 1 ClubGRANTS to effective harm minimisation services being used?

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will consider the amount of money that has been spent by a club on Category 1 ClubGRANTS eligible harm minimisation services as well as the effectiveness of that service. Any expenditure sought to be claimed must be compliant with the [ClubGRANTS Guidelines](#) issued under the Gaming Machines Tax Act 2001.

continue overleaf

Class 1 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

A club will be required to report on any contributions that it is seeking to rely on to reduce any financial contribution obligations, including providing details in its LIA on:

- ▲ the service that has received the money,
- ▲ how much money the club spent on that service,
- ▲ the location of that service (whether it is provided on club property or offsite),
- ▲ the use of that service by members of the community (including a breakdown of club and non-club member use of service), and
- ▲ how that service can be considered harm minimisation.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority is unlikely to give much weight to contributions made through ClubGRANTS that are not supported by clear evidence on the effectiveness of the harm minimisation service.

For example, Club E provides a \$50,000 funding increase to its ClubGRANTS contributions in the year it makes the GMT increase application. The additional funding is spent on a local drug treatment facility which offers counselling and accommodation services to members of the local community. This service is addressing a comorbidity of problem gambling (i.e. a disease or illness that tends to occur at the same time as problem gambling). The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may allow this funding to be used to reduce the venue's financial contribution requirement.

Has the venue provided sufficient evidence for the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority to be satisfied that the additional contribution has been made?

Venues are required to provide evidence that an additional positive contribution has been made, including evidence that shows that the additional positive contribution is not part of the venue's existing offerings, and the impact of the additional positive contribution.

This may include:

- ▲ records of previous expenditure on a service and evidence on how the new measure is additional,
- ▲ independent evaluation of the service that has been provided as an additional positive contribution, and
- ▲ a proposal on how the additional positive contribution will be carried out if the application is approved.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority notes that it does not consider increased taxes, improved

venue facilities, additional venue employment or similar that might be expected to flow from the grant of the application as forming any part of an assessable positive contribution.

For harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures, are these services currently working at the venue?

In determining whether to discount the financial contribution a venue will be required to make to the Responsible Gambling Fund due to harm minimisation and responsible gambling services offered, or to be offered, by the venue, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will consider the effectiveness of existing measures and the proposed increase in offerings.

This will allow the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority to understand whether the additional harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures are an appropriate offset to financial contributions to the Responsible Gambling Fund by considering who benefits from the services, how accessible it is, and whether there is evidence that indicates that it is effective in reducing gambling related harms.

For example, Hotel D offers a 1 day a week counselling service on its premises costing \$20,000 a year. Hotel D has 28 gaming machines in operation with an annual average profit of \$100,000 per machine. The counselling service only operates on Mondays, is delivered by a counsellor who only has experience in family issues, is hard to find and has only been used by two people in the past 12 months.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may consider that this additional harm minimisation service is not effective and that the \$20,000 a year may be better allocated to a service provider selected by the Responsible Gambling Fund.

Should the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority allow the venue to reduce its additional financial community contribution by the same amount it has spent on additional positive contributions?

Section 36B of the Act requires the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority to have regard to additional positive contributions made by a venue in connection with the proposed GMT increase.

However, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority is not required to reduce the amount that a venue may be required to make as a financial contribution to the

continue overleaf

Class 1 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

Responsible Gambling Fund by the same amount that the venue has made through an additional positive contribution.

Where a club seeks to use contributions made through Category 1 ClubGRANTS to harm minimisation services as an additional positive contribution, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may allow that contribution to offset up to 30 per cent of the overall total positive contribution. To be clear, a club can only use contributions made through Category 1 ClubGRANTS to harm minimisation services to make up to 30 per cent of the total positive contribution that the club is required to make in order to satisfy the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority that the additional gaming machines will make a positive contribution to the community.

For example, Club F has provided an additional \$50,000 a year to fund a harm minimisation officer responsible for client care and monitoring (beyond the responsible conduct of gambling requirements of all staff) through ClubGRANTS in connection with a GMT increase application (in compliance with cl 2.3.3 of the [Guidelines](#)).

The officer is based in the club, with only members of the club able to access the service. The Responsible Gambling Fund provides funding for a similar service in the same area, which is used by more people who are gambling in different venues.

In this case, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may consider that the funding provided by the Responsible Gambling Fund is a more effective use of funding, and that the club should be encouraged to provide additional funding to that service.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may allow Club F to reduce its financial contribution by \$15,000, which recognises that clubs should continue to receive an incentive to respond to gambling related harms in their venues, while also acknowledging that the community as a whole will receive a stronger positive benefit if the Responsible Gambling Fund gains additional funds.

Consultation requirements for a Class 1 LIA

A venue undertaking a Class 1 LIA must initiate a community consultation process that provides members of the community the opportunity to comment on the GMT increase application. These submissions will be used by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority to assess the likely impact of additional gaming machines on the community.

A venue undertaking a Class 1 LIA must within two working days after submission of the GMT increase application:

- ▲ provide a copy of the application and LIA to the local council for the area where the venue is situated, and the local police,
- ▲ notify the following that an application has been made and advise of the availability of the LIA on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website at liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au:
 - the [local health district](#) for the area where the venue is situated,
 - any organisation in the Local Government Area that receives funding from the Responsible Gambling Fund to provide gambling-related counselling or treatment services, and
 - any other organisations that provide services in the Local Government Area relating to welfare, emergency relief, financial assistance, Aboriginal health and legal assistance, or gambling and addiction counselling or treatment, and which are listed as providing these services by the local council.

The applicant must advise the above organisations that they have 60 calendar days after the date the venue's application is posted on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website to make a submission to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority.

For the purposes of notification, a venue is only required to provide information on the LIA, as detailed above, by email or post.

continue overleaf

Class 1 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

The applicant must also, after having made the submission of the GMT increase application and LIA, within two working days:

- ▲ place an advertisement in a local newspaper circulating in the area in which the relevant venue is situated, and
- ▲ display a notice in a conspicuous area outside the venue, or on the perimeter of the site if the venue has not been built.

All venues must include a statutory declaration detailing that they provided a copy, or notification, of the LIA to relevant organisations, and detailing the notices that have been advertised in a local newspaper and at the venue. The statutory declaration must be submitted to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority before the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will consider the venue's application and LIA.

Organisations required to be notified of an LIA

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will apply the following criteria in determining whether a requirement to notify an organisation has been complied with.

Local council – the council responsible for the Local Government Area that the venue resides in. To find out which local council your venue is in, please visit <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/find-my-council>

Local police – a police station within the Local Area Command that the venue is in. To find out your nearest police station, please visit http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/about_us/regions_local_area_commands

Responsible Gambling Fund services in the Local Government Area – To find service providers in local area that the venue is in, please visit <https://gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au/get-help/meet-a-counsellor/>

Other organisations in the local area – Where a local council provides a list of organisations in the Local Government Area that provide services relating to welfare, emergency relief, financial assistance, Aboriginal health and legal assistance, or gambling and addiction counselling or treatment a venue must notify all organisations on the list. Where no such list is available, a venue is only required to notify the other organisations listed above.

Where a council lists organisations that the venue considers does not provide relevant services in the local area, the venue is able to detail which organisations were not notified and reasons why in its statutory declaration.

Advertisement and notice requirements

The advertisement and notice publicising the proposed GMT increase must:

- ▲ use standard words provided by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority explaining what an LIA and GMT is,
- ▲ state that the GMT application has been made and that the LIA has been provided with the application,
- ▲ explain the nature of the application (i.e. that the proposed application seeks an increase to the number of gaming machines that the venue is authorised to operated),
- ▲ advise that the application and the LIA may be inspected on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website, and
- ▲ advise that any person may make a submission to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority in relation to the GMT application and/or the LIA within 60 days after the application and LIA is posted on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website.

continue overleaf

Class 1 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

Making a submission on a Class 1 LIA

All venues are required to undertake a minimum 60 days of community consultation of an LIA. LIA community consultation processes are intended to ensure that the views of the local community on proposed increases in the number of gaming machines in the community are considered by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority in assessing whether to approve a GMT increase application.

Where a venue is required to undertake a Class 1 LIA (see above to see what class of LIA a venue is required to undertake), the venue must satisfy the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority that the proposed GMT increase for the venue will provide a positive contribution to the local community.

Content of submissions

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will accept any submission made in response to an LIA. the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority does not impose a limit on what the submissions can include, but encourages submissions that specifically address the proposed increase of gaming machines in the community, and are less than 10 pages.

When assessing an LIA, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will consider the following issues, which submissions may wish to address:

- ▲ has the LIA appropriately identified the local community?
- ▲ has the LIA demonstrated that the venue will operate the additional gaming activities in a responsible manner?
- ▲ if the venue is a new hotel or new club, is it in the immediate vicinity of a school, place of worship or hospital?
- ▲ has the proposed positive contribution identified by the venue in its LIA met the requirements set out in the Guidelines for what the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority considers to constitute a positive contribution to the local community?

When making a submission, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority encourages submissions that address the issues that are detailed in the LIA, or identifies those that have not been addressed in the LIA but are relevant to the venue's GMT increase application, such as a concurrent application to extend licensed trading hours.

Submissions may attach additional information to be considered by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority in its assessment of the GMT increase application and LIA, however this additional information should continue to address specific issues raised by the venue's GMT increase application.

General statements regarding perceived problem gambling that could result from an increase in gaming machines in the area are not encouraged as they do not assist the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority in understanding the likely specific impact of the application being considered.

Submissions that seek to raise concerns about perceived problem gambling impacts should seek to use some form of evidence or provide sufficient detail to explain the cause for concern based on experience, and knowledge of, the existing or proposed venue. This may include personal experiences of gambling at the venue or in the local area.

For example, a submission that opposed the proposed GMT increase on the basis that all gaming machines in NSW should be removed is unlikely to be given much weight by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority. The statement could apply to any area in NSW, is unlikely to assist the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority in assessing the impact of additional gaming machines on this particular local community, and addresses issues that are not relevant to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority (i.e. the lawfulness of gaming machines)

For example, a submission that opposed the proposed GMT increase at Hotel D on the basis that it has a poor history of abiding with Responsible Conduct of Gambling requirements is likely to be given weight by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority. Hotel D would be required to respond to this submission as it raises specific issues with respect to the operation of gaming machines at the venue.

For example, a submission responding to an LIA prepared by Club F that argues that harm minimisation services offered by the club that Club F is seeking to use as an additional positive contribution are not effective and that the service funded by the Responsible Gambling Fund is more useful will likely be given weight by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority as it addresses the additional positive contributions that Club F has identified as providing a benefit to the community.

continue overleaf

Class 1 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

For example, a submission by a problem gambling treatment expert argues that no additional machines should be introduced into a specific SA2 because of particular risk factors of the local community (for example, the venue is located next to Centrelink or social housing). This submission is likely to be given weight by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority as it has been prepared by a relevant expert and addresses the potential negative impacts on the specific community.

Checklist for making a submission

- ▲ Read the LIA to understand how the venue addresses impacts of additional gaming machines in local community,
- ▲ Prepare a submission that specifically address the venue's application,
- ▲ Include relevant information to support submission, which may include facts and figures, research or personal experience,
- ▲ Identify any parts of the submission that you wish to remain confidential, including personal information, and
- ▲ Submission on LIA is succinct and made to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority within 60 days of the LIA being posted on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website

continue overleaf

Class 1 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

What happens to a submission made during a Class 1 LIA?

All submissions on the LIA made by members of the community or community organisations are to be submitted to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority via Liquor & Gaming NSW.

Relevant issues raised in the submissions will then be provided to the venue to allow the venue the opportunity to respond or address issues raised.

Both the submission and the applicant's response to issues raised will be considered by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority during its review of the LIA.

How do venues respond to submissions made during community consultation?

Venues are required to respond to all issues that have been raised in submissions. However, where a submission makes general statements about gaming machines, gambling harm or problem gambling that are not targeted to the venue's application, venues will not be required to respond to these issues.

However, a venue will be required to provide a response to the following issues, if they are raised in a submission:

- ▲ the LIA has not correctly identified or described the local community,
- ▲ it is inappropriate to introduce additional gaming machines because of specific gambling harm and problem gambling risks in the local area,
- ▲ the venue does not operate existing gaming machines in a responsible manner or is unlikely to operate any additional gaming machines in a responsible manner,
- ▲ the venue has failed to satisfy harm minimisation requirements or is unlikely to do so if it acquires additional gaming machines,
- ▲ for a new hotel or new club, the venue is in the immediate vicinity of a school, place of worship or hospital,
- ▲ the proposed positive contribution to be made to the local community if the GMT increase application is approved does not meet the amount required by these Guidelines, and
- ▲ the additional positive contributions proposed by the venue are not sufficient to meet the requirements detailed in these Guidelines.

How will the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority consider venue responses to submissions?

All submissions made during an LIA review and any responses made by a venue are collated and provided to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority for consideration. Before the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority considers the GMT increase application, LIA and submissions, licensing staff from Liquor & Gaming NSW will undertake an initial assessment of the LIA and submissions, and provide advice to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority on the LIA and submissions.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will then, in assessing a venue's LIA and any response to a submission made during an LIA process, have regard to:

- ▲ the issues raised by the submission
- ▲ whether the issues that have been raised in the submission are relevant to the venue's GMT increase application
- ▲ the extent to which the venue responds to specific concerns, including relevant facts, figures and research, and personal experiences raised by the submission, and
- ▲ the extent to which the venue amends its application or LIA in response to specific concerns.

What conditions may be placed on a successful GMT increase?

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may impose conditions on a successful GMT increase that a venue must satisfy before the GMT can take effect.

While the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may impose any form of condition that is authorised under the Act or Regulation, the following provide a guide on conditions that may be imposed following a GMT increase approval.

A venue should use this guide to understand the likely steps it may be required to undertake following a GMT increase approval.

Venue is required to make payment of any financial contributions to the Responsible Gambling Fund

This condition is imposed to ensure that where a venue is required to make a financial contribution to the Responsible Gambling Fund that it does so by a certain date.

continue overleaf

Class 1 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

The Responsible Gambling Fund will issue a receipt of payment directly to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority at which point the venue's GMT will increase.

A venue may be required to make periodic payments, for example once every year. The venue will be required to provide evidence for every payment.

For example, by 31 March 2018 Hotel E must provide evidence to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority that it has made a payment of \$20,000, as an LIA contribution, to the Responsible Gambling Fund. Hotel E must also make further payments of \$20,000 on 31 March each year from 2019 to 2022.

Venue is required to undertake additional positive contributions identified by the venue in its LIA in terms set by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority

Where the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority takes into account additional positive contributions made by a venue (see above), the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may require the venue to continue to undertake the additional positive contributions for a set period of time. These contributions may also be required to be published at liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au.

For example, where the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority reduces Club G's financial contribution to the Responsible Gambling Fund by \$20,000 a year due to ongoing contributions by Club G to ClubGRANTS eligible harm minimisation initiatives, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may require that Club G continue to make these contributions for five (5) years.

Venue is required to undertake additional harm minimisation and responsible gambling services in terms set by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may also impose a condition for a venue to undertake harm minimisation or responsible gambling measures or services that it has not previously offered.

This condition is likely to be used where the increase in the number of gaming machines at the venue makes it appropriate to increase the harm minimisation and responsible gambling obligations of the venue.

For example, Hotel F is required to appoint a dedicated responsible gaming manager who will be responsible for oversight of harm minimisation and responsible gambling in Hotel F.

Consequences for failing to abide by a condition

Section 36(7) of the Act provides that where a venue does not comply with a condition imposed on the LIA approval the LIA is taken to have no effect.

Where a venue fails to fulfil a condition imposed by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will reduce the venue's GMT to the level it was before the LIA was made.

For example, Club H has a GMT of 50 and seeks an increase of 20 to take its GMT to 70. The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority imposes a condition that Club H pays \$50,000 to the Responsible Gambling Fund every year for five years. Club H's GMT is increased to 70 once it makes the first annual payment.

If Club H does not pay in year 3, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will reduce Club H's GMT from 70 to 50 until it makes its annual payment and would not be able to operate 20 gaming machines during this time.

Where a venue's GMT is reduced because of failure to abide by a condition imposed on the LIA, and the venue operates gaming machines during the period the GMT is reduced, it may commit an offence. A venue may be liable for a maximum penalty of \$11,000 for each offence committed.

continue overleaf

Class 1 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

Appendix A – Checklist for venues

Local Impact Assessment preparation

- ☐ Executive summary of LIA of no more than one (1) page,
- ☐ details of the venue and local community comprising no more than two (2) pages,
- ☐ details of harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures,
- ☐ details of the benefits that the venue will provide to the local community if the threshold increase application is approved comprising no more than two (2) pages, and
- ☐ any attachments required to provide further information on the GMT increase application.

Local Impact Assessment notification

- ☐ Provided a copy of the GMT increase application and LIA to the local council for the area where the venue is situated,
- ☐ provided a copy of the GMT increase application and LIA to the local police for the area where the venue is situated,
- ☐ notified the following that they have 60 calendar days after the date the venue's application is posted on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website to make a submission:
 - local health district for the area,
 - all organisations in the Local Government Area that receives funding from the Responsible Gambling Fund to provide gambling-related counselling or treatment services, and
 - all other organisations that provide services in the Local Government Area relating to welfare, emergency relief, financial assistance, Aboriginal health and legal assistance, or gambling and addiction counselling or treatment, and which are listed as providing these services by the local council,
- ☐ placed an advertisement in a local newspaper circulating in the area in which the relevant venue is situated indicating that a GMT increase has been made and that an LIA is being undertaken,

- ☐ displayed a notice in a conspicuous area outside the venue, or on the perimeter of the site if the venue has not been built, indicating that a GMT increase has been made and that an LIA is being undertaken, and
- ☐ provided a signed statutory declaration to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority detailing the steps taken to notify relevant community organisations and local government agencies of the application and LIA.

Local Impact Assessment consultation

- ☐ Consultation of LIA has been open for 60 calendar days after the date the venue's application is posted on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website,
- ☐ all submissions made during the consultation process have been provided to the applicant by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority, and
- ☐ all submissions made during the consultation process have been responded to by the venue.

Conditions on Gaming Machine Threshold Increase Approval

- ☐ Venue has fulfilled all conditions placed on GMT increase, and
- ☐ venue does not acquire additional GMEs or gaming machines before GMT increase takes effect.

For further information

To find out more contact Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority secretariat:

@ ilga.secretariat@liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au

GL4022 - Guideline 12

Class 2

Local Impact Assessment process guidelines



The Class 2 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines are issued by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority under section 36C of the *Gaming Machines Act 2001*.

The Guidelines are intended to provide applicants and members of the community with guidance on:

- how applications for a Gaming Machine Threshold (GMT) increase should be made,
- how to undertake a Class 2 Local Impact Assessment,
- how to make a submission on a Class 2 Local Impact Assessment,
- what the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority considers to be an 'overall positive impact' on a local community for the purposes of a Local Impact Assessment,
- what other factors the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may consider in assessing a GMT increase application, and
- what conditions the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may impose on its approval of a Class 2 Local Impact Assessment.

A checklist for venues is also included at Appendix A.

These Guidelines are intended to give additional information to applicants and the community, and may not need to be read in their entirety for a Local Impact Assessment to be conducted.

The Guidelines do not limit the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority's discretion when deciding a particular application, including what may be an 'overall positive impact' for the local community.

These Guidelines are subject to, and are in addition of, any requirement set out in the *Gaming Machines Act 2001* or Gaming Machines Regulation 2019 (the Regulation).

For information on the Class 1 Local Impact Assessment process, visit liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au

Overview

All clubs and hotels in NSW are subject to an individual threshold on how many gaming machines they are permitted to operate. This is known as their Gaming Machine Threshold (GMT), against which they can purchase or lease Gaming Machine Entitlements (GME) and Poker Machine Permits (PMP) from other venues¹.

Depending on the classification of the Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) where a club or hotel is located, the venue may or may not be required to undertake a Local Impact Assessment (LIA) when applying for an increase to its GMT.

The LIA process is designed to assess the impact of introducing additional gaming machines into an SA2, i.e. where a venue seeks to fill their GMT by sourcing GMEs from other parts of NSW.

What is the GMT?

The GMT is a number that limits:

- for a club, the number of GMEs that the club is approved to hold,
- for a hotel, the number of GMEs and PMPs the hotel is approved to hold. For a hotel the GMT is capped at 30.

For a new club or new hotel, or an existing club or hotel licence moved to a new address, the GMT is zero until an application is lodged and approved for a higher GMT. Further information regarding how a new club or new hotel may apply for a higher GMT can be found in Class 1 LIA process guidelines [here](#).

Note that an increase in a venue's GMT does not mean there will be more gaming machines in NSW. Venues wishing to fill an increase in their GMT can only do so by sourcing existing GMEs (or PMPs for hotels) from other venues. When GMEs are traded among venues, a portion of the GMEs are (with some exceptions) forfeited to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority.

continue overleaf

¹ PMPs are confined to hotels and may be traded but not leased.

Class 2 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

What are 'SA2s' and how are they classified into 'Bands'?

An SA2 is a geographical boundary set by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Each SA2 is classified by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority into Band 1 (low risk), Band 2 (medium risk) and Band 3 (high risk) depending on the gaming machine density, gaming machine expenditure and the relative socio-economic disadvantage of the SA2.

Each SA2 is assigned a score with a weighting of:

- 70% [Socio-Economic Indexes for Area \(SEIFA\)](#)
- 15% gaming machine expenditure per capita
- 15% number of gaming machines per capita.

All SA2s in NSW are then ranked into Band 1, Band 2, Band 3 according with the:

- bottom 20% (i.e. those with the highest levels of socio-economic disadvantage) are put into Band 3
- next 30% are put into Band 2
- remaining 50% (i.e. those with the lowest levels of socio-economic disadvantage) are put into Band 1.

Further information on the classifications of SA2s, including an interactive map that provides information on your community, is available [here](#).

What are the different types of LIA and when are they required?

The purpose of an LIA is to inform and support a community consultation process that will enable the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority to determine whether approving the application to increase a venue's GMT will provide either a positive contribution to the local community or an overall positive impact on the local community.

There are two types of LIA that may be required to be completed before a GMT increase application can be approved by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority:

- A Class 1 LIA requires the applicant to demonstrate that the proposed increase in the GMT will provide a positive contribution to the local community².
- a Class 2 LIA requires the applicant to demonstrate that the proposed increase in the GMT will have an overall positive impact on the local community.

An LIA is required to accompany any application for an increase in a venue's GMT according to the following rules:

Band	Low Range increase (up to 20)	Mid-Range increase (21 to 40)	High Range increase (over 40)
1	No LIA req'd	Class 1 LIA	Class 2 LIA
2	Class 1 LIA	Class 2 LIA	Class 2 LIA
3	No GMT increases permitted via an LIA process ³		

When are LIAs not required?

An LIA is not required in certain circumstances, largely where machines are moving within a local area. This is because the purpose of the LIA is to assess the impact of an increased number of machines in a particular area, not the impact of an increase at a specific venue.

A venue in a Band 3 SA2 seeking to increase its GMT is not required to undertake an LIA where it is acquiring additional GMEs from a venue:

1. in the same SA2, or
2. in another Band 3 SA2 in the same Local Government Area, or
3. in any directly bordering Band 3 SA2, even if this is in a different Local Government Area (note: this does not apply to the Fairfield Local Government Area).

A venue in a Band 2 SA2 seeking to increase its GMT is not required to undertake an LIA where it is acquiring additional GMEs from a venue:

1. in the same SA2, or
2. in another Band 2 SA2 in the same Local Government Area, or
3. in any directly bordering Band 2 or 3 SA2, even if this is in a different Local Government Area (note: this does not apply to the Fairfield Local Government Area).

Venues in Band 1 can increase their GMT without an LIA where they are acquiring additional GMEs from a venue in any SA2 in the same Local Government Area, or if the total of the all GMT increases granted for the venue over the past 12 months was 20 or less.

² These Guidelines do not deal with Class 1 LIAs.

continue overleaf

³ Threshold increases may be approved where a venue is acquiring entitlements or permits from another venue listed in section 35(b)-(d) of the *Gaming Machines Act 2001*.

Class 2 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

For example, Figure 1 shows a portion of the Blacktown Local Government Area (right side of map) and Penrith Local Government Area (left side of map).

Band 3 ■ Band 2 ■ Band 1 ■

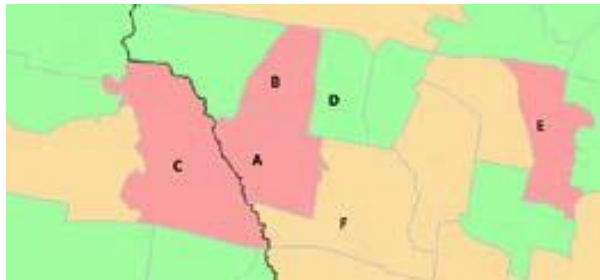


Figure 1

In Figure 1, a venue in SA2 "A" can apply for a GMT increase without an LIA where it is acquiring GMEs from a venue in:

- SA2 "A" (same Band 3 SA2)
- SA2 "B" or SA2 "E" (Band 3 SA2s in same Local Government Area)
- SA2 "C" (directly bordering Band 3 SA2)

SA2 "A" is a Band 3 and is subject to an area cap. As no additional gaming machines can be introduced from non-Band 3 SA2s, a venue in SA2 "A" cannot source GMEs from "D" or "F".

As SA2 "F" is a Band 2 SA2, a venue in SA2 "F" can acquire entitlements from SA2 "A", "B" or "E" without undertaking an LIA as all SA2s are in the same Local Government Area, but cannot acquire from a venue in SA2 "D" without undertaking an LIA as SA2 "D" is a lower banding.

Preparing a Class 2 LIA

Overview

The purpose of a Class 2 LIA is to inform and support a community consultation process that will enable the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority to determine whether approving an increase to a venue's GMT will make an overall positive impact to the local community.

Approving an LIA

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may only approve a Class 2 LIA if it is satisfied:

- that the LIA complies with the requirements under the *Gaming Machines Act 2001* (the Act) or *Gaming Machines Regulation 2019* (the Regulation) –

including the requirement for a report of the results of the pre-submission consultation process, with that report including details and outcomes of any meetings or discussions held in relation to the proposed application,

- that the LIA demonstrates that gambling activities at the venue will be conducted in a responsible manner consistent with sound gambling harm minimisation principles and practices, and there is evidence of the effectiveness of existing harm minimisation and responsible gambling strategies at the venue,
- that the LIA demonstrates that the proposed increase in gaming machines for the venue will have an overall positive impact on the local community in which the venue is situated,
- if the venue is a new hotel or club, the venue is not in the immediate vicinity of a school, place of public worship or hospital, and
- community concerns arising out of the community consultation process have been appropriately addressed by the venue.

Format

All Class 2 LIAs should follow the following format:

- executive summary of LIA of no more than two (2) A4 (single-sided) pages,
- details of the venue and local community comprising no more than two (2) pages,
- details of the harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures in place (or planned) and evidence of the effectiveness of existing harm minimisation and responsible gambling strategies at the venue,
- details of the community consultation carried out prior to lodging the application, including who was contacted, what issues were raised and any proposals to address these concerns,
- details of the benefits to and overall positive impact on the local community (i.e. net benefit) that the venue will provide if the threshold increase application is approved, comprising no more than two (2) pages,
- details of any negative social or economic impact that the proposed threshold increase may have on the local community and the action that will be taken to address that impact, and
- any attachments required to provide further information about the application.

continue overleaf

Class 2 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

Executive summary

The executive summary should provide the reader with a high level overview of the venue's application and should be no more than five (5) A4 (single-sided) pages.

The executive summary should concisely detail:

- the venue's current GMT and the proposed increase,
- the venue's name, address and licence number,
- the local government area and SA2 it is situated in and the name of any other SA2 within five (5) kilometres of the venue,
- (in the case of a hotel) the name and address of the business owner, and the contact details of the business owner or their representative,
- a map of the area within a 1 kilometre radius of the venue showing the location of the venue and the location and name of:
 - any other licensed premises, with hotels and registered clubs,
 - any sporting or community facility, and
 - any school, place of public worship or hospital (in the case of a new hotel or registered club, the Authority must be satisfied that the new venue is not in the immediate vicinity of these types of premises).
- current number of GMEs and/or PMPs held by the venue,
- current harm minimisation and responsible gambling practices and services offered by the venue and evidence of their effectiveness at minimising gambling related harm or encouraging responsible gambling,
- the overall positive impact the venue proposes to make if the GMT increase application is approved, and
- details of any negative social or economic impact that the proposed threshold increase may have on the local community and the action that will be taken to address that impact,

Details of the venue and local community

An LIA should provide the reader details of the venue and the local community it sits within.

Applicants are encouraged to include a map of the surrounding area, which identifies the venue, and the SA2 it sits within, as well as any other SA2s within five (5) kilometres.

An interactive map that provides information on all venues is available [here](#). This map may be used by applicants in preparing an LIA.

Clause 31 of the Regulation provides that where the LIA is made in relation to a new hotel or a new club, the venue is also required to include a map showing the location of the venue and the location of any school, place of public worship or hospital within 200 metres of the venue.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority must be satisfied that the new venue is not in the immediate vicinity of these types of premises.

Venue applicants are required to provide information on the venue itself, including:

- the size of the venue (internal floor space in square metres),
- the floor space of the venue, including the location and floor space dedicated (or to be dedicated) to gaming,
- a description of the facilities or services offered and the activities conducted at the venue where the additional gaming machines are proposed to be offered
- the venue's current GMT,
- current number of GMEs or PMPs held by the venue,
- current hours of operation, including any exemption/variation of the general 6 hour mandatory gaming machine shutdown period,
- an outline of any expected increase in patronage should the GMT increase be approved,
- details of any additional positive contributions by the venue in connection with the threshold increase application⁴.

continue overleaf

⁴ As referred to in section 36B of the Act and detailed on Page 7 of these guidelines.

Class 2 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

- a current patron profile that shows the distribution of places of residence, gender, occupation and age of patrons and other relevant information relating to the venue's patrons. This profile is to be based on a survey of patrons that will enhance the Authority's understanding of the characteristics of those who frequent, or who are expected to frequent, the venue. The survey should comprise at least two of the following:
 - responses to a questionnaire provided to a reasonably representative sample of patrons
 - responses to interviews conducted with a reasonably representative sample of patrons
 - an examination of patron information held by the venue
 - any other mechanism by which the characteristics of the venue's patrons may be reasonably reliably ascertained, and
 - details of harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures (in addition to those required by law) in place in the venue and evidence of their effectiveness at minimising gambling related harm or encouraging responsible gambling.
- numbers of gaming machines in registered clubs and hotels in the SA2 and LGA for each of the previous five years
- current GMEs and/or PMPs for registered clubs and hotels in the SA2 and LGA,
- quarterly gaming machine expenditure in the SA2 and LGA for the previous 5 years, and
- social profile information, including:
 - actual (census) and estimated adult population of the SA2 and LGA,
 - population:
 - no. in age group 18-24,
 - no. in age group 60+,
 - Indigenous population, including numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people,
 - country of birth of persons,
 - number and percentage of population who did not complete year 12,
 - unemployment levels,
 - number employed as labourers,
 - number employed as administrative and support service workers,
 - income distribution of the SA2 and LGA,
 - comparison of gaming machine expenditure with household income for the SA2 and LGA,
 - SEIFA indices, and
 - number and percentage of relationship by household.

The Authority must be satisfied that the LIA demonstrates that gambling activities in the relevant venue will be conducted in a responsible manner. For this purpose, the Authority will review details of those measures currently in place at the venue (aside from those required by law). The Authority requires evidence of the effectiveness of these additional measures and an assurance that these will continue.

Information about any further measures the venue proposes to adopt if the application is granted will also be taken into account.

In the case of a new hotel or registered club, the LIA should include information about the measures that are proposed to be put in place. This should be supported by evidence of the effectiveness of the proposed measures at other venues or by research.

In addition to a map of the local area, venue applicants are required to provide data on, and information on the social profile of, the community, including:

- total number of gaming machines in the SA2 and LGA for each of the previous five years
- numbers of gaming machines per adult in the SA2 and LGA for each of the previous five years

If the venue is located within five kilometres of another SA2, this gaming-related and social profile information must be provided for each relevant SA2.

Gaming related information for each relevant SA2 and LGA may be purchased from Liquor & Gaming NSW. Please use form ERG100 'Gaming Machine Data Request' available at liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au. Charges and payment details can be found on the form.

Social profile information required for each relevant SA2 and LGA should be obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. For further information visit the ABS website at abs.gov.au.

continue overleaf

Class 2 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

Harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures

Clause 34 of the Regulation requires a LIA to include details of the harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures that are in place at the venue.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority considers "harm minimisation" to mean interventions and measures to prevent or reduce the negative social, economic and physical harms that can occur from gambling.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority considers that the concept of "responsible gambling" is a broad one which recognises gambling is a legitimate, lawful and regulated activity in NSW and that there are benefits associated with gambling activities, but also that gambling can cause personal and social harms. Activities that promote responsible gambling include those which seek to:

- enable persons to make informed decisions about their participation in gambling,
- minimise the potential for, and incidence of, harm associated with gambling, and
- reduce the incidence and prevalence of problem gambling.

A venue's current and proposed harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures will be used by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority to understand what the impact of additional gaming machines at the venue will be on the community. These proposed harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures must satisfy the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority that gambling activities at the venue will be conducted in a responsible manner.

All hotel and clubs in NSW are required by law to offer a suite of harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures.

The LIA should detail clearly what harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures are offered by the venue, and specifically differentiate between measures that are required to be offered by law and those that the venue has voluntarily offered.

The LIA should also detail clearly the effectiveness of the venue's existing harm minimisation strategies. This includes providing evidence demonstrating the operation and outcome of harm minimisation measures (for example, an increase in the use of in-house counselling services). The LIA should also detail

clearly the operation of proposed harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures, including their anticipated effectiveness, using evidence from other venues or research where appropriate.

Mandatory harm minimisation requirements include:

- gambling signage, including counselling, chance of winning and gaming machine notice,
- Gambling Help wording on all player activity statements, ATMs and cash-back terminals and cash-back terminals operated by a player card,
- having a self-exclusion scheme in place, including publicising the availability of the self-exclusion scheme,
- minors must be prohibited from entering gaming areas of the venue,
- prohibition on any externally visible gaming machine advertising or signage,
- restrictions on use of cheques as a method of payment for use of gaming machines and payment of any prizes, including cheque prize limit of \$5,000,
- restrictions on cash payments,
- prohibition on the placement of ATMs in gaming areas, including prohibition on ATMs that dispense cash from a credit card account,
- where a player reward or player account card system is offered, player activity statements must be provided,
- all staff involved in gambling related duties hold Responsible Conduct of Gambling qualifications, and
- mandatory gaming machine shutdown.

Additional harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures may include:

- gambling help counselling services funded or hosted by the venue, including details on its hours of operation and who can (and does) access those services,
- pre-commitment player cards, and
- activities designed to prevent and highlight potential harms from gambling, for example an education program for vulnerable groups about the potential harms from gambling and how to seek help.

continue overleaf

Class 2 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

Impact on the local community

Under the Act, where a Class 2 LIA must be undertaken, a venue is required to satisfy the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority that the proposed increase in the number of gaming machines at the venue will make an overall positive impact on the community. Further information on how the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will determine what constitutes a positive impact is detailed below.

Clause 34 of the Regulation requires that a Class 2 LIA must specify the following matters:

- the applicant's view of the positive impact (both social and economic) that the proposed increase in the GMT will have on the local community, including details of the benefits that the venue will provide, and
- the applicant's view of any negative social or economic impact that the proposed increase will have on the local community and the action that will be taken to address that impact.

For the purposes of a Class 2 LIA 'local community' comprises:

- a. the people in the area (or group) from which persons using the services and facilities of the venue are likely to be drawn,
- b. the people in the area (or group):
 - (i) that is to derive, or is likely to derive, social or economic benefit if the threshold increase is approved, or
 - (ii) that is to suffer, or is likely to suffer, social or economic detriment if the threshold increase is approved.

The Authority has the discretion to consider individuals or groups in neighbouring SA2s to be part of the broader 'local community' for the purposes of a Class 2 LIA.

The Authority will generally not consider the following propositions to be a 'positive impact' for the purposes of its assessment of the LIA:

- that a financial benefit to the applicant is the equivalent of an economic benefit to the local community,

- that an impact assessment is a quantified result, nor
- that there is only one community (i.e. everyone in the community is the same and the effects of the increase are experienced the same way).

Under the Act, a venue cannot use a financial contribution to the community to wholly satisfy the Authority that the additional gaming machines will provide the community a benefit other than by the venue making a financial contribution to the Responsible Gambling Fund. To be clear, all venues must make a financial contribution to the Responsible Gambling Fund for the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority to be satisfied that the community will receive a positive benefit from the additional gaming machines.

A venue may also make additional positive contributions that will be taken into account by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority. Where a venue has already made an additional positive contribution in connection with the proposed GMT increase, or where they are proposing to do so, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may take this into account when assessing what additional financial contributions the venue will be required to provide to the Responsible Gambling Fund.

Where a venue provides information of additional positive contributions it is making or will make, it must have regard to the criteria that the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will use in assessing whether the GMT will provide a positive impact to the community, which is detailed below.

Further information concerning the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority's assessment of the negative social or economic impact that a proposed threshold increase will have on a local community can also be found below.

What constitutes a "positive impact" for a Class 2 LIA?

Financial contribution amount

In assessing the impact of additional gaming machines on a community, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority is required to determine whether the additional gaming machines would make an overall positive impact on the community.

continue overleaf

Class 2 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

In assessing whether a donation proposed to support a Class 2 LIA satisfies the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority that the donation should be considered a positive impact, the Authority will have regard to the following formula:

40% of average profit of existing gaming machines before tax x GMT increase x 5 years.

For example, Hotel A currently holds 10 GMEs with an average annual profit of \$40,000 per machine. Hotel A applies for a GMT increase of five (5). In order to satisfy the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority that the proposed increase will provide a benefit to the community, Hotel A may be required to pay \$80,000 (40% of \$40,000 = \$16,000 x GMT increase of five (5) = \$80,000) each year for five (5) years. Over the 5 years the hotel will be required to pay \$400,000.

All financial contributions must be made to the Responsible Gambling Fund, and cannot be made by the venue to a nominated community organisation.

Why are funds required to be directed to the Responsible Gambling Fund?

Financial contributions made as part of the LIA process are paid to the Responsible Gambling Fund to ensure that funds generated through the LIA process are specifically targeted at gambling harm minimisation, health and social related services for the local community.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority requires venues to make financial contributions into the Responsible Gambling Fund to ensure that contributions are transparent, and to ensure community organisations interested in making a submission during an LIA process are free to either support or oppose a GMT application without fear of losing an opportunity to gain funding.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority is of the view that venues should primarily be providing funding to the Responsible Gambling Fund, as this will allow the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority to more easily assess whether the proposed GMT increase is a positive benefit.

Additional positive contributions

While all financial contributions are required to be made to the Responsible Gambling Fund, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority must have regard to any additional positive contributions made by the venue in

connection with the proposed increase to the venue's GMT. This includes any contribution that may have a positive impact on the local community that offsets any negative social or economic impacts of the proposed GMT increase.

Under Section 36B of the Act, where the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority takes into account additional positive contributions that a venue offers, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may reduce the amount of financial contributions that the venue may be required to pay to satisfy the community benefit requirement.

The Act prescribes that additional positive contributions may include:

- the putting in place of harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures that are in addition to measures already required by law,
- for clubs, money paid into the ClubGRANTS Fund over and above their annual liability, and
- for clubs, money paid into Category 1 of ClubGRANTS that is spent on harm minimisation in excess of the amount required by law⁵.

Criteria for assessing additional positive contribution

In assessing additional positive contributions, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will have regard to the following questions:

Is the additional positive contribution being made in excess of any requirement under law?

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority is required to determine whether the venue is going above and beyond any mandatory requirement with respect to harm minimisation, responsible gambling or community contributions.

Venues must clearly explain how the additional positive contribution is different from those required by law.

For example, Hotel B spends \$25,000 a year training staff involved in gaming operations in Responsible Conduct of Gambling. Hotel B is required by law to ensure staff are properly accredited. This expenditure cannot be considered as in excess of a requirement under law.

continue overleaf

⁵ Section 36B of the Act allows for other actions to be considered additional positive contributions where they are prescribed in the Regulation. There are currently no additional actions prescribed.

Class 2 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

Is the additional positive contribution being made in connection with the proposed increase in GMT?

In considering this issue, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will consider whether the additional contribution would be made even if the GMT application was not approved.

Venues must clearly explain how the additional positive contribution is additional to what it already does.

Venues should provide clear evidence of any contributions made, or harm minimisation and responsible gambling services offered, over the past five years and clearly explain how the proposed additional contribution is not connected with these past activities.

These additional positive contributions will also be considered in light of any financial benefit that the venue may receive from making these additional positive contributions, including any reduction in tax liability the venue may receive by making the additional positive contribution.

For example, Club B currently is required to provide \$25,000 per year to ClubGRANTS but has paid \$35,000 every year for the past five years. The additional \$10,000 it has paid into ClubGRANTS could not be said to be connected to the GMT increase.

Is the additional positive contribution being made in excess of any requirement that would be required under law if the GMT increase is approved?

In considering this question, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will have regard to whether the additional gaming machines that the venue is seeking approval for would result in its obligations under the law increasing because of the additional gaming machines.

For example, Club C currently has 26 GMEs earning annual average profit of \$38,000 per machine (total gaming machine revenue of \$988,000). Under current ClubGRANTS requirements, Club C is not required to contribute funding to ClubGRANTS.

Club C seeks an additional 26 GMEs, which is likely to increase its total gaming revenue to over \$1 million, at which point Club C will be required to pay 1.85% of its revenue over \$1 million into ClubGRANTS (Category 1 and 2), as well as 0.4% of its revenue over \$1 million into the ClubGRANTS Fund (Category 3). In this scenario, Club C's revenue increases to \$1.8 million,

which would require it to pay \$14,800 into Category 1 and 2 and \$3,200 into Category 3.

Where Club C proposes in its LIA to make a contribution of \$14,800 to harm minimisation services through ClubGRANTS over the next gaming machine tax year, which would represent its obligation if the additional machines were acquired, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may not consider that this contribution is sufficiently additional to allow it to reduce an additional financial contribution to the Responsible Gambling Fund.

Has the venue provided sufficient evidence for the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority to be satisfied that the additional contribution has been made?

Venues are required to provide evidence that an additional positive contribution has been made, including evidence that shows that the additional positive contribution is not part of the venue's existing offerings, and the impact of the additional positive contribution.

This may include:

- records of previous expenditure on a service and evidence on how the new measure is additional,
- independent evaluation of the service that has been provided as an additional positive contribution, and
- a proposal on how the additional positive contribution will be carried out if the application is approved.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority notes that it does not consider increased taxes, improved venue facilities, additional venue employment or similar that might be expected to flow from the grant of the application as forming any part of an assessable positive contribution.

For harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures, are these services currently working at the venue?

In determining whether to discount the financial contribution a venue will be required to make to the Responsible Gambling Fund due to harm minimisation and responsible gambling services offered, or to be offered, by the venue, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will consider the effectiveness of existing measures and the proposed increase in offerings.

continue overleaf

Class 2 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

This will allow the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority to understand whether the additional harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures are an appropriate offset to financial contributions to the Responsible Gambling Fund by considering who benefits from the services, how accessible it is, and whether there is evidence that indicates that it is effective in reducing gambling related harms.

For example, Hotel D offers a 1 day a week counselling service on its premises costing \$20,000 a year. Hotel D has 28 gaming machines in operation with an annual average profit of \$100,000 per machine. The counselling service only operates on Mondays, is delivered by a counsellor who only has experience in family issues, operates from a room at the back of the hotel that is not well signed or easily accessible, and has only been used by two people in the past 12 months.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may consider that this additional harm minimisation service is not effective and that the \$20,000 a year may be better allocated to a service provider selected by the Responsible Gambling Fund.

How are funds allocated through Category 1 ClubGRANTS to effective harm minimisation services being used?

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will consider the amount of money that has been spent by a club on Category 1 ClubGRANTS eligible harm minimisation services as well as the effectiveness of that service. Any expenditure sought to be claimed must be compliant with the [ClubGRANTS Guidelines](#) issued under the *Gaming Machines Tax Act 2001*.

A club will be required to report on any contributions that it is seeking to rely on to reduce any financial contribution obligations, including providing details in its LIA on:

- the service that has received the money,
- how much money the club spent on that service,
- the location of that service (whether it is provided on club property or offsite),
- the use of that service by members of the community (including a breakdown of club and non-club member use of service), and
- how that service can be considered harm minimisation.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority is unlikely to give much weight to contributions made through ClubGRANTS that are not supported by clear evidence on the effectiveness of the harm minimisation service.

For example, Club D runs an advertising campaign in the local area which only says "Gamble Responsibly – Brought to you by Club D". In this case it is clear that the responsible gambling and harm minimisation benefit is limited, as the campaign is not addressing the underlying harms associated with gambling. The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority is unlikely to allow any money spent on this to be used to satisfy any of the financial contribution requirement.

For example, Club E provides a \$50,000 funding increase to its ClubGRANTS contributions in the year it makes the GMT increase application. The additional funding is spent on a local drug treatment facility which offers counselling and accommodation services to members of the local community. This service is addressing a comorbidity of problem gambling (i.e. a disease or illness that tends to occur at the same time as problem gambling). The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority is likely to allow this funding to be used to reduce the venue's financial contribution requirement.

Should the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority allow the venue to reduce its additional financial community contribution by the same amount it has spent on additional positive contributions?

Section 36B of the Act requires the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority to have regard to additional positive contributions made by a venue in connection with the proposed GMT increase.

However, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority is not required to reduce the amount that a venue may be required to make as a financial contribution to the Responsible Gambling Fund by the same amount that the venue has made through an additional positive contribution.

For example, Club F has provided an additional \$50,000 a year to fund a harm minimisation officer responsible for client care and monitoring (beyond the responsible conduct of gambling requirements of all staff) through ClubGRANTS in connection with a GMT increase application (in compliance with cl 2.3.3 of the Guidelines).

continue overleaf

Class 2 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

The officer is based in the club, with only members of the club able to access the service. The Responsible Gambling Fund provides funding for a similar service in the same area, which is used by more people who are gambling in different venues.

In this case, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may consider that the funding provided by the Responsible Gambling Fund is a more effective use of funding, and that the club should be encouraged to provide additional funding to that service.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may allow Club F to reduce its financial contribution by \$25,000, which recognises that clubs should continue to receive an incentive to respond to gambling related harms in their venues, while also acknowledging that the community as a whole will receive a stronger positive benefit if the Responsible Gambling Fund gains additional funds.

What constitutes a “negative impact” for a Class 2 LIA?

A Class 2 LIA must specify any negative social or economic impact that the proposed GMT increase may have on the local community and the action that will be taken to address that impact.

What is the “local community”?

When considering negative impacts, an applicant should be mindful of the definition of “local community” in clause 34 of the Regulation and not limit assessment to only the SA2 in which the venue is situated. This may include persons that may be drawn to the venue from outside the local area. Regard should also be had to contiguous SA2s, the Local Government Area and the region.

Broadly, attention should be given to the level of education and employment in the local community, the types of occupations and average income, the proportion of ‘low’ and ‘high’ income households, housing costs and cultural make up.

The level of health and community support services within the local community is also an important consideration, as is the incidence of alcohol related violence, domestic violence and crime in general within the local community. Existing gaming machine accessibility and any other gambling avenues available in the local community should be included in describing the local community.

All these factors may play a part in the level of social or economic detriment that the local community is likely to suffer if the threshold increase application is approved.

Assessment of any negative social or economic impact

The 2019 NSW Gambling Survey found that the prevalence of problem gambling in NSW, as defined by the Problem Gambling Severity Index, was 1.0% of the State’s population⁶. An additional 2.8% was classified as ‘moderate risk’ and 6.6% as ‘low risk’. The Survey also found that 5.4% of people who played gaming machines are problem gamblers.

The June 2010 Productivity Commission Inquiry Report into Gambling found that while the number of Australian adults that suffered problem gambling was relatively low at possibly less than 1%, problem gamblers contributed towards anywhere between 22% and 60% of gaming machine revenue.

In the absence of any contemporary empirical evidence linking the prevalence of problem gambling and gaming machine expenditure in the local community that is subject to the application, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will use the Productivity Commission’s figures as a starting point when calculating the “quantifiable” negative impact that additional gaming machines are likely to have on the local community.

Where possible the applicant should estimate the annual gross revenue that will come from the operation of the proposed additional machines. These estimates may be informed by internal business data regarding current average daily turnover per machine already in operation in the venue and by external data relating to the socio-economic make-up of the local community.

In some cases it may be considered reasonable to attribute as the quantifiable negative impact the expected additional gross revenue that is likely to be derived from problem gamblers in the local community. This proportion of the additional revenue may be considered as the “hard core” of directly quantifiable

continue overleaf

⁶NSW Gambling Survey 2019, Central Queensland University and Engine Group, June 2019

Class 2 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

social and economic detriment flowing from the operation of the additional machines as a result of granting the application.

While the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority notes the views of the Productivity Commission that assessing social detriment should not focus only upon the extreme end of the gambling spectrum, it is considered that an attempt to quantify the contribution made by problem gamblers to an increase in the applicant's revenue is a reasonable approach to quantifying negative social and economic impact on the local community. Nevertheless, applicants should also consider the financial cost to moderate-risk and low-risk gamblers.

In addition to financial costs, existing local social issues that might be negatively impacted by the proposed increase in gaming machines should also be considered. Other categories to be considered may include emotional and psychological impacts; impact on relationships and family, including domestic violence; the level of crime and violence in the local community; and loss of productivity and employment.

Further, the negative social and economic impacts that the threshold increase may have on the local community should be assessed and projected over a period of no less than five (5) years.

What action will be taken to address negative impact?

The applicant is required to specify the action that will be taken to address the negative impact of an increase in GMT. This may include, but is not limited to, additional positive contributions, the provision of services and facilities by the club or hotel that will be of benefit to the local community and strengthen gambling harm minimisation measures.

Where an applicant is seeking to show its ongoing and proactive approach to gambling harm minimisation, this should be supported by an independent assessment of the effectiveness of the measures currently implemented and those proposed as part of the application.

It is recognised that the operator of a new venue may not have the benefit of demonstrated ongoing commitment to gambling harm minimisation. Factors for consideration by such an applicant include how the applicant intends to adopt and maintain proposed voluntary harm minimisation measures.

Consultation requirements for a Class 2 LIA

Pre-Submission Consultation

No later than 90 calendar days prior to submitting the threshold increase application form and the Class 2 LIA, the applicant must notify each of the following about the proposed application:

- the local council for the area where the venue is situated,
- the local police,
- the Local Health District for the area where the venue is situated
- any organisation in the LGA that receives funding from the Responsible Gambling Fund to provide gambling-related counselling or treatment services. Notification should be given to each RGF-funded service that has a presence in the relevant LGA. Information about those services is available at gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au, and
- other community services organisations as are listed by the local council for the area in which the relevant venue is situated that provide the local community services relating to welfare, emergency relief, financial assistance, Aboriginal health, Aboriginal legal assistance, or gambling and addiction counselling or treatment.

The notice must specify the following matters:

- the name and address of the venue,
- an explanation of the nature of the proposed application,
- the contact details of the person to whom submissions or inquiries about the proposed application may be made,
- the date for close of submissions (which cannot be earlier than 90 days after the date of the notification), and
- the date on which the proposed application is intended to be made to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority (which cannot be earlier than 21 days after the date for close of submissions).

continue overleaf

Class 2 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

Submitting a Class 2 LIA

The Class 2 LIA must include a report on the results of the above consultation process (including any meetings or discussions held in relation to the application and the outcomes of those meeting or discussions), and a list of the organisations provided a copy of the notice (verified by statutory declaration of the hotelier or club secretary).

The LIA should be attached to the application form for a GMT increase submitted to Liquor & Gaming NSW (L&GNSW) via email. Forms can be found at liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au.

A threshold increase application form that does not appear to contain the requisite information, or an LIA that does not appear to comply with the requirements of these guidelines, will not be accepted for processing and will be returned to the applicant.

Consultation Requirements

A venue undertaking a Class 2 LIA must initiate a community consultation process that provides members of the community the opportunity to comment on the GMT increase application. These submissions will be used by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority to assess the likely impact of additional gaming machines on the community.

Within two working days after submitting the threshold increase application form and the LIA, the applicant must initiate the following consultation process:

- provide a copy of the application form and the LIA to the local council for the area where the venue is situated
- provide a copy of the application form and the LIA to the local police
- notify the following stakeholders that the threshold increase application has been made and advise of the availability the application and the LIA at liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au:
 - the Local Health District for the area where the venue is situated
 - any organisation in the LGA that receives funding from the RGF for providing gambling-related counselling or treatment services, and

- other community services organisations as are listed by the local council for the area in which the relevant venue is situated that provide the local community services relating to welfare, emergency relief, financial assistance, Aboriginal health, Aboriginal legal assistance, or gambling and addiction counselling or treatment.

The applicant must also advise each of the above organisations that once the application and the LIA has been posted on the L&GNSW website, they have 90 calendar days in which to make a written submission to the Authority.

In addition, a venue must:

- place an advertisement in a local newspaper circulating in the area in which the venue is situated, and
- display a notice in a conspicuous area outside the venue, or on the perimeter of the site if the venue has not been built.

The advertisement and notice must state that a GMT increase application has been made and an LIA provided; explain the nature of the application and advise that the material can be viewed at liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au; and that any person may make a submission on it within 90 calendar days of the application and LIA being posted on the L&GNSW website.

This reflects the minimum consultation process specified in the legislation and evidence of compliance with these requirements must be provided to the Authority in the form of a statutory declaration.

Applicants should also note that they can engage more closely with relevant stakeholders at any time to discuss their proposal - including prior to, or during, the pre-submission consultation period. It is likely that any such engagement will lead to the earlier identification of issues of concern and better enable applicants to address the matters about which the Authority is required to be satisfied.

The threshold increase application form and the LIA will be placed on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website during the consultation period (approximately 90 calendar days).

Any submissions received during that period will be provided to the applicant for comment to the Authority.

continue overleaf

Class 2 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

Before determining the application, the Authority must be satisfied that the applicant has adequately addressed any community concerns arising out of the consultation process.

Organisations required to be notified of an LIA

Local Council – the council responsible for the Local Government Area that the venue resides in. To find out which local council your venue is in, please visit <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/find-my-council>.

Local Police – a police station within the Local Area Command that the venue is in. To find out your nearest police station, please visit <http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/about-us/regions-local-area-commands>.

Local Health District – To find the contact details for your Local Health District visit <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/lhd/pages/default.aspx>.

Responsible Gambling Fund services in the Local Government Area – To find service providers in local area that the venue is in, please visit <https://gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au/get-help/meet-a-counsellor>

Other community services organisations in the local area – Where a local council provides a list of organisations in the Local Government Area that provide services relating to welfare, emergency relief, financial assistance, Aboriginal health and legal assistance, or gambling and addiction counselling or treatment, a venue must notify all organisations on the list. Where no such list is available, a venue is only required to notify the other organisations listed above. Where a council lists organisations that the venue considers does not provide relevant services in the local area, the venue is able to detail which organisations were not notified and reasons why in its statutory declaration.

Advertisement and notice requirements

The advertisement and notice publicising the proposed GMT increase must:

- use standard words provided by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority explaining what an LIA and GMT is,
- state that the GMT application has been made and that the LIA has been provided with the application,
- explain the nature of the application (i.e. that the proposed application seeks an increase to the number of gaming machines that the venue is authorised to operate),

- advise that the application and the LIA may be inspected on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website, and advise that any person may make a submission to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority in relation to the GMT application and/or the LIA within 90 days after the application and LIA is posted on the Liquor & Gaming NSW.

Assessment Process

The application will be assessed and determined:

- after the conclusion of the main consultation period; or
- where submissions raising concerns have been made during the main consultation period - after the applicant has provided comments on those concerns to the Authority.

A threshold increase application will only be approved if the Authority approves the accompanying LIA.

If the LIA is approved, the Authority will determine the threshold increase application. If the Authority approves a threshold increase application, it remains open to the Authority to approve a lesser increase than that sought. However, the Authority will generally approve the requested increase unless the particular circumstances of an application warrant it approving a lesser increase. The Authority may also approve an increase subject to conditions.

Determinations will be published at liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au.

If the Authority approves an increased GMT, the venue has up to five years from the date of the approval to acquire the GMEs (and PMPs for hotels) for the number of gaming machines that the approval relates to. If at the end of the five year period the venue has not acquired sufficient poker machine entitlements to fulfil the approved increase, the GMT will be reduced by the amount of the unused portion.

Assessment Costs

The applicant must meet any costs incurred by the Authority in determining the LIA and the Authority may refuse to make a determination until arrangements have been made to cover those costs. Applicants will be advised of likely costs prior to them being incurred.

continue overleaf

Class 2 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

Making a submission on a Class 2 LIA

All venues are required to undertake a minimum 90 days of community consultation of an LIA. LIA community consultation processes are intended to ensure that the views of the local community on proposed increases in the number of gaming machines in the community are considered by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority in assessing whether to approve a GMT increase application.

Where a venue is required to undertake a Class 2 LIA, the venue must satisfy the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority that the proposed GMT increase for the venue will provide an overall positive impact to the local community.

For information on what the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority is likely to consider to be a positive impact go to Page 7 of this document.

Content of submissions

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will accept any submission made in response to an LIA. The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority does not impose a limit on what the submissions can include, but encourages submissions that specifically address the proposed increase of gaming machines in the community, and are less than 10 pages.

When assessing an LIA, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will consider the following issues, which submissions may wish to address:

- has the LIA appropriately identified the local community?
- has the LIA demonstrated that the venue will operate the additional gaming activities in a responsible manner?
- if the venue is a new hotel or new club, is it in the immediate vicinity of a school, place of worship or hospital?
- has the proposed positive contribution identified by the venue in its LIA met the requirements set out in the Guidelines for what the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority considers to constitute a positive contribution to the local community?

When making a submission, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority encourages submissions that address the issues that are detailed in the LIA, or identifies those that have not been addressed in the LIA but are relevant to the venue's GMT increase application.

Submissions may attach additional information to be considered by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority in its assessment of the GMT increase application and LIA, however this additional information should continue to address specific issues raised by the venue's GMT increase application.

General statements regarding perceived problem gambling that could result from an increase in gaming machines in the area are not encouraged as they do not assist the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority in understanding the likely impact of the application being considered.

Submissions that seek to raise concerns about perceived problem gambling impacts should seek to use some form of evidence or provide sufficient detail to explain the cause for concern based on experience, and knowledge of, the existing or proposed venue. This may include personal experiences of gambling at the venue or in the local area.

For example, a submission that opposed the proposed GMT increase on the basis that all gaming machines in NSW should be removed is unlikely to be given much weight by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority. The statement could apply to any area in NSW, is unlikely to assist the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority in assessing the impact of additional gaming machines on this particular local community, and addresses issues that are not relevant to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority (i.e. the lawfulness of gaming machines).

For example, a submission that opposed the proposed GMT increase at Hotel D on the basis that it has a history of letting intoxicated people into its gaming area, allows people in who have asked to be self-excluded, and cashes cheques unlawfully is likely to be given weight by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority. Hotel D would be required to respond to this submission as it raises specific issues with respect to the operation of gaming machines at the venue.

For example, a submission responding to an LIA prepared by Club F that argues that harm minimisation services offered by the club that Club F is seeking to use as an additional positive contribution are not effective and that the service funded by the Responsible Gambling Fund is more useful will likely be given weight by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority as it addresses the additional positive contributions that Club F has identified as providing a benefit to the community.

continue overleaf

Class 2 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

For example, a submission by a problem gambling treatment expert argues that no additional machines should be introduced into a specific SA2 because of particular risk factors of the local community (for example, the venue is located next to Centrelink or social housing). This submission is likely to be given weight by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority as it has been prepared by a relevant expert and addresses the potential negative impacts on the community.

Checklist for making a submission

- ☐ Read the LIA to understand how the venue addresses impacts of additional gaming machines in local community.
- ☐ Prepare a submission that specifically addresses the venue's application.
- ☐ Include relevant information to support the submission, which may include facts and figures, research or personal experience.
- ☐ Identify any parts of the submission that you wish to remain confidential, including personal information.
- ☐ Submission on LIA made to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority within 90 days of the LIA being posted on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website.

What happens to a submission made during a Class 2 LIA?

All submissions on the LIA made by members of the community or community organisations are to be submitted to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority via Liquor & Gaming NSW.

Relevant issues raised in the submissions will then be provided to the venue to allow the venue the opportunity to respond or address issues raised.

Both the submission and the applicant's response to issues raised will be considered by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority during its review of the LIA.

How do venues respond to submissions made during community consultation?

Venues are required to respond to all issues that have been raised in submissions. However, where a submission makes general statements about gaming machines, gambling harm or problem gambling that are not targeted to the venue's application, venues will not be required to respond to these issues.

However, a venue will be required to provide a response to the following issues, if they are raised in a submission:

- the LIA has not correctly identified or described the local community,
- it is inappropriate to introduce additional gaming machines because of specific gambling harm and problem gambling risks in the local area,
- the venue does not operate existing gaming machines in a responsible manner or is unlikely to operate any additional gaming machines in a responsible manner,
- the venue has failed to satisfy harm minimisation requirements or is unlikely to do so if it acquires additional gaming machines,
- for a new hotel or new club, the venue is in the immediate vicinity of a school, place of worship or hospital,
- the proposed overall positive impact to be made on the local community if the GMT increase application is approved does not meet the amount required by these Guidelines,
- the venue has failed to assess and quantify all relevant negative social or economic impact the proposed threshold increase may have on the local community, or has failed to specify the action that will be taken to address those negative impacts on the local community, and
- the additional positive contributions proposed by the venue are not sufficient to meet the requirements detailed in these Guidelines.

How will the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority consider venue responses to submissions?

All submissions made during an LIA review and any responses made by a venue are collated and provided to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority for consideration. Before the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority considers the GMT increase application, LIA and submissions, licensing staff from Liquor & Gaming NSW will undertake an initial assessment of the LIA and submissions, and provide advice to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority on the LIA and submissions.

continue overleaf

Class 2 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will then, in assessing a venue's LIA and any response to a submission made during an LIA process, have regard to:

- the issues raised by the submission
- whether the issues that have been raised in the submission are relevant to the venue's GMT increase application
- the extent to which the venue responds to specific concerns, including relevant facts, figures and research, and personal experiences raised by the submission, and
- the extent to which the venue amends its application or LIA in response to specific concerns.

What conditions may be placed on a GMT increase?

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may impose conditions on a successful GMT increase application that a venue must satisfy before the GMT increase can take effect.

While the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may impose any form of condition that is authorised under the Act or Regulation, the following provide a guide on conditions that may be imposed following a GMT increase approval.

A venue should use this guide to understand the likely steps it may be required to undertake following a GMT increase approval.

Venue is required to make payment of any financial contributions to the Responsible Gambling Fund

This condition is imposed to ensure that where a venue is required to make a financial contribution to the Responsible Gambling Fund that it does so by a certain date.

The Responsible Gambling Fund will issue a receipt of payment directly to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority at which point the venue's GMT will increase.

A venue may be required to make periodic payments, for example once every year. The venue will be required to provide evidence for every payment.

For example, by 31 March 2018 Hotel E must provide evidence to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority that it has made a payment of \$20,000, as an LIA contribution, to the Responsible Gambling Fund. Hotel E must also make further payments of \$20,000 on 31 March each year from 2019 to 2022.

Venue is required to undertake additional positive contributions identified by the venue in its LIA in terms set by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority

Where the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority takes into account additional positive contributions made by a venue (see Page 7), the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may require the venue to continue to undertake the additional positive contributions for a set period of time. These contributions may also be required to be published on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website.

For example, where the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority reduces Club G's financial contribution to the Responsible Gambling Fund by \$20,000 a year due to ongoing contributions by Club G to ClubGRANTS eligible harm minimisation initiatives, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may require that Club G continue to make these contributions for five (5) years.

Venue is required to undertake additional harm minimisation and responsible gambling services in terms set by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority may also impose a condition for a venue to undertake harm minimisation or responsible gambling measures or services that it has not previously offered.

This condition is likely to be used where the increase in the number of gaming machines at the venue makes it appropriate to increase the harm minimisation and responsible gambling obligations of the venue.

For example, Hotel F is required to appoint a dedicated responsible gaming manager who will be responsible for oversight of harm minimisation and responsible gambling in Hotel F.

Consequences for failing to abide by a condition

Section 36(7) of the Act provides that where a venue does not comply with a condition imposed on the LIA approval the LIA is taken to have no effect.

Where a venue fails to fulfil a condition imposed by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will reduce the venue's GMT to the level it was before the LIA was made.

continue overleaf

Class 2 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

For example, Club H has a GMT of 50 and seeks an increase of 20 to take its GMT to 70. The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority imposes a condition that Club H pays \$50,000 to the Responsible Gambling Fund every year for five years. Club H's GMT is increased to 70 once it makes the first annual payment.

If Club H does not pay in year 3, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority will reduce Club H's GMT from 70 to 50 until it makes its annual payment.

Where a venue's GMT is reduced because of failure to abide by a condition imposed on the LIA, and the venues operates gaming machines during the period the GMT is reduced, it may commit an offence. A venue may be liable for a maximum penalty of \$11,000 for each offence committed.

Appendix A – Checklist for venues

LIA preparation

- ☐ Executive summary of LIA of no more than five (5) pages,
- ☐ Details of the venue and local community, including a current patron profile and social profile information for the relevant area.
- ☐ Details of harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures in place and evidence of the effectiveness of existing harm minimisation and responsible gambling strategies at the venue
- ☐ Details of the benefits to and the overall positive impact on the local community that the venue will provide if the threshold increase application is approved,
- ☐ Details of any negative social or economic impact that the proposed increase will have on the local community and the action that will be taken to address that impact.
- ☐ Any attachments required to provide further information on the GMT increase application.

LIA pre-submission notification

Notified the following no later than 90 days prior to submitting the GMT application form and Class 2 LIA to Liquor & Gaming NSW:-

- ☐ The local council for the area where the venue is situated.
- ☐ The local police for the area where the venue is situated.
- ☐ The NSW Council of Social Service.
- ☐ The Local Health District for the area where the venue is situated.
- ☐ All organisations in the Local Government Area that receives funding from the Responsible Gambling Fund to provide gambling-related counselling or treatment services.
- ☐ All other organisations that provide services in the Local Government Area relating to welfare, emergency relief, financial assistance, Aboriginal health and legal assistance, or gambling and addiction counselling or treatment, and which are listed as providing these services by the local council.

Report on consultation

The Class 2 LIA that is provided with a threshold increase application must include:

- ☐ A report on the results of the consultation process, with details of any meetings or discussions held in relation to the proposed application and the outcomes of those meetings and discussions.
- ☐ A list, verified by statutory declaration of the hotelier or club secretary, of the community service organisations notified of the proposed application.

continue overleaf

Class 2 Local Impact Assessment process guidelines

LIA consultation notification

Within two (2) days of submitting the GMT increase application form and the Class 2 LIA the applicant must initiate the following process.

- A. Provide a copy of the application form and LIA to:
 - ☐ the local council for the area where the venue is situated.
 - ☐ the local police for the area where the venue is situated.
- B. Notify the following that the GMT application has been made and the application and LIA can be viewed at liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au.
 - ☐ The NSW Council of Social Service
 - ☐ The Local Health District for the area where the venue is situated that the GMT application has been made and the application and LIA can be viewed at liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au.
 - ☐ Any organisation in the LGA that receives funding from the RGF for gambling-related counselling or treatment services.
 - ☐ All other organisations that provide services in the Local Government Area relating to welfare, emergency relief, financial assistance, Aboriginal health and legal assistance, or gambling and addiction counselling or treatment, and which are listed as providing these services by the local council,
- C. Advise each of the above organisations that once the application and the LIA has been posted on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website, they have 90 calendar days in which to make a written submission to the Authority.
- D. Place an advertisement in a local newspaper circulating in the area in which the relevant venue is situated indicating that a GMT increase has been made and that an LIA is being undertaken.
- E. Display a notice in a conspicuous area outside the venue, or on the perimeter of the site if the venue has not been built, indicating that a GMT increase has been made and that an LIA is being undertaken.

- F. Provide the Authority with a list, verified by statutory declaration of the hotelier or club secretary, of the community services organisations that have been provided with a copy of the application.

LIA consultation

- ☐ Consultation of LIA has been open for 90 calendar days after the date the venue's application and LIA is posted on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website.
- ☐ All submissions made during the consultation process have been provided to the applicant by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority.
- ☐ All submissions made during the consultation process have been responded to by the venue.

Conditions on GMT Increase Approval

- ☐ Venue has fulfilled all conditions placed on GMT increase.
- ☐ Venue does not acquire additional GMEs or gaming machines before GMT increase takes effect.

APPROVED by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority.

16 January 2020



MURRAY SMITH
Deputy Chairperson

For further information

To find out more contact Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority secretariat:

@ office@ilga.nsw.gov.au



24-Hour
Economy

NSW Night-time Economy Insights

December Quarter 2024

Powered by Data After Dark from the
Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner



Contents

Glossary	3
Data sources	3
Executive summary	4
Macro trends – Mobility	6
Macro trends – Spend	7
Weekly patterns – Mobility	8
Weekly patterns – Spend	9
Businesses in the night-time economy	10
Six region summary - Sydney and surrounds	11
Special chapter – night-time spending in the festive period	16

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and pay respects to Elders past and present. We also acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff working within the NSW Government at this time.

Cover image: Destination NSW

Glossary

- **Night-time (NT):** NT refers to the period between 6pm and 6am the next day.
- **Night-time economy (NTE):** the NTE is defined as the collection of economic activities that occur between the hours of 6pm and 6am.
- **NTE sectors:** business sectors that have strong contributions to the night-time economy. The definition and sector categorisation are aligned with those adopted by Council of Capital City Lord Mayors. Businesses in NTE sectors may operate during both day and night. A detailed definition and classification of NTE sectors can be found within [Measuring the Australian Night Time Economy 2021-22](#) ([lordmayors.org](#)).
- **Food, drink & leisure:** referred to as the “core” night-time economy sector in the above definition. It consists of three subsectors: Food, Drink, and Leisure & Entertainment, which include bars, restaurants, clubs, and live music venues.
- **Other NTE sector:** businesses that provide essential services to core NTE activities are referred to as the “non-core” NTE sector in the above definition. These include transport, accommodation, retail, security, health, lighting, and other related services.
- **Mobility:** refers to the two distinctive data sets: public transport usage and people movement activities.
- **Opal tap-offs:** the recorded instances when passengers tap off using an Opal card, debit, or credit card on an Opal reader within the NSW public transport system.
- **People movement activities:** people movement activities are derived from mobile phone network data and extrapolated to the total adult population, with adult defined as twenty years old and above. A trip is captured when a device moves to a new location and stays there for at least 15 minutes, and data is anonymised and aggregated.
- **In-person spend:** spend made by presenting cards physically at a payment terminal, i.e., excluding online purchases, direct debits, and transactions between accounts.
- **Value added:** the net increase in the value of goods and services as a result of a production process. It is calculated by subtracting the cost of industry inputs from total sales generated.
- **Q:** quarter of the calendar year. For example, Q1 2024 refers to March quarter 2024.
- **YoY:** Year on Year.

Data sources

Data used in this report are from Data After Dark platform, which sources data from a wide variety of government and private data providers.

Data	Source
Value added by NTE sectors	Id. (informed decisions); National Institute of Economic and Industry Research
Spend	Westpac DataX spend data
Number of businesses	Australian Business Register
Opal patronage (tap-on and tap-off)	Transport for NSW Open Data Hub
People movement activities	DSpark Mobility data
Business confidence index, NSW	Roy Morgan Business Confidence

Disclaimer: This report includes information publicly available from third-party sources, data procured by the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner (the Office), and analysis by the Office. All information presented is provided on an ‘as is’ basis. Despite reasonable efforts and procedures are in place for quality assurance, the Office makes no warranty to data errors or omissions that could exist with various data sources. The date of release for the report may vary each quarter, depending on data availability and work priority.

The data and insights in this report are based on the most recent available information and are subject to revision as new data becomes available. Figures may be updated due to methodological improvements, data refinements, or adjustments by data providers. For the most accurate and up-to-date information, please refer to the latest edition of this report.

Executive summary

The Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner (the Office) presents the latest night-time economy quarterly report for NSW. This report utilises data from the Office's Dark After Dark platform to offer a comprehensive picture of our vibrant night-time scene in the December 2024 quarter.

The Office is committed to continuing these quarterly reports, facilitating information sharing, fostering collaboration and empowering all sectors of the night-time community to cultivate a robust, safe and vibrant night-time economy. We value feedback on the report and will continue to enhance future editions.

Quarterly report

NSW's night-time economy* experienced its strongest season of the year in the December quarter, with mixed year-on-year changes across key metrics:

- **Night-time public transport** recorded **38.5 million** Opal tap-offs* at night, a **1.4%** increase year-on-year.
- People in NSW made **512 million night-time people movement activity trips*** in this quarter, up **7.7%** from the previous quarter and **0.8%** year-on-year.
- **Night-time in-person spending** rose **17.1%** from the previous quarter to **\$4.26 billion**, **3.4%** below the same period last year.
- **366 more GST active businesses in food, drink and leisure sectors compared to the December quarter 2023**, marking a **0.7%** year-on-year increase, with growth driven by takeaway food services, sports and physical recreation, and creative sectors.

Special chapter

Seasonal shopping surge: night-time spending in the festive period

The festive season is a peak period for the night-time economy, with major retail events like Black Friday (29 November 2024), Cyber Monday (2 December 2024), and the lead-up to Christmas driving distinct spending peaks. These trends highlight changes in both shopping habits and the evolving timing of sales events:

- Online and in-person spending follow different seasonal trends. **Online sales peak earlier**, driven by major digital promotions, while **in-person spending builds gradually**, culminating in a pre-Christmas rush driven by last-minute shopping and holiday preparations.
- Black Friday and Cyber Monday have expanded beyond single-day events into **prolonged sales cycles**. Consumers now start to engage with the shopping festival earlier, sustaining momentum well beyond the traditional weekend.
- Cyber Monday now nearly matches Black Friday in night-time retail spending, having surged **123.9%** since 2019, while Black Friday spending has risen **61.3%** over the same period.

*Please refer to the Glossary on [page 3](#)

NSW's night-time economy showed renewed momentum in the December quarter, with quarterly spending increasing amid seasonal boosts, while year-on-year trends remained mixed against a backdrop of broader macroeconomic conditions.



Image Credit: Destination NSW

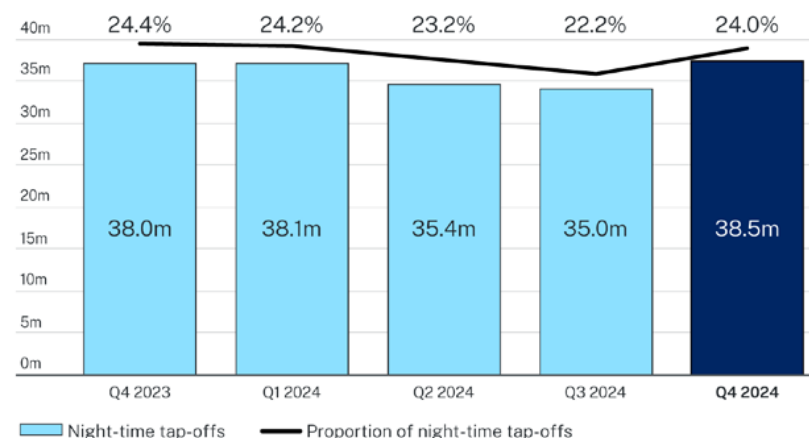
Macro trends – Mobility

Night-time public transport usage surged during the seasonal holiday period, driving strong overall growth

Night-time tap-offs



Figure 1. Night-time Opal tap-offs, NSW Q4 2023 – Q4 2024



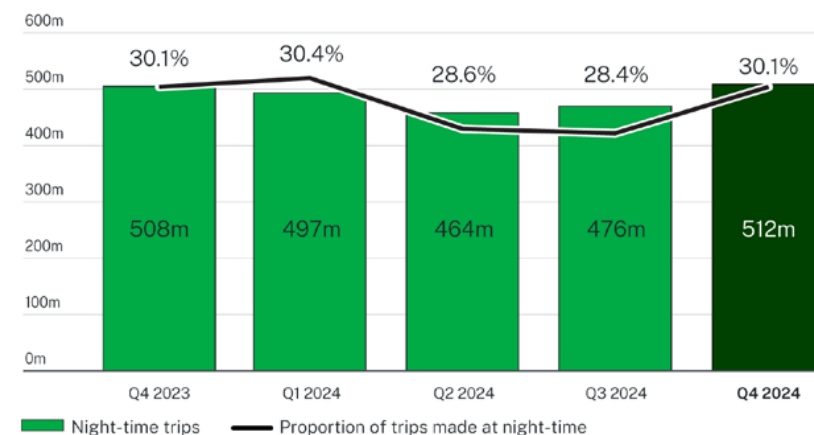
Night-time public transport usage in the December quarter reached 38.5 million trips, up 10.0% from the previous quarter, driven by the holiday season. Despite some service disruptions, year-on-year growth returned to 1.4%, with the proportion of night-time Opal tap-offs rising slightly to 24.0%. In the September report, we noted a slight year-on-year decline in Opal patronage following the Chatswood-Sydenham metro opening. The return to growth suggests the metro is now well integrated, with travel patterns stabilising.

Night-time mobility continued to grow, with a strong seasonal boost contributing to increased movement

Night-time people movement activities



Figure 2. Night-time people movement activities, NSW Q4 2023 – Q4 2024



Night-time people movement activities reached 512 million this quarter, up 1.0% year-on-year and a significant 7.7% from the previous quarter, buoyed by seasonal activities typical of the end-of-year period. This growth underscores a robust overall rise in night-time movement activities. The proportion of night-time movement activities increased slightly to 30.1% from the previous quarter, matching the same period last year, highlighting the stability of night-time travel patterns during seasonal peaks.

Macro trends – Spend

Night-time spending has increased from the previous quarter but remains influenced by macroeconomic conditions

Night-time in-person spend

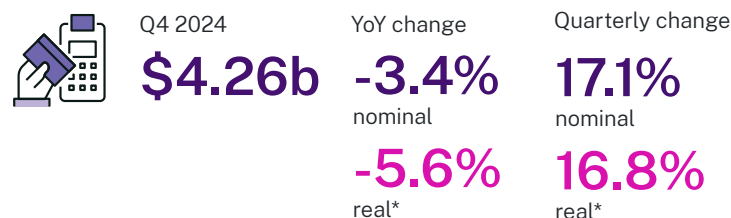


Figure 3. Night-time in-person spend in recent quarters. NSW Q4 2023 – Q4 2024

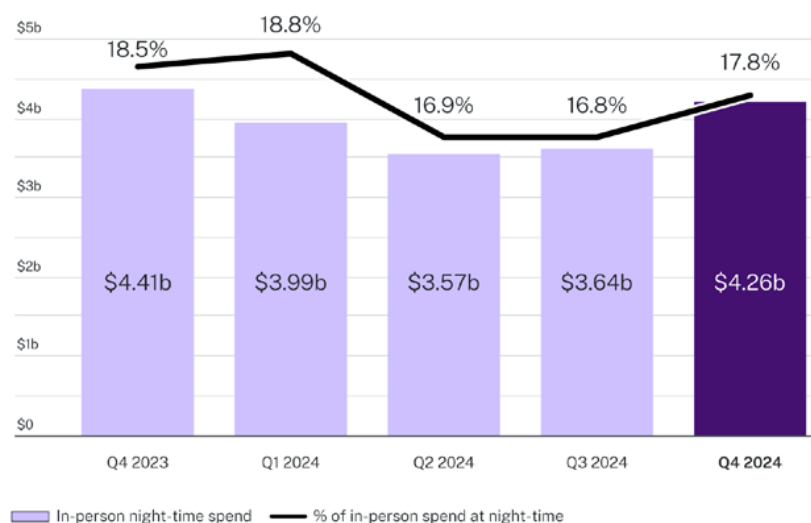
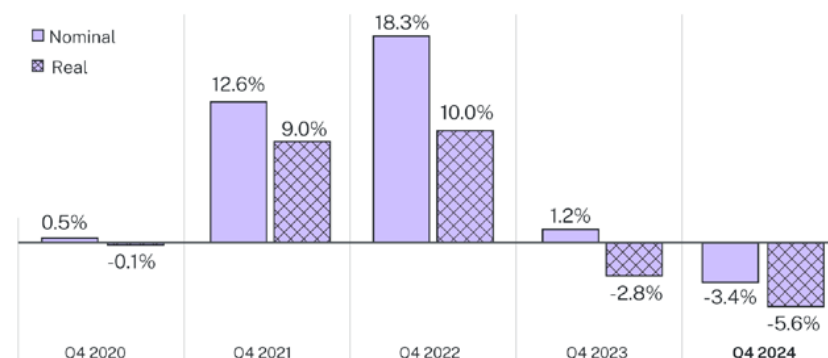


Figure 4. December quarter night-time in-person spend YoY change, NSW 2020 - 2024



Sustained economic headwinds continued to affect night-time in-person spending in the December quarter, resulting in a 3.4% year-on-year decline, or 5.6% in real terms*. On-going cost-of-living pressures and diminishing disposable income likely kept consumer confidence subdued, negatively impacting night-time spending.

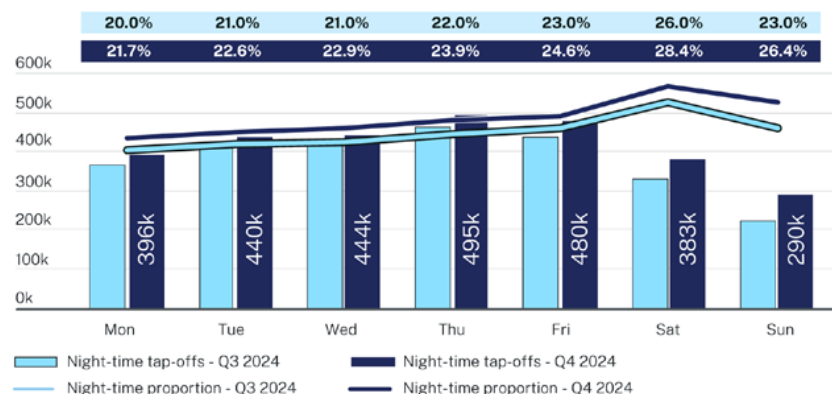
Despite these challenges, the December quarter benefited from seasonal boosts during the holiday and sale periods with night-time in-person spending increasing to \$4.26 billion in the quarter, marking a 17% increase from the previous quarter. The share of night-time in-person spending within the 24-hour total increased to 17.8%.

*Real: The real figures are adjusted for inflation, providing a clearer picture of the true economic conditions and consumer behaviour

Weekly patterns – Mobility

Weekly mobility patterns persist throughout the year, with night-time share increasing across all days, reflecting stronger engagement in leisure and social activities

Figure 5. Average daily night-time Opal tap-offs NSW, Q3 2024 & Q4 2024



December quarter 2024



Highest daily average

Thursday – 495k

Highest night-time share among 24-hour total

Saturday – 28.4%

Lowest daily average

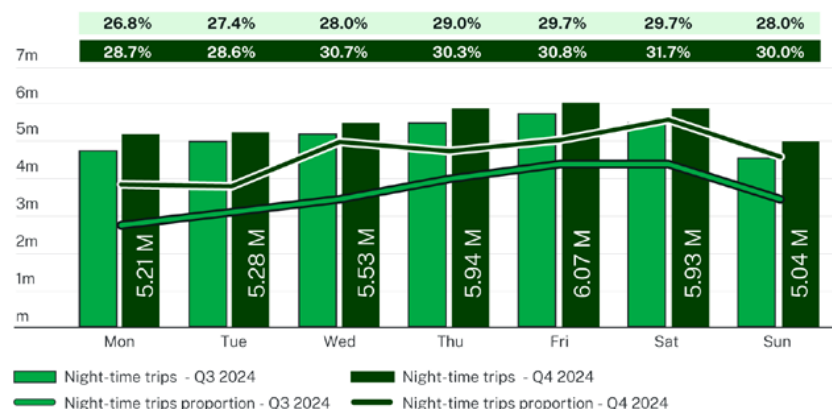
Sunday – 290k

Lowest night-time share among 24-hour total

Monday – 21.7%

Weekday night-time public transport usage remains robust, with a consistent increase in trips Monday through Friday, peaking on Thursday. The proportion of night-time trips remains higher on weekends compared to weekdays, reflecting continued leisure and social activities during the seasonal holiday period.

Figure 6. Average daily night-time movement activities, NSW Q3 2024 & Q4 2024



December quarter 2024



Highest daily average

Friday – 6.1m

Highest night-time share among 24-hour total

Saturday – 31.7%

Lowest daily average

Sunday – 5.0m

Lowest night-time share among 24-hour total

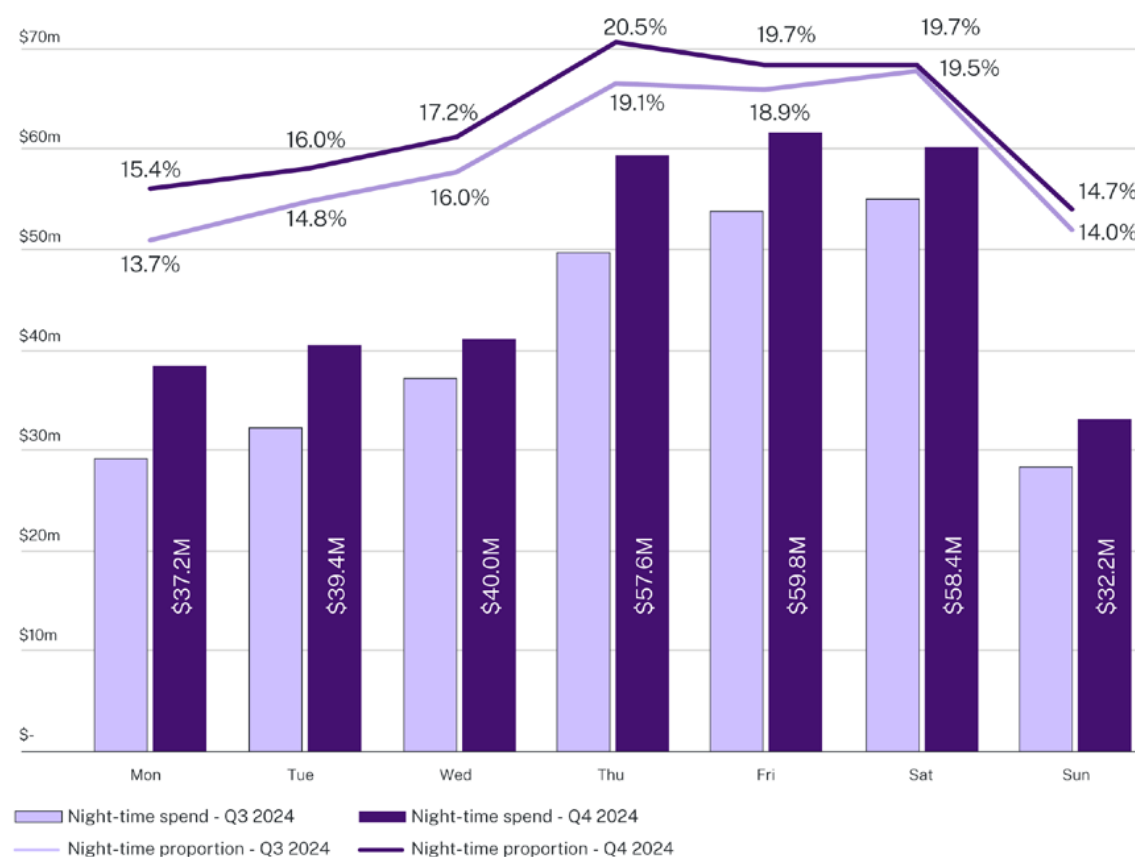
Tuesday – 28.6%

Night-time movement activities in NSW increased across all days compared to the previous quarter, with the night-time share consistently higher throughout the week. Weekend night-time movement remains strong, compared with relatively lower Opal tap-offs, suggesting a greater reliance on private transport, ride-sharing, and active travel for social and recreational activities.

Weekly patterns – Spend

Friday night led weekly spending, likely driven by Black Friday sales, while Monday saw the strongest relative growth, boosted by Cyber Monday activity

Figure 7. Average daily night-time in-person spend, NSW Q3 2024 & Q4 2024



December quarter 2024



Highest daily average

Friday – \$59.8m

Lowest daily average

Sunday – \$32.2m

Highest share among 24-hour total

Thursday – 20.5%

Lowest share among 24-hour total

Sunday – 14.7%

Friday night was the peak for spending in the quarter, likely driven by Black Friday sales, while broader shifts in consumer behaviour continue to favour social and leisure activities over the weekend. From Thursday to Saturday nights, both the dollar value of spending and the night-time proportion have increased.

While overall spending increased each day of the week, the increase was not uniform. Monday experienced the highest relative growth, with night-time spending rising by over 31%. Seasonal holidays and sale periods likely contributed to this rise, attracting more consumers to engage in night-time activities at the start of the week, especially on Cyber Monday sales ([see special chapter](#)).

Businesses in the night-time economy

The night-time economy sectors exhibit mixed quarterly results but steady annual growth

Number of businesses*



Figure 8. Change in the number of night-time economy businesses from the previous quarter, NSW Q4 2023 – Q4 2024

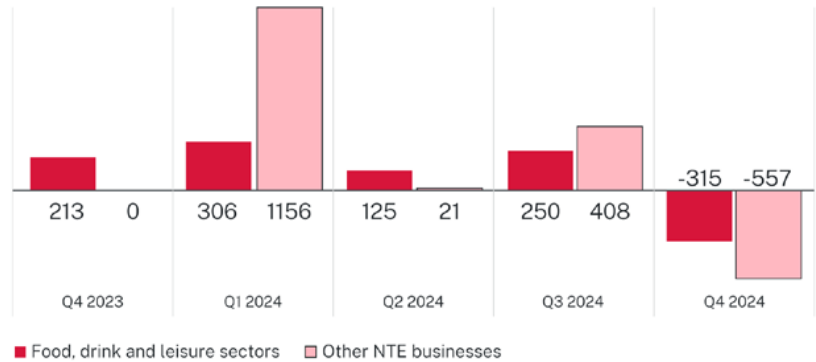
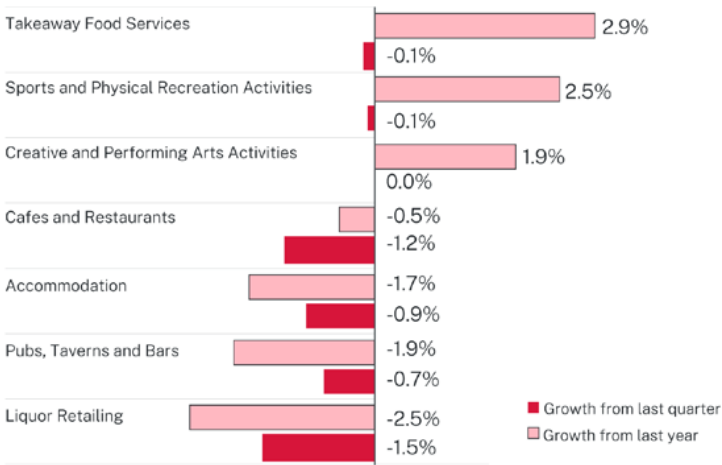


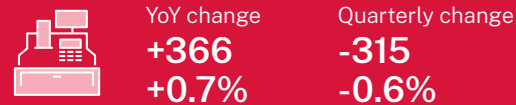
Figure 9. Quarterly and annual growth in the number** of businesses by selected night-time economy sector, NSW December quarter 2024



* The Australian Business Register (ABR) regularly updates its data, including historical revisions. Figures on this page may differ from previous reports. Please refer to the latest report for accuracy.

** The chart illustrates the number of businesses across sectors as an indicator of sector size and activity. However, the figures do not reflect business revenue growth.

GST active businesses in food, drink & leisure



The night-time economy in NSW has continued to expand year-on-year with an addition of 366 businesses in food, drink & leisure. The 0.7%, annual growth in the number of businesses was largely driven by takeaway food services, sports and physical recreation creative sectors. However, on a quarterly basis, there was a noticeable decline, likely due to seasonal business closures, a pattern also observed in previous years.

Business confidence in NSW remains robust. The December 2024 Roy Morgan Business Survey shows a significant recovery, with the index climbing to 104.1, up by 25 points from December 2023.

Six region summary Sydney and surrounds

The landscape of the night-time economy varies across NSW due to factors such as population density, demographics, business concentration, transport infrastructure, local culture and overall economic activity.

This section summarises and compares key indicators of night-time economy performance across six major regions in NSW:

- Eastern Sydney
- Central Sydney
- Western Sydney
- Central Coast
- Lower Hunter and Greater Newcastle
- Illawarra-Shoalhaven

Formerly known as the 'Six Cities', these groupings were initially introduced by the NSW Government as a planning framework.

The Six Cities concept is no longer an active policy, however, the identified regions continue to be used in the Urban Development Program with some modifications (map source: Department of Planning)

For this report, the six regions serve as a useful basis for benchmarking night-time economy performances across key areas in NSW.



Six region summary – Mobility

Night-time public transport usage increased strongly in the quarter across most regions, with varied annual changes



Night-time Opal tap-offs,
December quarter 2024

Figure 10. Proportion of night-time Opal tap-offs, within each region

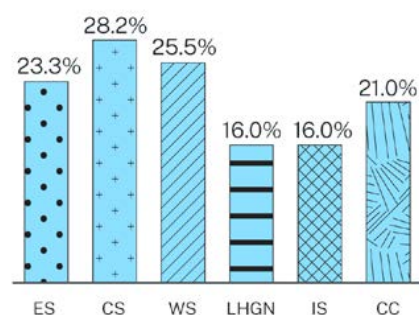


Figure 11. Distribution across regions

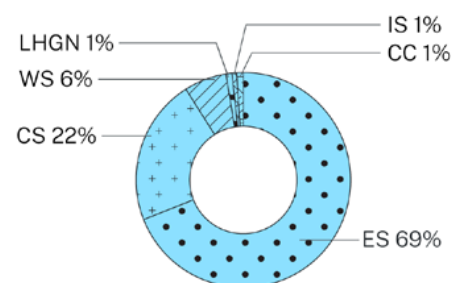
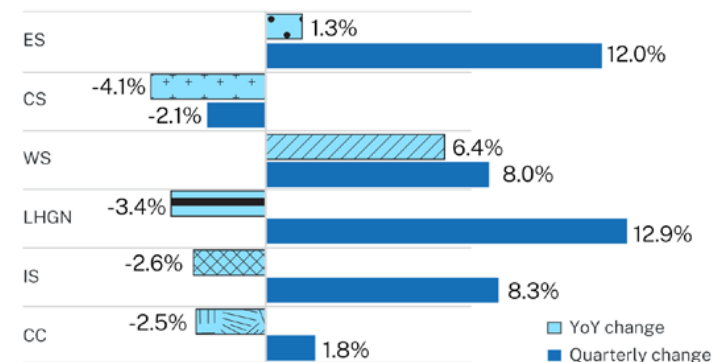


Figure 12. YoY and quarterly change



Legend

Eastern Sydney (ES)
Central Sydney (CS)

Western Sydney (WS)
Lower Hunter & Greater Newcastle (LHGN)

Illawarra-Shoalhaven (IS)
Central Coast (CC)

Public Transport

Night-time public transport trips across the six regions in NSW is dominated by Eastern Sydney, which accounts for 69% of night-time Opal tap-offs, reflecting its higher concentration of public transport infrastructure. Quarterly growth in night-time Opal tap-offs was observed across all regions except Central Sydney, with the largest increases in Lower Hunter & Greater Newcastle and Eastern Sydney. Year-on-year trends were mixed, with only Eastern Sydney and Western Sydney recording growth, while all other regions saw declines, highlighting shifting public transport usage patterns across the regions.

Six region summary – Mobility

The busy seasonal holiday period has driven quarterly growth in people mobility at night across all six regions



Night-time people movement activities,
December quarter 2024

Figure 13. Proportion of night-time people movement activities, within each region

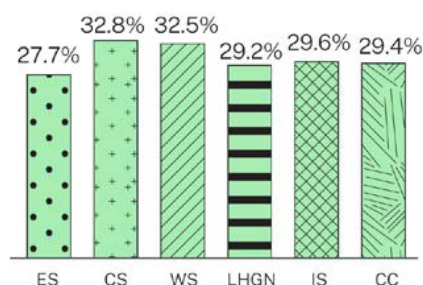


Figure 14. Distribution across regions

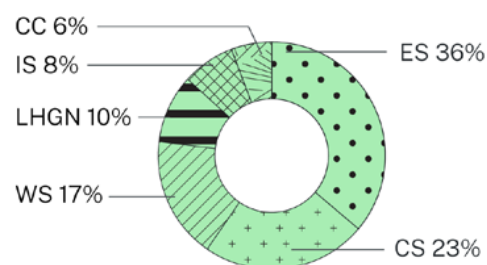
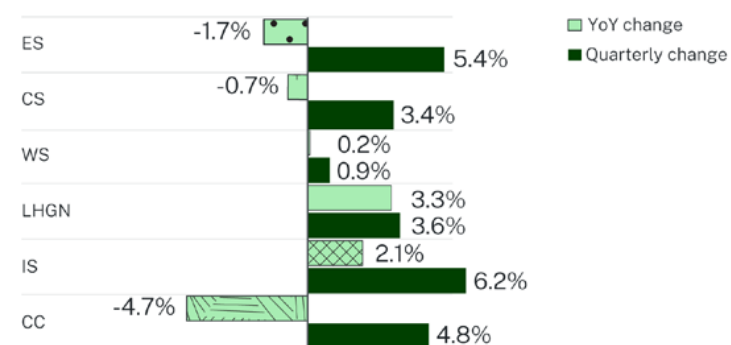


Figure 15. YoY and quarterly change



Legend

Eastern Sydney (ES)
Central Sydney (CS)

Western Sydney (WS)
Lower Hunter & Greater Newcastle (LHGN)

Illawarra-Shoalhaven (IS)
Central Coast (CC)

People movement activities

The higher share of night-time movement activities outside Eastern Sydney, along with a relatively even distribution of total night-time trips across the six regions, indicates a reliance on alternative modes of transportation, such as private vehicles, ride-sharing, and walking, particularly in areas where public transport services are less accessible and frequent.

The entire six regions experienced quarterly growth in night-time people movement activities, as visitors and consumers participating more in night-time activities during the summer and holiday season. Year-on-year trends varied across the region, highlighting differing local dynamics in the night-time economy.

Six region summary – Spend and Businesses

The quarter benefited from seasonal boosts during the holiday and sale periods but was weaker year on year



Night-time in-person spend,
December quarter 2024

Figure 16. Proportion of night-time in-person spend, within each region

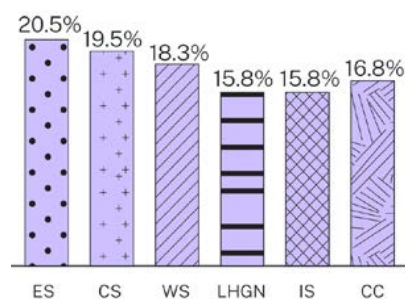


Figure 17. Distribution across regions

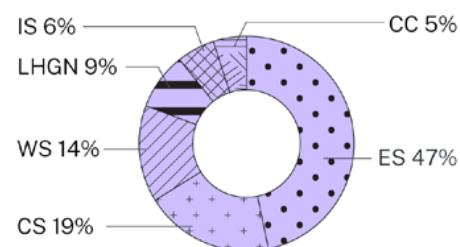
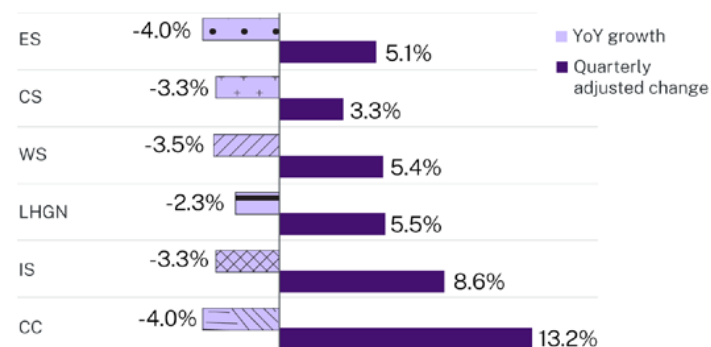


Figure 18. YoY and quarterly change (seasonal adjusted)



Legend

Eastern Sydney (ES)
Central Sydney (CS)

Western Sydney (WS)
Lower Hunter & Greater Newcastle (LHGN)

Illawarra-Shoalhaven (IS)
Central Coast (CC)

Spend

Eastern Sydney continues to lead night-time in-person spending, accounting for nearly half of the total across the six regions. Central Sydney and Western Sydney remain key contributors, reinforcing their significance in the night-time economy. While year-on-year spending has declined across all regions, quarterly adjusted changes show signs of recovery, particularly in Central Coast and Illawarra-Shoalhaven. The quarterly growth was partly attributed to major retail events like Black Friday, Cyber Monday and Christmas/Boxing Day sales, which had a stronger impact this year in boosting night-time spending this year.

Six region summary – Spend and Businesses

Night-time business growth across the six regions reflected varied local economic conditions



Businesses in core night-time economy sector, December quarter 2024

Figure 19. Proportion of core night-time economy sector businesses, within each region

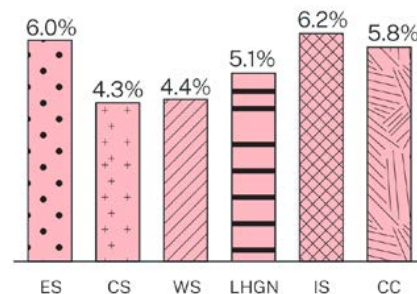


Figure 20. Distribution across regions

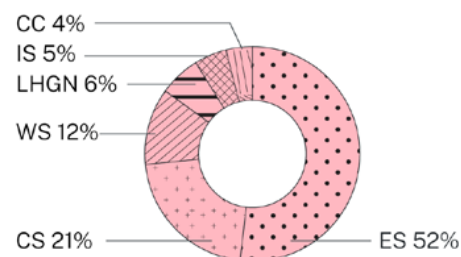
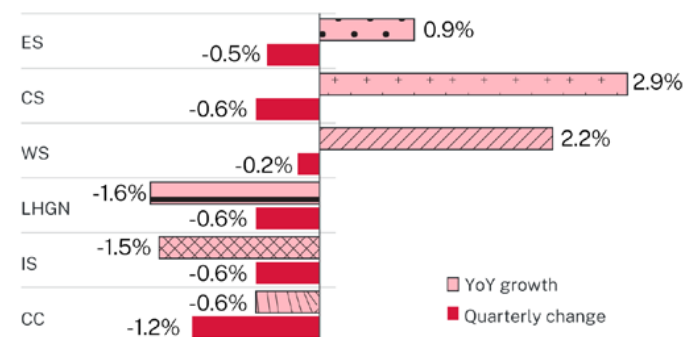


Figure 21. YoY and quarterly change



Legend

Eastern Sydney (ES)
Central Sydney (CS)

Western Sydney (WS)
Lower Hunter & Greater Newcastle (LHGN)

Illawarra-Shoalhaven (IS)
Central Coast (CC)

Business

Eastern Sydney accounts for over half of the businesses in the food, drink, and leisure sectors across the six regions. While the share of NTE businesses is relatively balanced across each region, factors such as population density and local economic conditions continue to influence their distribution. Year-on-year growth across the six regions was mixed, with Eastern Sydney, Central Sydney, and Western Sydney recording gains, while other areas experienced declines in both year-on-year and quarterly figures. These declines align with broader macroeconomic conditions, as businesses navigate economic uncertainties, shifting consumer behaviour, and financial pressures.

Special chapter – seasonal shopping surge: night-time spending in the festive period

In our ongoing commitment to providing deeper insights into the night-time economy, each quarterly report features a dedicated special chapter. This section is dedicated to analysing a notable trend or occurrence that has had a significant impact during the quarter. By focusing on a specific issue each edition, we aim to uncover unique patterns and provide actionable insights that go beyond routine data analysis.

Exploring how seasonal shopping trends shape night-time activity during the festive period

For this quarter's special chapter, we explore the impact of seasonal shopping trends on night-time economic activity during the festive period. Major retail events such as Black Friday (29 November 2024), Cyber Monday (2 December 2024), and the lead-up to Christmas and New Year's Eve drive distinct surges in night-time spending, highlighting shifts in consumer behaviour.

These seasonal peaks reveal changes in how and where consumers shop, with online spending spiking around major sales events, while in-person shopping peaks the week before Christmas due to last-minute purchases and holiday preparations. Black Friday and Cyber Monday have also evolved beyond single-day events into prolonged sales cycles, influencing both digital and physical retail patterns.

By analysing spending* and mobility data, this chapter examines how these key retail events influence in-person and online transactions, shaping activity across night-time retail and entertainment hubs. However, spending patterns observed at night may not fully reflect trends across the entire 24-hour period, as extended sales events like Black Friday and pre-Christmas shopping also drive transactions throughout the day.

*Spend data in this special chapter captures transactions by NSW residents, including payments to businesses outside NSW, such as Amazon and Temu. The total figure can slightly differ from the quarterly in-person spend presented in earlier sections of the report.

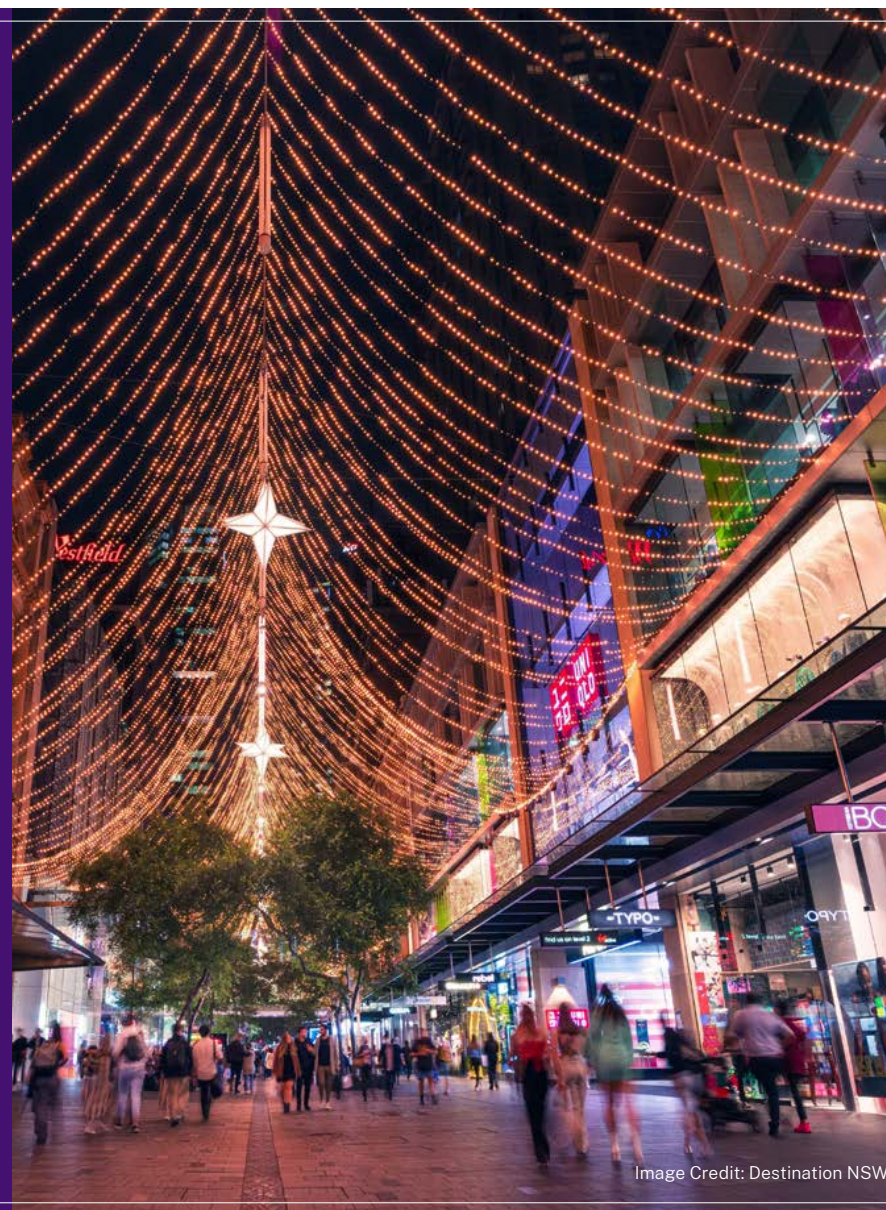


Image Credit: Destination NSW

Night-time spending in the festive period

Two distinct spending peaks emerged, driven by Black Friday shopping and Christmas preparations

Figure 22. Weekly night-time spend by NSW residents by payment method, Q4 2024

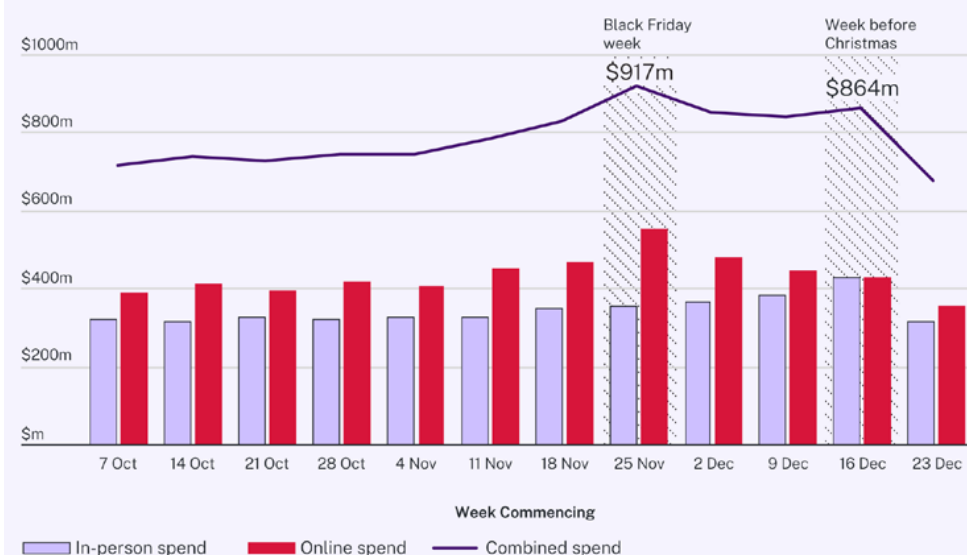
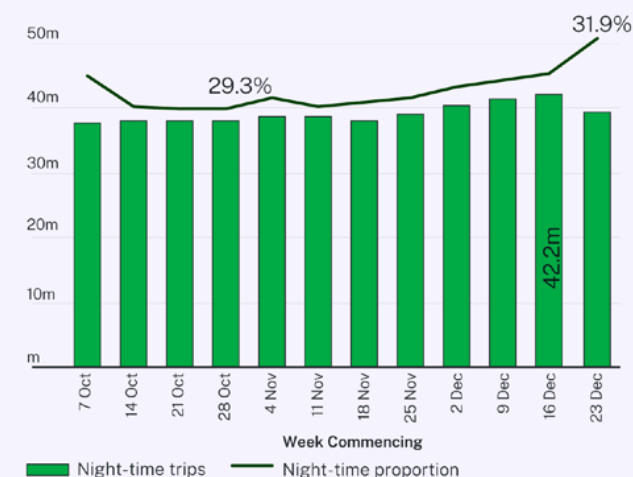


Figure 23. Weekly night-time people movement activities, NSW Q4 2024



The quarter saw two distinctive spending peaks – one during Black Friday week and another in the final days before Christmas. Black Friday drives an early online spending surge, pushing total night-time spending to \$917 million that week. The impact of digital sales now extends beyond the week itself, stimulating heightened consumer activity in the weeks before and after.

In-person spending peaks just before Christmas, steadily increasing throughout December and reaching a combined \$864 million in the final week before Christmas. This was the only week where in-person spending surpassed online transactions, driven by last-minute shopping, festive season activities, and Christmas preparations.

Night-time people movement rises alongside in-person spending with weekly night-time trips peaking at 42.2 million, reflecting increased foot traffic as consumers engaged in shopping, dining, and social activities leading up to Christmas.

Night-time spending in the festive period

Black Friday and Cyber Monday drive a higher, more prolonged peak in night-time retail activity

Figure 24. Weekly night-time spend on stored-based retailing (non-food) by payment method, NSW, weeks around Black Friday 2023 & 2024

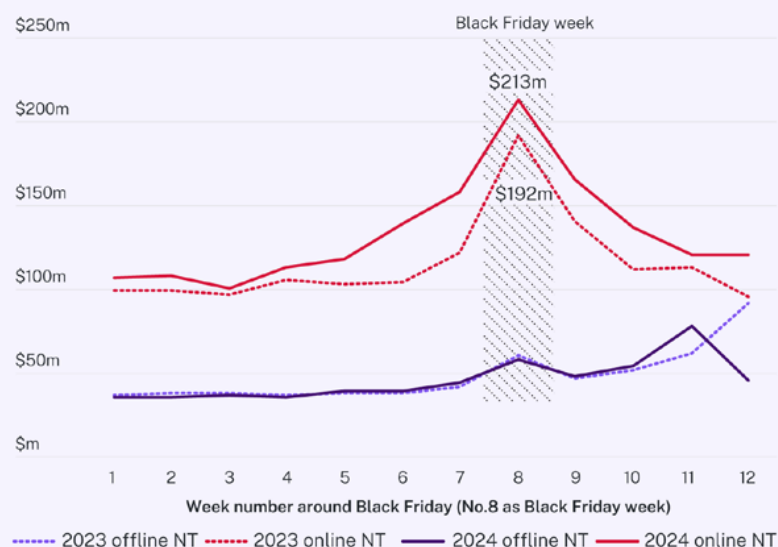


Figure 25. Daily night-time spend (online & in-person combined) on store-based retailing (non-food) Black Friday and Cyber Monday, NSW, 2019, 2023 & 2024



Estimated total boost* to night-time spend on store-based retailing (non-food)

2024

\$239m - 97.8% was contributed by online spend

2023

\$135m - 93.9% was contributed by online spend

*The boost is estimated by comparing the actual night-time spending to a hypothetical scenario in which figures follow a stable and modest upward trend leading up to Christmas.

Black Friday continues to shape night-time spending in the December quarter, with new trends of prolonged sales cycles and the rise of Cyber Monday.

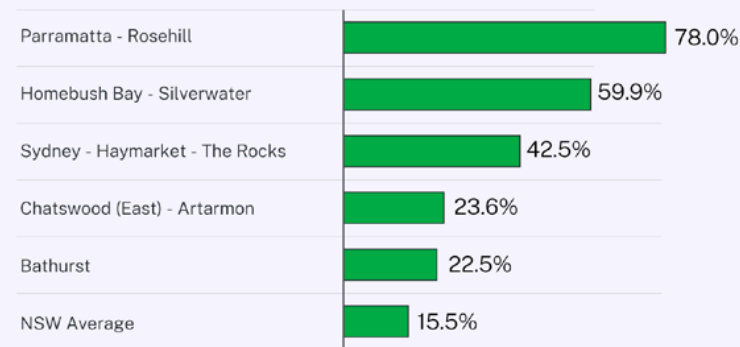
Online spending in store-based retailing (non-food) saw a significant boost at night during Black Friday week, reaching \$213 million in 2024—a 10.9% increase from \$192 million in 2023, highlighting the growing role of digital transactions in driving overall retail sales growth during peak shopping periods.

Black Friday and Cyber Monday extend their influence well beyond a single weekend. Consumers now engage with promotions earlier, and spending momentum continues for weeks after. Night-time spending on Cyber Monday has surged 123.9% since 2019, nearly matching Black Friday in 2024. This trend highlights Cyber Monday's growing significance, as consumers increasingly view both days as key sales events.

Night-time spending in the festive period

Black Friday attracted strong night-time visitation to retail hubs across NSW

Figure 26. Night-time movement activities percentage increase on Black Friday from the previous Friday, top 5 SA2*s, 2024



*SA2: Statistical Area Level 2, geographic areas as a part of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard by Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Please refer to ABS for details.

Despite being driven by online spending, Black Friday also boosts in-person visitation, with night-time movement rising 15.4% across NSW from the Friday prior.

Major retail precincts like Parramatta-Rosehill (+78.0%), Homebush Bay-Silverwater (+59.9%), and Sydney-Haymarket-The Rocks (+42.5%) saw the largest increases. These areas share strong retail presences, reinforcing Black Friday's ability to drive foot traffic alongside digital sales. This highlights Black Friday's dual impact, generating spillover effects that boost foot traffic and economic activity across key retail districts.

Night-time spend on food and liquor retailing surged days before Christmas for holiday celebrations

Figure 27. Night-time spend on food and liquor retailing, NSW December 2024



Night-time spending on food and liquor retailing builds gradually before surging just before Christmas. Spending saw a modest increase two weeks before Christmas, followed by a sharp spike to \$31.1 million on December 23, nearly double this quarter's daily average of \$16.1 million.

The "last-minute" sharp rise reflects consumer behaviour, as shoppers make final purchases for festive gatherings. Understanding when different sectors peak—such as non-food retail during Black Friday and food and liquor in the days before Christmas—is key for businesses and policymakers planning for seasonal demand.



**24-Hour
Economy**

**Contact us today to find out more
about the Office of 24-Hour
Economy Commissioner**

nsw.gov.au/24houreconomy

For any feedback on the report or data-related
inquiries, please contact us at

dataafterdark@24houreconomy.nsw.gov.au

© NSW Government 2024. All content and data correct as at March 2025.
All dollar figures are in Australian dollars (AUD) unless stated otherwise.

PE2 TRADITIONAL PODIUM CARPARKS FOR MULTI-DWELLING APARTMENTS

AUTHOR: Rita Vella, Executive Planner, Strategic Planning

APPROVER: Dylan Porter, Acting Director Planning and Environment

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. That as part of the comprehensive review of the DCP, and specifically the review of the Car Parking provisions, a review of objectives and controls be undertaken to consider additional objectives and controls for podium parking.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this briefing report is to provide information in response to the questions raised in the Notice of Motion, which will then form the basis of the report to the May Council meeting.

REPORT

Background

Council, at its meeting on 25 March 2025 considered a Notice of Motion in relation to consideration of a return to traditional podium carparks for multi-dwelling apartments. In this regard, Council resolved the following (68/25):

That a report be prepared for the April Ordinary Council meeting investigating the following:

1. *Exclusion of above ground car parking in FSR calculation.*
2. *Benefits of having a natural ventilation instead of mechanical ventilation.*
3. *Cost savings for not needing to have hydraulic pumps and other necessary infrastructure that is required in a basement development.*
4. *The process to change this development condition.*
5. *Taking into account the provision of a podium carparks arrangements, an investigation should be provided that considers the ability to effectively provide podium car parking which takes into account the relevant building height controls for residential flat buildings and mixed-use development. This should include consideration of effective controls to incorporate the podium into the design.*

Planning Framework

Strathfield LEP 2012 and the Strathfield Comprehensive DCP 2005 does not include any specific provisions that prohibit podium car parking as part of multi-dwelling and mixed-use developments.

When discussing development proposals with applicants, guidance is offered in terms of the design and appearance of car parking to ensure that there is an acceptable public domain and streetscape outcome, and that where required, development incorporates active uses along the ground level frontages, minimising the

negative impact of dead or inactive frontages which may result from badly designed at grade/podium carparking.

In terms of the provision of on-site car parking, consideration needs to be given to the planning guidelines that exists, and which architects consider when designing an apartment building (residential flat buildings and shop top housing).

The location, form and organisation of parking is usually a balance of development feasibility, site constraints (flooding, location of below ground infrastructure etc), local context, apartment types, parking requirements and development standards (maximum height of buildings). Deep soil zones, flood and stormwater management and the retention of trees can also affect the size and shape of a car park footprint and whether car parking is provided in a basement or above ground.

In some instances, on site ground conditions limit the ability to construct basements below a certain level. This might include the presence of bedrock, very sandy conditions, elevated water tables or below ground infrastructure such as trunks sewer. Such issues are not common in Strathfield.

Generally, developers will seek to maximise their floor space within a required building envelope, which is generally determined by the setback controls and maximum height of building requirements. The gross floor area (GFA), although a consideration, does not generally factor in decisions relating to the location of parking as the definition of GFA excludes *car parking to meet any requirements of the consent authority (including access to that car parking)*. In this regard, any car parking proposed either above ground (in a podium) or in a basement is excluded from the calculation of the FSR.

The height of buildings plays a role in determining how a development is designed as a developer will likely seek to maximise residential floorspace over car parking provision. The feasibility of the development accounts for where the car parking is provided – in some cases, and depending on the overall height requirements, it may be feasible to excavate for a basement to maximise the number of residential levels available within permitted height controls. In some instances, particularly in high density scenarios, parking may be provided in both the basement and at the podium levels – this may be required where there are constraints as to the extent of excavation and/or for financial considerations.

Figure 1 below provides a comparison of a development with a building height where the car parking is provided in a basement vs providing a basement for parking. Based on this analysis, an additional 3 levels of residential floorspace can be achieved.

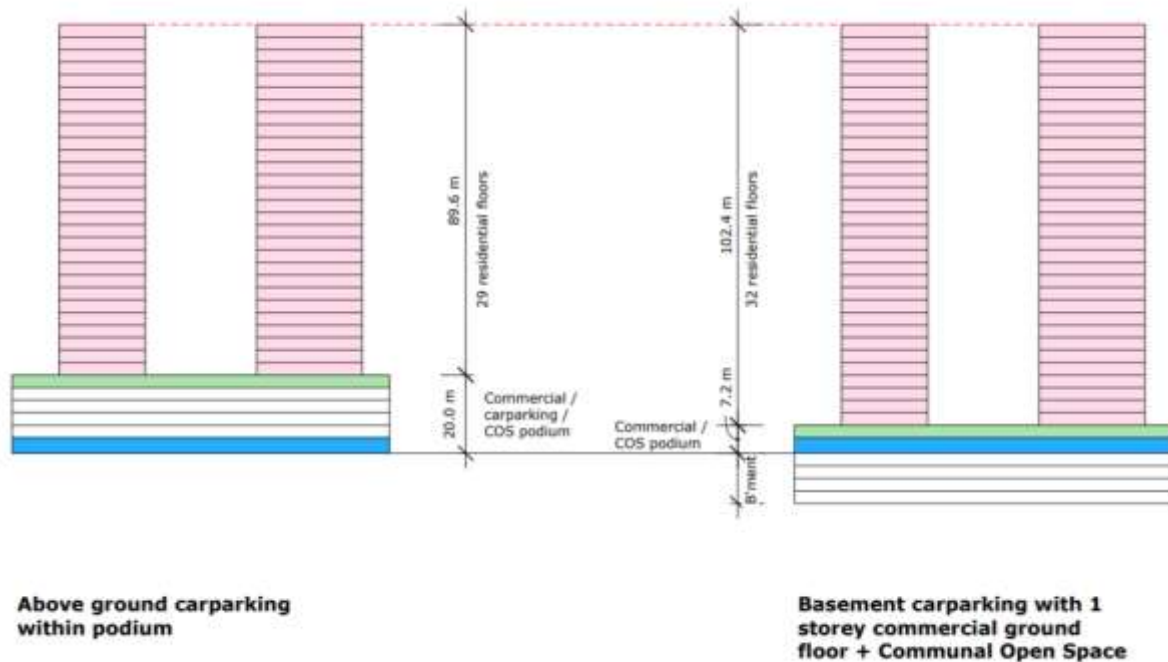


Figure 1 – Comparison of Number of Storeys in a Development – Basement vs Podium

Where at grade/podium car parking is proposed, the aim is to ensure that the building form and facades of any car parking contributes positively to the public realm and is designed to respond to the context of the overall building design. An example of this in the context of podium parking might include opportunities to provide landscaping within the building façade or to effectively sleeve the façade of buildings to include active uses and/or ensure that the design of the building responds to the context of the streetscape.

Figures 2 & 3 below provides examples of where podium parking has been done well are the Aspire building in Melbourne's CBD, which uses landscaping to screen podium parking and Darling Square in Sydney's Darling Harbour, which uses interesting façade treatments. Both examples have activated ground floor uses and there is careful consideration of the design of the loading/unloading and servicing facilities.



Figure 2 - Aspire - Melbourne



Figure 3 - Darling Square – Sydney

Key considerations for the incorporation and design of at grade/podium car parking include:

- Location and design of access/egress ramps and minimising the width of driveway crossings to support safe footpaths and maximise opportunities for active frontages to streets

- Sleeving the ground floor of any car parking with active uses
- Careful resolution of the façade and its context with the overall development. This includes materials, patterning, rhythm, detail and colour and scale of elements within the façade
- Use of landscaping and green walls to soften facades.

Podium vs Basement Car Parking – Cost Comparison

In terms of cost comparison between basement and podium car parking, it is anticipated that there will be a level of cost saving. Broad cost information obtained from RLB suggests the following order of costs:

- Basement car park (outside CBD location) - between \$55,000 to \$87,000 per car parking space
- Open Deck Multi Storey – between \$35,750 to \$62,000 per car parking space.

However, the available cost data relates only to an open deck multi-level car park and does not necessarily include the façade treatments required to make the outcome acceptable from an architectural and urban design perspective. So, the higher end of the cost range should be adopted by any broader comparison purposes.

With respect to the need to provide mechanical ventilation or other plant, this information is difficult to ascertain as it would depend on the scale of the development and the technology proposed. In some cases, podium car parking may need to be mechanically ventilated, particularly where it is proposed that the façade is sleeved.

Next Steps

As part of the comprehensive review of the DCP, a review of the objectives and controls for car parking is proposed to be undertaken for all development typologies. As part of this review, consideration will be given to this resolution as well as other recent Council resolutions relating to car parking, including Mayoral Minute 05/25 from the 29 April 2025 meeting.

In addition, it is proposed to undertake a review of the design excellence framework for Strathfield – this would include a review of the existing Design Excellence provision in Strathfield LEP 2012 to broaden its applicability and ensure that it is consistent with best practice, along with reinstating the Design Review Panel.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report

12.1 **REPORT FROM TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING ON 20 MAY 2025**

AUTHOR: John Inglese, Traffic Engineer

APPROVER: Cathy Edwards-Davis, Director Engineering and Operations

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Traffic Committee meeting held on 20 May 2025 be noted and the recommendations (if any) be adopted.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [1](#) Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes - 20 May 2025

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday 20 May 2025

11am - 12:30pm

Main Building Meeting Room

65 Homebush Road, Strathfield





TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING - 20 MAY 2025

MINUTES

Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting of Strathfield Municipal Council held on 20 May 2025, in the Main Building Meeting Room, 65 Homebush Road, Strathfield.

COMMENCING: 11:00AM

PRESENT:	Karen Pensabene	Councillor and Acting Chair
	Juliet London	Representative of the Member for Strathfield
	Raymond Yeung	Auburn Traffic Police
	Osman Goreli	Multicultural Liaison Officer Auburn Police
	Andy Huynh	Transport for NSW

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr John Inglese	Senior Traffic and Transport Engineer, Strathfield Council
Mr Jack Griffiths	Traffic and Transport Engineer, Strathfield Council
Mr Chris Johnson	Road Safety Officer, Strathfield Council

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Karen Pensabene welcomed all to the meeting

2. APOLOGIES

Matthew Blackmore	Chairperson
Michael Takla	Transit Systems

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

ANDY HUYNH	MOVED
RAYMOND YEUNG	SECONDED

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting meeting held on 18 March 2025, 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

6. REPORTS

6.1 Feasibility of Installing a Pedestrian Crossing at the corner of Inveresk Park and Beresford Road

Background

At the Council meeting of the 25 March 2025 Item 53/25 Council resolved the following; That Council report to the Traffic Committee the cost and feasibility of installing a pedestrian crossing at the corner of Inveresk Park and Beresford Road.

Report

Council staff have investigated the possibility of installing a Pedestrian crossing on the Corner of Inveresk Park and Beresford Road. Inveresk Park is bordered by Dickson Street to the west, Merley Street to the north and Beresford Road to the South. See figure 1 below



Figure 1. Location Plan

The most suitable location for a crossing would be on the corner of Beresford Road and Dickson Street, as there would be minimal impact on the adjacent residential property. As the carriageway is only 8.0m with a pedestrian refuge would not be suitable due to the width of the road, so the crossing would be the most appropriate treatment. See figure 2. below



Figure 2. Proposed Location of the Crossing.

It should be noted that that Council has already approved a number of pedestrian crossings throughout the Strathfield LGA, please see list below that included this location.

In response to the Councillor Notice of Motion, it is proposed to prioritise the pedestrian crossing program list for construction as follows: Beresford Road is No 6 on the list.

1. Exeter Road west of Hornsey Road
2. Exeter Road east of Eastbourne Road
3. Arthur Street at Pilgrim Park
4. Eastbourne Road north of Tavistock Road
5. Eastbourne Road south of Exeter Road
6. Beresford Road east of Dickson Street
7. Heyde Avenue north of Oxford Road
8. Fraser Street south of Kessel Avenue
9. Hedges Avenue at Augusta Street
10. The Crescent east of Hornsey Road
11. Underwood Road at Ismay Reserve
12. Pemberton Street at Boden Reserve
13. Broughton Road at Fitzgerald Park

The estimated cost for the pedestrian crossing based on recent similar projects would be in the order of \$15,000. This would include new pram ramps and footpath connections etc.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council install a pedestrian crossing on the corner of Beresford Road east Dickson Street as per figure 2. in the report, along with associated linemarking and signage.

Further that the estimated cost of \$15,000 be funded from the 2025/2026 Capital Works Budget.

(Voting on this item was unanimous)

6.2 Proposed closure of Hunter Street at The Boulevard to facilitate additional parking.

Background

A Councillor has requested that the Traffic Committee consider the closure of Hunter Street at The Boulevard to allow some additional parking to be provided to assist the small shopping centre on the corner of The Boulevard and Liverpool Road.

Report

A request has been received from one of the Councillors for the Traffic Committee to consider the closure of Hunter Street at The Boulevard to allow some additional parking to be provided to assist the small shopping centre. The approximate area of the road closure is shown in Figure 1.



Area of Proposed Road closure ■

Figure 1.

Council staff have investigated the request and have provided the following:

- In the first instance staff would not be supportive of closing Hunter Street, as this is a collector road that links The Boulevard to Homebush Road. Closing this road would push traffic onto the nearby local Roads such as Cameron Street, Mount Street and Thomas Street, which will increase traffic movements in these local street and may cause additional problems for those local residents
- In addition back in 2022 Council staff were asked to look at formalising the Four (4) Parking Spaces in front of the shops. See below figures 2, 3 and 4.



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

Council staff also looked at adjusting the Bus Zone to gain an extra space (see figure 5 below).

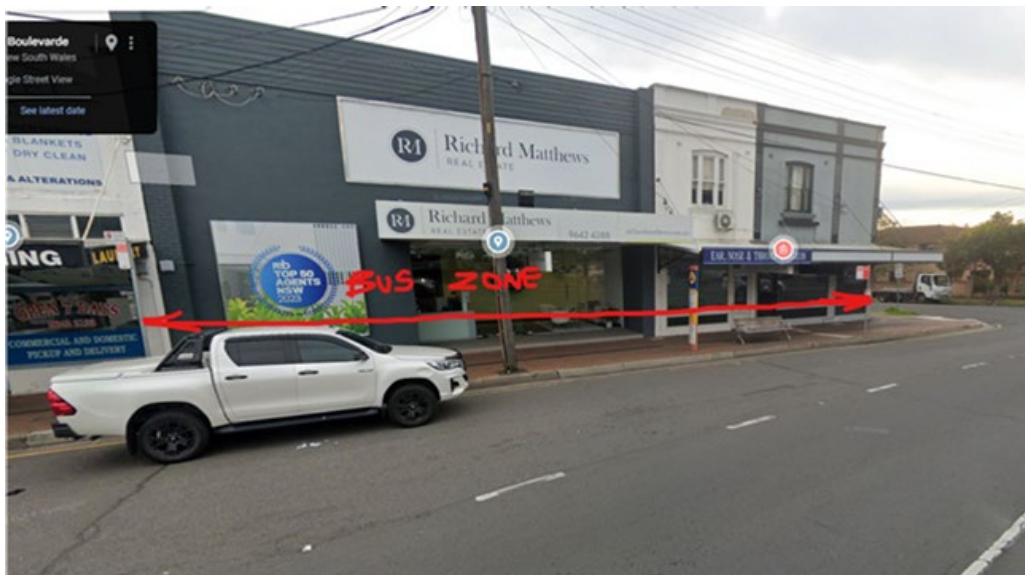


Figure 5

When this work was completed some of the shop keepers spoke to the staff and said that they were happy with the changes.

In considering the closure of Hunter Street as suggested, staff were concerned that the width of the parallel parking would be too narrow and therefore unsafe for motorists.

Council cannot enact traffic management changes on State Roads such as this. It requires approval from Transport for NSW. To this end, staff consulted TfNSW, and the following advice was received;

Given that the intention of the proposed closure is to provide additional parking amenity, on-street parallel parking spaces should be provided in accordance with AS2890.5 On-street Parking. The standards indicates that the minimum width of parallel parking spaces for cars and light commercial vehicles where the speed limit is 60km/h would be 2.2 metres, (currently this is 1.8m from a desktop review), the closure of Hunter Street would remove direct access to the available 1P parking on Hunter Street from The Boulevard and, push traffic onto nearby roads. See figure 6



Figure 6

It is also important to note that the bus stop at this location caters for regular bus operations throughout the day, servicing several bus routes (415, 450, 913, 914 & M90). It would be ideal for the bus stop at this location to be retained as it provides the bus drivers the ability to pull over for PUDO without obstructing the main thoroughfare. Otherwise, any relocations will need to be reviewed and approved by bus operators/TfNSW Bus planning team.

In addition, there are currently 11 X 1P Parking spaces on Hunter Street and 6 x 1P parking spaces on Mintaro Avenue that service the small shopping Centre so in total there are 15 Parking spaces in close proximity to the shops. See Figures 7 and 8.



Existing 11 X 1P Parking spaces on Hunter Street

Figure 7.



Existing 6 x parking spaces on Mintaro Avenue

Figure 8.



Local residents would also need to be consulted on the road closure as this affects direct access to The Boulevarde and traffic redistribution to local streets.

RECOMMENDATION

That based on the information provided in this report that Council NOT proceed with the closure of Hunter Street as requested for the following reasons;

- Hunter Street, is a collector road that links The Boulevarde to Homebush Road, closing this road would push traffic onto Local Roads like Cameron Street, Mount Street and Thomas Street, which will cause additional problems for those local residential streets.
- Council cannot enact traffic management changes on State roads such as this. It requires approval from Transport for NSW. To this end, staff consulted TfNSW, and the following advice was received *Given that the intention of the proposed closure is to provide additional parking amenity, on-street parallel parking spaces should be provided in accordance with AS2890.5 On-street Parking. The standards indicates that the minimum width of parallel parking spaces for cars and light commercial vehicles where the speed limit is 60km/h would be 2.2 metres, (currently this is 1.8m From a desktop review).*

It is also important to note that the bus stop at this location caters for regular bus operations throughout the day, servicing several bus routes (415, 450, 913, 914 & M90). It would be ideal for the bus stop at this location to be retained as it provides the bus drivers the ability to pull over for PUDO without obstructing the main thoroughfare. Otherwise, any relocations will need to be reviewed and approved by bus operators/TfNSW Bus Planning Team.

(Voting on this item was unanimous)



6.3 Smallwood Avenue, Homebush – Request for Treatment to deal with the Increased Traffic Conditions

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to propose consultation with residents on options for treatment to traffic in Smallwood Avenue to better manage conflicting vehicle movements and increased traffic.

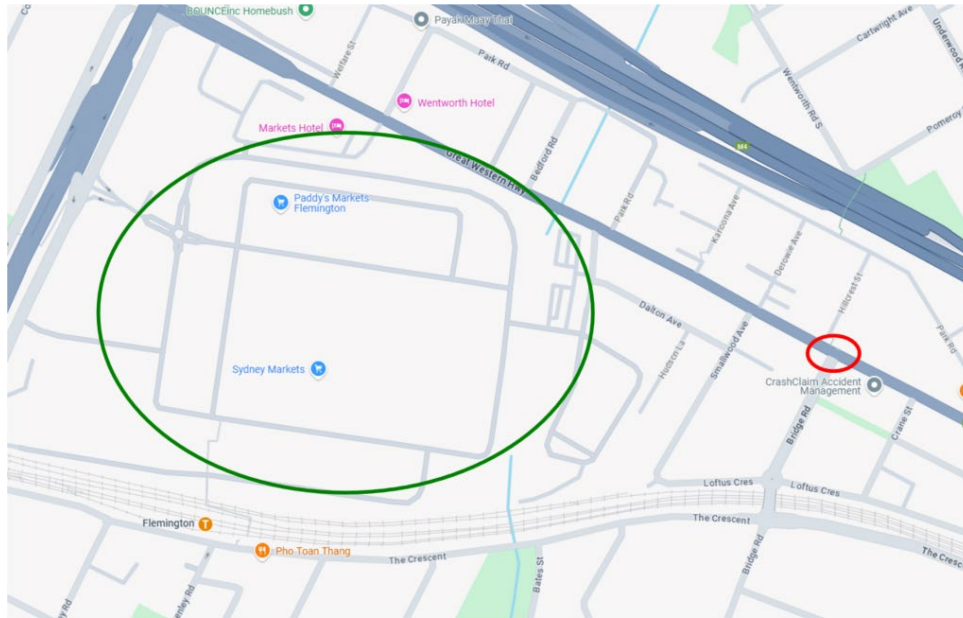
Background

Council has received representation regarding traffic issues experienced in Smallwood Avenue in Homebush, a local road. Multiple complaints have advised that due to the width of Smallwood Avenue (approximately 8.5m) and parking on both sides of the road, there are often sideswipe collisions or queued vehicles block access for other vehicles.

As per Australian Standards, the minimum width of a parking lane on a 50km/hr road is 2.0m, and as per Transport for NSW delineation guidelines, the minimum width for a travel lane is 2.75m where there is a S1 separator centre line. While there is no such line on Smallwood Avenue, the function of the road regularly requires 2-way traffic flow. As such, a comfortable road width is 9.5m. Even considering slightly reduced travel lane widths, the width of Smallwood Avenue provides 2.25m, which is very constrained for vehicles.

Smallwood Avenue receives high volumes of vehicles for a local road during peak hours as vehicles use it as a 'rat run' to turn left onto Parramatta Road to avoid the traffic lights at Bridge Road (red in Figure 1).

However, the most common cause of congestion in Smallwood Avenue is vehicles using it as a 'rat run' to access Sydney Markets (green in Figure 1) via Dalton Avenue to avoid entering the Markets via Parramatta Road and Potts Street. Video has been provided to Council of a Saturday morning when vehicles are trying to access the Markets via Smallwood Avenue.

**Sydney Markets****Intersection of Bridge Road and Parramatta Road****Figure 1 – traffic influencers near Smallwood Avenue****Proposal**

Council is proposing to conduct consultation with all residents in Smallwood Avenue (noting Dalton Avenue and Hudson Lane provide access to residences on Smallwood Avenue) and Loftus Crescent between Bridge Road and Smallwood Avenue with the following options to better manage traffic flow or redirect traffic flow:

- **Option 1:** remove parking on 1 side of Smallwood Avenue between Dalton Avenue and Loftus Crescent for a time. This option would allow for improved traffic flow on Smallwood Avenue at peak times and would also provide better sight distance for vehicles exiting residential driveways.

Parking would be proposed to be removed on the east side of the road between Dalton Avenue and Loftus Crescent (red in Figure 2), where the presence of several large and combined apartment driveways provides a difference in available on-street parking. There are also only 2 driveways on the west side of the road such that sight distance for the several driveways on the east side of the road would benefit.

The east side of the road currently provides 20 parking spaces while the west side of the street provides 26 parking spaces. However, the east side of the road would have 1 parking space removed at the south end (green in Figure 2), or the west side of the road would have 2 parking spaces removed at the south end (blue in Figure 2) if residents instead wanted parking on the west side removed. Regardless of the side of the road that would have parking removed, this is to provide safer traffic movements around the bend at the intersection of Loftus Crescent and Smallwood Avenue.



Proposed parking to be removed

Parking space to be removed on east side of Smallwood Avenue

Parking space to be removed on west side of Smallwood Avenue

Figure 2 – proposed parking removal in Smallwood Avenue

- **Option 2:** implement a phased removal of traffic from Smallwood Avenue. This option would first discourage and then prevent vehicles from using Smallwood Avenue as a 'rat run' and access point to Sydney Markets, promoting Smallwood Avenue for local residential traffic only.

To determine the appropriate treatment that does not detrimentally affect traffic in the area, Council would trial incrementally interventive treatments to prevent non-local traffic from accessing Smallwood Avenue. Each treatment would be trialled for 3-6 months, and if an adequate reduction in traffic has not been achieved, the next phase would be considered for implementation.

For the first phase, Council proposes to install a large advisory sign on the northwest corner of the intersection of Bridge Road and Loftus Crescent, the location of which is shown in Figure 3. The sign would be similar in size to directional signs used on State Roads, except due to the power lines overhead the overall height of the sign would be reduced.



Figure 3 – proposed location of advisory sign

The sign would indicate that local traffic only can access Loftus Crescent (which in turn leads to Smallwood Avenue), while access to Sydney Markets is to be via Parramatta Road. The sign would read as per Figure 4.



Figure 4 – proposed advisory sign to be erected at the intersection of Bridge Road and Loftus Crescent

A similar treatment has been used in Riverwood (in Georges River LGA) near Riverwood Plaza (pictured in Figure 5) to prevent vehicles using local streets to access the Plaza. The sign has been successful in reducing vehicles using local roads.



Figure 5 – existing advisory sign in Riverwood, Georges River LGA



TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING - 20 MAY 2025

MINUTES

Should the sign not reduce traffic levels sufficiently, Council would consider a trial partial road closure of Loftus Crescent west of Bridge Road such that vehicles can exit from this section of Loftus Crescent but cannot enter from the intersection. However, details of this would be brought back to a future Local Traffic Committee if required.

Consultation

The above 2 options will be presented in a consultation letter to all residents in Smallwood Avenue and in Loftus Crescent west of Bridge Road, with consultation results brought back to the next available Local Traffic Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve consultation to be conducted with all residents in Smallwood Avenue and in Loftus Crescent west of Bridge Road with the options presented in this report to improve traffic operations in Smallwood Avenue.

(Voting on this item was unanimous)

6.4 Councilor Request to Reopen South Street to through traffic

Background

The Mayor has enquired about reopening South Street, between Barker Road and Albert Road to traffic. It is currently a park, known as Mt Royal Reserve. However, it appears from GIS that South Street was never formally closed as a road. See figure 1



Figure 1.

Council Staff have looked very closely at this request and after consulting with the Councils Landscape Architect, Tree Management Officer and the Road Safety Officer the following points are provided.

- This current road closure area is providing a large section of public greenspace which is lacking in this area of the LGA.
- This section of Albert Road is quite busy with pick up and up and drop off in front of Marie Bashir Primary School and reintroducing additional traffic from Barker Road into Albert Road would be detrimental road safety in front of the school.
- Traffic volumes along Barker Road are only 6,427 V/D and the speed profile is 49.2 km/h, this is consistent with a collector road of this nature.
- The new roundabout at the intersection of Marion Street and Barker Road has helped to control traffic movement at this intersection and gives motorists the option to head north if they desire. See figure 2.

- Any road opening here would either be in, or near the mid-block traffic control site, requiring significant works to enable this road opening. At minimum, the traffic control site would need to be upgraded to a full traffic control site with 4 legs (2 on Barker Road, 1 on South Road, and 1 on the new road opening), where the South Road-new road alignment would be at an offset, further complicating the site. The existing site only currently has 2 legs (on Barker Road). At most, this is not possible with the road opening being within the existing traffic signal intersection.

In addition, Council staff passed this request onto Transport for NSW, and they provided the following comments:

However, I do acknowledge your comments that this will be a very expensive exercise as the TCS site will need to be upgraded. A review of the most recent finalised crash period from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2023 indicates no reported crashes at this intersection. If feasible, the upgrade would likely have to be funded by Council or through a proactive nomination for funding. I would suggest Council also evaluate the cost-benefit of providing an upgrade at this intersection.

Further, significant consultation with residents in Albert Road, Marie Bashir Public School, and Australian Catholic University as a minimum would need to be conducted for the proposal.



Figure 2.

RECOMMENDATION

- That based on the information provided in this report that Council NOT Consider reopening South Street to through Traffic as this would have a detrimental effect on the surrounding road network.
- Further that the estimated cost of \$1.5 - \$2 million would be far better spent on improving and implementing new Road Safety Measures throughout the Strathfield LGA.
-

(Voting on this item was unanimous)

6.5 Crane Street, Homebush – Request for Altered Parking Conditions.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to propose parking changes in Crane Street for improved traffic flow at Parramatta Road.

Background

Council has received representation regarding traffic issues experienced in Crane Street in Homebush, a local road. Complainants have advised that the parking space located on the west side of Crane Street near Parramatta Road (red in Figure 1 – note the blue car on the east side of the road is parked illegally) creates issues for vehicles to pass each other near the intersection of Crane Street and Parramatta Road.

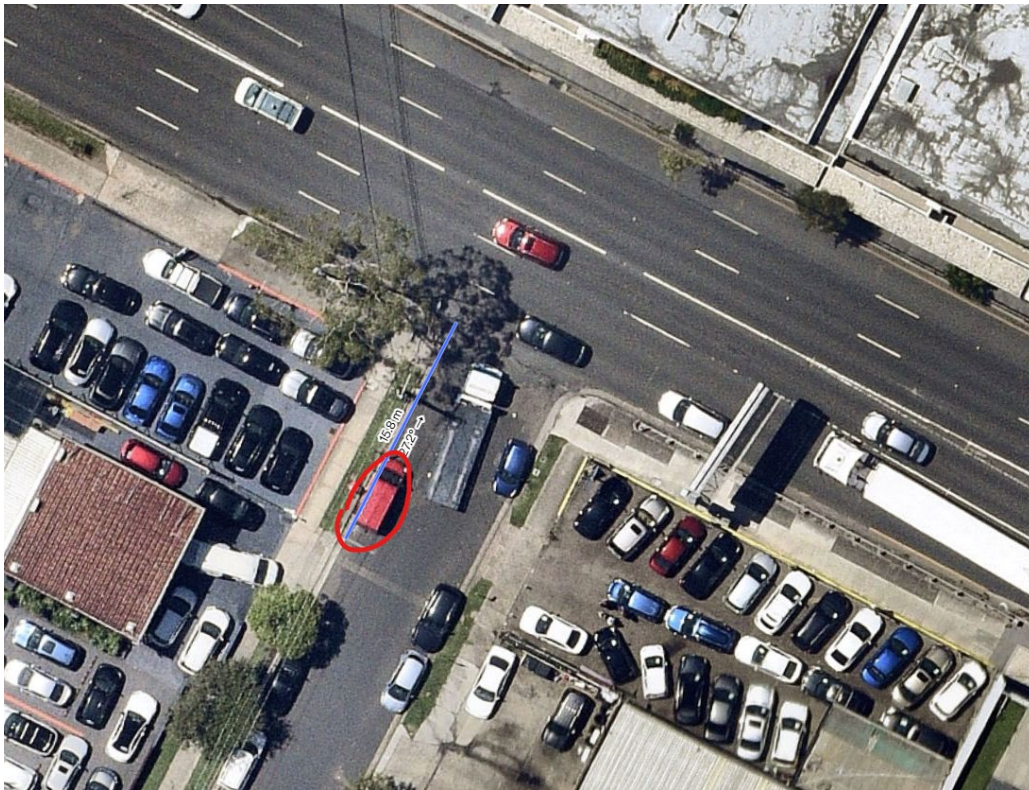


Figure 1 – existing parking space on the west side of Crane Street near Parramatta Road

As per NSW parking rules, vehicles must not stop within 10.0m of an unsignalised intersection. Further, as per Australian Standards for on-street parking, a parking space with at least 1 unrestricted end of the parking space (no obstruction present) must be a minimum of 5.4m in length. As shown in Figure 1, the 10.0m *No Stopping* distance leaves an approximate 5.8m parking space available.

While the provided parking space is sufficient as per existing Australian Standards, larger vehicles such as 6.0m small rigid vehicles associated with nearby mechanic and repair shops often park here such that they either encroach on the adjacent driveway or on the *No Stopping* zone. Additionally, Australian Standards for off-street parking have been reviewed to provide larger parking spaces to accommodate increased vehicle sizes. While the Standard for on-street parking has not been reviewed as such, this should be considered.

Proposal

It is proposed to remove the subject on-street parking space by moving the existing '*No Stopping*'/timed '*2P*' sign combination to the southern side of the adjacent driveway and implementing C3 line marking from the kerb line of Parramatta Road to the start of the parking zone (noting Council cannot line mark Parramatta Road as this is a State Road and managed by Transport for NSW) as per Figure 2.



Figure 2 – proposed sign relocation and line marking on Crane Street near Parramatta Road

It is noted that 1 submission advised that 2-way traffic in Crane Street can experience difficulties due to the road width (approximately 9.0m), but when considering the minimum parking lane width of 2.0m as per Australian Standards and the minimum travel lane width of 2.75m as per Transport for NSW delineation guidelines, the road provides 2.5m travel lanes which is acceptable for a lower-volume local road.

**Consultation**

As the change is required to prevent vehicle conflicts at the intersection with a State Road and there is sufficient parking on Loftus Crescent with the same restrictions as the affected parking space (2-hour parking with permit holders excepted), it is not proposed to consult on the change and implement the change as quickly as possible.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the removal of 1 on-street parking space on the west side of Crane Street south of Parramatta Road as outlined in the report.

Further that Council approve the installation of No Stopping restrictions at this location.

(Voting on this item was unanimous)

7. SPECIAL EVENTS

7.1 Strathfield Square, Strathfield - Traffic Management Plan for Winter Warmer in the Square

PURPOSE

To outline the proposed traffic management to facilitate the 2025 Winter Warmer in the Square.

BACKGROUND

Council is again proposing to host the Winter Warmer in the Square in Strathfield Square on Friday 18 July and Saturday 19 July 2025. The event is pending the result of a grant application to the NSW Government's Open Street grant to promote the place element of the built environment.

The event will feature food markets, creative stalls, outdoor winter-associated sports and activities like ice skating, demonstrations relating to urban canopy cover, and an active mobility mechanic stall with lock up parking.

PROPOSAL

As per the event held in 2024, the event proposes full road closures on Albert Road north of Strathfield Square, Churchill Avenue south of Strathfield Square, and The Boulevarde north of Parnell Street to restrict through vehicle movements. Due to the proposed closure of The Boulevarde north of Parnell Street and subsequently no opportunity to turn around, The Boulevarde north of Redmyre Road will be temporarily made 1-way northbound with vehicles parking on the east side of the road doing so facing north. All closed areas are shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1 – proposed road closure area for the Winter Warmer in the Square



The event will run from 9AM on Friday 18 July until 10PM on Saturday 19 July while the road closures will be in effect from 5AM on Friday 18 July until 2AM on Sunday 20 July.

The following stakeholders are considered with the Event impacts:

- Buses: not affected, operations maintained.
- Australia Post: not affected as 'Mail Zone' parking restriction to be maintained.
- Taxis: to utilise temporarily relocated Taxi Zone to 'No Stopping'/'Loading Zone' on the north side of Albert Road as per Figure 2.
- Emergency Vehicles: able to access the event area from any direction, traffic controllers in place to remove barricades as required.
- Work (event) Vehicles: able to access the event area from any direction, traffic controllers in place to remove barricades as required.
- Private Vehicles
 - Vehicles approaching from the west (Albert Road): through vehicle movements to The Boulevarde restricted, must detour via Raw Square and Redmyre Road.
 - Vehicles approaching from the east (The Boulevarde): through vehicle movements to Churchill Avenue restricted, must detour via Redmyre Road, Raw Square, and Albert Road; also vehicle movements north of Parnell Street restricted, further detour via Parnell Street and Lyons Street.
 - Affected on-street parking:
 - 3 spaces on the south side of Strathfield Square subject to combined 'No Parking' and '30-Minute Parking' restrictions.
 - 4 spaces on the west side of The Boulevarde subject to a mix of '30-Minute Parking'.
 - 7 spaces on the east side of The Boulevarde north of Parnell Street subject to a combined 'No Parking' restriction and '30-Minute Parking' restriction.
 - Due to northbound vehicle movements only on The Boulevarde, it is proposed that vehicles parking on the east side of The Boulevarde do so facing north (typically park facing south as per traffic flow) to prevent vehicle U-turn manoeuvres in the area that may create a hazard.
- Pedestrians, vulnerable persons and cyclists: will not be affected (may need to navigate Strathfield Square more carefully than usual), however they are to remain within the confines of the event and road closures to not affect traffic flow any further.
- Sydney Trains: operations not affected, access to employee parking restricted and alternative parking to be provided for the duration of the road closures.
- Adjacent Council's
 - City of Canada Bay Council: not directly affected by event, may experience increased private vehicle or taxi vehicle movements.
 - Burwood Council: loss of 7 parking spaces and subject to detour vehicle movements via Parnell Street and Lyons Street. Concurrence from Council's Manager Traffic & Transport to be requested.

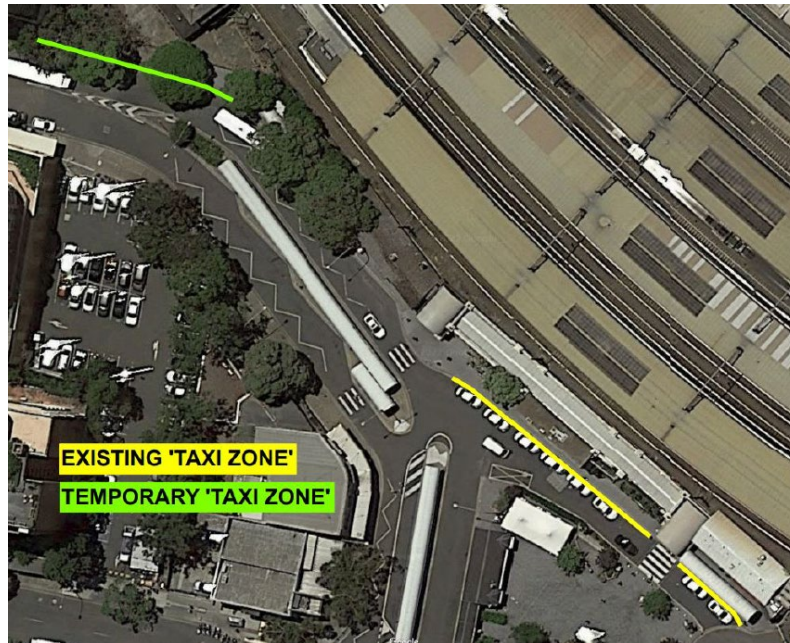


Figure 2 – temporarily relocated 'Taxi Zone'

CONSULTATION/NOTIFICATION

It is proposed to notify the following stakeholders:

- Buses: no notification required.
- Australia Post: no notification required.
- Taxis: email notification to be provided of temporarily relocated 'Taxi Zone'.
- Emergency Services: email notification to be provided advising of closure but ability to access, Police approval for road closure to be obtained.
- Private Vehicles: advertisement via Council's newsletter, website, and other media sources as well as VMS boards in place 1 week prior to event.
- Pedestrians, vulnerable users, and cyclists: as above.
- Sydney Trains: email notification to be provided of temporary restricted access to car park and alternative parking arrangements.
- Adjacent Councils: email notification of event to be provided to City of Canada Bay Council, concurrence to be sought from Burwood Council.
- Local residents and businesses: letter drop to all residences and businesses shown in area in Figure 3 below.
- TfNSW: a Road Occupancy License to be obtained for the event.



Figure 3 – letter box drop area for event

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council approve the road closures detailed in this report to facilitate the Winter Warmer in the Square.
2. That the event class be noted as Class 3, which does not require concurrence from Transport for NSW as per the updated *Guide to Traffic and Transport for Special Events* but does require a Road Occupancy License.
3. That marshals ensure all event activities are contained within the closure area.
4. That the closure is approved subject to Grant Funding being made available.

(Voting on this item was unanimous)



8. ROAD SAFETY

8.1 ROAD SAFETY OFFICERS REPORT – 20 MAY 2025

Report prepared by Road Safety Officer

Issues

There are seven major Road Safety Projects for the 2024/25 Year,

1) Senior Drivers with a focus on driving in School Zones and refreshing driving skills workshops 6x per year.
BOOKINGS.

- Year to date, 75 Attended. Last workshop 21 November 2024
- Seniors Week lead up in 2025 (Completed)
- Developing a training workshop in partnership with Burwood Council and Auburn LAC

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 on 21 May 25

BOOKINGS.

- 90% Involvement from Schools
- Over 52 attendees from Strathfield for the February 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 TBA

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 School Crossing Supervisors program to better coordinate crossing programs.

Promotions of Road Safety School areas

Schools' Crossing Audits 2024/25 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 April 2023 445
- Next Checking Day 8 April 2025 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 June 2025 (Being held in partnership with Burwood)
- 1 More workshop to be held at the Strathfield Community Centre

Road Safety News of interest to Traffic Committee

Strathfield's Crash Data Update.

From the latest 5-year statistics (2019-2023), the top 15 streets with the highest number of casualty crashes in Strathfield.

Location Of Crash	Total
CENTENARY DR, at ARTHUR ST, STRATHFIELD	13
UNDERWOOD RD, at HOMEBUSH BAY DR, HOMEBUSH	13
GREAT WESTERN HWY, at UNDERWOOD RD, HOMEBUSH	9
GREAT WESTERN HWY, at FLEMINGTON RD, HOMEBUSH WEST	7
CENTENARY DR, at WEEROONA RD, STRATHFIELD	5
HUME HWY, at WORTH ST, GREENACRE	5
MARLBOROUGH RD, at AUSTIN AVE, HOMEBUSH WEST	5
ROBERTS RD, at AMARINA AVE, GREENACRE	5
ARTHUR ST, at HAMPSTEAD RD, STRATHFIELD	4
CENTENARY DR, 100m South ARTHUR ST, STRATHFIELD	4
CENTENARY DR, 50m South WEEROONA RD, STRATHFIELD	4
GREAT WESTERN HWY, at BRIDGE RD, HOMEBUSH	4
GREAT WESTERN HWY, at COURALLIE AVE, HOMEBUSH WEST	4
HOMEBUSH RD, at REDMYRE RD, STRATHFIELD	4
HUME HWY, at CENTENARY DR, STRATHFIELD	4

RECOMMENDATION

That the Road Safety Officer Report be received and noted.

(Voting on this item was unanimous)

Meeting Closed: 11:50AM

Next Meeting: 17 June 2025

12.2 **REPORT FROM BUDGET REVIEW AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 13 MAY 2025**

AUTHOR: David McQuade, Senior Governance Officer

APPROVER: Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Budget Review and Finance Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2025 be noted and the recommendation be adopted.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [1](#) Budget Review and Finance Committee Meeting 13 May 2025 - Minutes

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

BUDGET REVIEW AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday 13 May 2025

2pm

Council Chambers

65 Homebush Road, Strathfield

and

by Audio Visual Link





BUDGET REVIEW AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING - 13 MAY 2025

MINUTES

Minutes of the Budget Review and Finance Committee Meeting of Strathfield Municipal Council held on 13 May 2025, in the Council Chambers, 65 Homebush Road, Strathfield, and, by Audio Visual Link.

COMMENCING: 2:02pm

PRESENT: Councillor Benjamin Cai (Non-Voting Member)
Councillor Karen Pensabene (Non-Voting Member)

STAFF: Michael Mamo, General Manager
Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community
Paul Reid, Manager Resilience, Compliance and Commercial
Ray Saleam, Manager Capital Works
Ian McCann, Manager, Operations
David Vien, Acting Manager Governance and Procurement
David McQuade, Senior Governance Officer

1. OPEN

The General Manager, Michael Mamo opened the meeting, the time being at 2:02pm.

As a quorum had not been achieved, all items of business will be deferred to the next Budget Review and Finance Committee to be held on 10 June 2025 for consideration:

- CCS1 Investment Report - April 2025
- CCS2 Budget Breakdown - Section Level (Civil Works, Governance, People & Culture and Waste Education) 2025-2026 Financial Year
- CCS3 Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) for the Quarter Ended 31 March 2025

The meeting was closed, the time being 2:03pm.