

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

# COUNCIL MEETING

## AGENDA

Tuesday 4 July 2023

6:30pm

Ironbark Room, Strathfield Council

Library and Innovation Hub

65-67 Rochester Street, Strathfield



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MICHAEL MAMO  
GENERAL MANAGER

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

# COUNCIL MEETING

## MINUTES

Tuesday 6 June 2023

6:30pm

Ironbark Room, Strathfield Council

Library and Innovation Hub

65-67 Rochester Street, Strathfield



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Minutes of the Council Meeting of Strathfield Municipal Council held on 6 June 2023, in the Ironbark Room, Strathfield Council, Library and Innovation Hub, 65-67 Rochester Street, Strathfield.

**COMMENCING:** 6:30pm

**PRESENT:** Councillor Karen Pensabene  
Councillor Matthew Blackmore  
Councillor Benjamin Cai  
Councillor Raj Datta  
Councillor Nella Hall  
Councillor Sandy Reddy

**STAFF:** Michael Mamo, General Manager  
Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community  
Clare Harley, Director Planning and Environment  
Cathy Edwards-Davis, Director Engineering and Operations  
Don Johnston, Chief Financial Officer  
Melissa Mallos, General Counsel  
Warwick Lawrence, Manager Governance and Risk  
Jack Britton, Senior Coordinator Governance and Risk  
David McQuade, Senior Governance Officer

1. **PRAYER:** The Prayer was read.

2. **RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS:** The Recognition was read.

3. **APOLOGIES**

Councillor Maheswaran.

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

Councillor Hall declared a Non-Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for item *CCS9 Small Grant Report – Rotary Club of Strathfield* and will manage the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting during discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Hall declared that she is a member of the Rotary Club of Strathfield board.

Councillor Datta declared a Non-Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for item *EO2 Proposed Closure of Exeter Road, Homebush West* and will manage the conflict of interest by leaving the meeting during discussion and voting on this item. Councillor Datta declared that he lives in close proximity to the subject location.

## 5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### 5.1 Suburb Name Change from Belfield to Strathfield South - Councillor Nella Hall

I wish to acknowledge the Councillors in the previous and current terms of Council for the successful suburb name change from Belfield to Strathfield South. It has been a long process that started during last term of Council. Councillors have been supportive and staff have done a great job following up.

### 5.2 2023 NSW Local Government Excellence Awards - Councillor Karen Pensabene

I wish to acknowledge and congratulate our Library Team and our Open Space Team for their nominations in the 2023 NSW Local Government Excellence Awards held this past week.

Our Library Team was nominated for the innovative work on creating extended library hours for our residents. The hours have now increased to 84.5 hours per week. Staffed 53 hours, and extended 51.5 hours.

An amazing result from our Library staff and even though we didn't win, I am sure we all recognize their continued work making our Library an especially important part of our community.

Our Open Space team were nominated in the Organisational Diversity and Inclusion category for diversity in their team.

Well done to both our teams and we look forward to many more nominations next year.

## 6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

133/23

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 2 May 2023, 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 Chairperson and General Manager be authorised to sign such minutes.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

134/23

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 9 May 2023, 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 Chairperson and General Manager be authorised to sign such minutes.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

## 7. MAYORAL MINUTE(S) IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL'S CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

### 7.1 Mayoral Minute 19/23 - Damaging Increase in Emergency Services Levy Costs

135/23

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Hall)

1. Council notes and supports representations we have made to the Treasurer, the Minister for Emergency Services, the Minister for Local Government and local State Member(s):
  - a) Expressing Council's strong opposition to the NSW Government's last-minute decision to impose an enormous Emergency Services Levy (ESL) cost increase on Councils for 2023/24 by scrapping the ESL subsidy for councils and at a time after Council has publicly advertised its Operational Plan and annual budget to the community;
  - b) Noting that as a consequence of the unannounced 73 per cent increase in the State Emergency Service budget and an 18 per cent increase in the Fire and Rescue NSW budget, Council's 3.7 per cent rate increase to provide essential community services and infrastructure has been significantly eroded;
  - c) Advising that the Government's decision may/will lead to a reduction in important local services and/or the cancellation of necessary infrastructure projects; and
  - d) Calling on the NSW Government to take immediate action to:

- 
- i. restore the ESL subsidy in 2023/2024
    - ii. urgently introduce legislation to decouple the ESL from the rate peg to enable Councils to recover the full cost
    - iii. develop a fairer, more transparent, and financially sustainable method of funding critically important emergency services in consultation with local government.
  2. Council notes that we have written to the Chair of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) advising that Council's forced emergency services contribution is manifestly disproportionate to the 2023/2024 rate cap, which has resulted in additional financial stress.
  3. Council notes that we have written to the President of LGNSW seeking the Association's ongoing advocacy to bring about a relief in the burden of Councils' emergency services contribution.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

## 7.2 Mayoral Minute 17/23 - Leading a Reform Agenda on Waste

136/23

**RESOLVED:** (Reddy / Hall)

That Council note:

1. Councils have a key role to play in reducing waste and its impact on the environment.
2. Across the Sydney metropolitan area, 55 per cent of household and commercial waste goes to landfill each year, resulting in loss of valuable resources, costing businesses and households more than \$750 million in waste levies each year.

Council resolves to:

3. Work with other Sydney Councils on:
  - a. Reducing waste,
  - b. Improving environmental outcomes where waste has to be processed and
  - c. Finding solutions for the residue that is left.
4. Ask the NSW Government to invest the revenue from its waste levy for council and industry initiatives that:
  - a. Accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

- b. Build the waste infrastructure needed to meet the growing pressures of population growth, loss of landfill capacity and a lack of competition in the sector.
- c. Educate and support communities to reduce waste.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

### **7.3 Mayoral Minute 18/23 - Targeted Waste Education and Awareness Program**

**137/23**

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Hall)

That Council:

1. Develop and deliver a targeted waste education and awareness campaign to educate and guide residents on;
  - Council services; bulky clean-up collection and how to utilise the online booking service,
  - Utilise recycling, donation and/ or repair services for unwanted items or items in disrepair,
  - Explanation and implementation of the mandated new 'Food Organics, Garden Organics' (FOGO) waste stream.
2. Give consideration to the allocation of funding from the Domestic Waste Reserve in the 2023/24 financial year budget to be adopted on 27 June 2023 for the cost of the program.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

## **8. ITEMS BY EXCEPTION**

### **Items by Exception**

**138/23**

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / 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:

GMU1 Draft Bressington Park Plan of Management

*(Note: That the Purpose of the Report be corrected to read 'At the Council Meeting of 7 March 2023' not At the Council Meeting 6 June 2023)*

- GMU2 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup Live Site
- CCS1 Mayoral and Councillor Annual Fees
- CCS2 Sundry Debtor Write Offs
- CCS3 Investment Report - April 2023
- CCS4 Tenders Advertised and Awarded April and May 2023
- CCS5 Current Status of Council Resolutions
- CCS6 Working with the Community Churches and Organisations
- CCS7 Small Grant Application - Marian Court
- CCS8 Small Grant Application - Ms Victoria MacFarlane
- CCS10 Small Grant Application - Homebush West Public School P&C
- CCS11 Councillor Workshop 30 May 2023
- EO1 Draft Public Space Advertising Policy
- 11.1 Report from Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting on 10 May 2023
- 12.1 Indian Independence Day - Councillor Raj Datta
- 12.3 Uluru Statement from the Heart and Proposed Referendum - Councillor Nella Hall
- 12.4 Establishing a Review Panel for Rejected Applications under Part O of the Strathfield Development Control Plan 2005 – Councillor Matthew Blackmore
- 12.5 Poker Machines in Strathfield Town Centre - the Social and Economic Harm to Strathfield Residents - Councillor Matthew Blackmore
- 12.6 Developing Homebush West Shopping Centre - Councillor Benjamin Cai

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

Against the Motion: Nil

#### **GMU1 Draft Bressington Park Plan of Management**

139/23

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

That the draft Plan of Management for Bressington Park be adopted.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

#### **GMU2 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup Live Site**

140/23

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

1. Council host a live site, pending licensing approval from Optus, at Strathfield Square to screen the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup games which involve Australia and the semi-finals, third place final and final.
2. Consideration be given to allocating a budget of \$62,000 for the setup of the live site for up to 8 screenings as part of adopting the 2023/2024 Budget at the Extra-Ordinary Council meeting to be held on 27 June 2023.

**RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION**

#### CCS1 Mayoral and Councillor Annual Fees

141/23

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

That Council, in accordance with Sections 248 and 249 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, adopt the maximum annual fees payable to the Councillors and Mayor effective from 1 July 2023 for a Metropolitan Small Council as per the determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (April 2023) being:

- Councillors \$21,730
- Mayor \$47,390

**RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION**

#### CCS2 Sundry Debtor Write Offs

142/23

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

That Council write off the following debts:

1. \$535,635.68 – indexation amount of developer contribution – Debtor 31479
2. \$24,634.00 – structural integrity of an awning – Debtor 32875

**RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION**

**CCS3 Investment Report - April 2023**

143/23

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

That the record of cash investments as at 30 April 2023 be received and noted.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**CCS4 Tenders Advertised and Awarded April and May 2023**

144/23

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

That Council tenders advertised and awarded in April and May 2023 be received and noted.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**CCS5 Current Status of Council Resolutions**

145/23

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

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

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**CCS6 Working with the Community Churches and Organisations**

146/23

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

That Council note the update provided in this report.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**CCS7 Small Grant Application - Marian Court**

**147/23**

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

That Council approve the Small Grant Application from the Environment Group of Marian Court Residents Committee.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**CCS8 Small Grant Application - Ms Victoria MacFarlane**

**148/23**

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

That Council approve \$1,200 to be provided to Ms Victoria MacFarlane in relation to a Small Grant Application.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**CCS10 Small Grant Application - Homebush West Public School P&C**

**149/23**

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

That Council approves the Small Grant Application from Homebush West Public School P&C.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**CCS11 Councillor Workshop 30 May 2023**

**150/23**

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

That the report be received and noted.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**EO1 Draft Public Space Advertising Policy**

151/23

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

1. That Council place the draft Public Space Advertising Policy on public exhibition.
2. That should Council receive negligible feedback, that Council delegate for the General Manager to finalise the Public Space Advertising Policy.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**11.1 Report from Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting on 10 May 2023**

152/23

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

That the Minutes of the Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting held on 10 May 2023 be noted and the recommendations be adopted.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**12.1 Indian Independence Day – Councillor Raj Datta**

153/23

**RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR RAJ DATTA**

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

1. That Council approves instituting the ceremony of raising the Indian flag in front of the Strathfield Council each year at a suitable date around the 15 August 2023, India's Independence Day, to celebrate India's Independence Day which falls on the 15 August 2023.
2. That the Indian coloured lights be turned on at Council Chambers over a week covering the 15 of August 2023.
3. That community members and appropriate dignitaries are invited to attend the annual event and light refreshments are provided.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**12.3 Uluru Statement from the Heart and Proposed Referendum – Councillor Nella Hall**

154/23

**RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR HALL**

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

That Council no longer offer a venue free of charge for representatives (for or against) the Uluru Statement from the Heart and proposed Referendum.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**12.4 Establishing a Review Panel for Rejected Applications under Part O of the Strathfield Development Control Plan 2005 – Councillor Matthew Blackmore**

155/23

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

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

That a report be provided back to Council which considers:

1. The establishment of a review process for rejected applications under Part O of the Strathfield Consolidated Development Control Plan 2005.
2. The establishment of an internal Council Officer peer assessment Panel for the purpose of undertaking reviews of rejected applications made in relation to Part O of the Strathfield Consolidated Development Control Plan 2005.
3. The composition of the panel comprising of Council Officers only.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**12.5 Poker Machines in Strathfield Town Centre - the Social and Economic Harm to Strathfield Residents – Councillor Matthew Blackmore**

156/23

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

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

1. Council writes to the Hon. Chris Minns MP - Premier of NSW, the Hon. David Harris MP – Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon. Ron Hoenig MP - Minister for Local Government to demand that Section 209 of the Gaming Machines Act 2001 be amended to be in line with Section 8A of the Local Government Act 1993 so that Strathfield Council is not neglecting its responsibility to residents.
2. Council strongly opposes the approval of Poker Machines being installed in the Strathfield Town Centre because Poker Machines will build a gambling culture in Strathfield CBD and will cause social and economic harm to the residents of Strathfield.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**12.6 Developing Homebush West Shopping Centre – Councillor Benjamin Cai**

157/23

**RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR BENJAMIN CAI**

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

That a report be provided to Council outlining options for activating public spaces in the Homebush West retail village in support of economic activity.

***RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION***

**9. PUBLIC FORUM**

Mrs Teresa Le Strange addressed the meeting to discuss record management and various traffic/parking matters.

**10. REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

Councillor Hall declared a Non-Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for item *CCS9 Small Grant Report – Rotary Club of Strathfield* and left the meeting, the time being 6:58pm.

**CCS9 Small Grant Report - Rotary Club of Strathfield**

158/23

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

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That Council approves the small grant application from Rotary Club of Strathfield to the amount of \$2,500 to support their Vocational Excellence and Youth Awards.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

Councillor Hall returned to the meeting, the time being 6:59pm.

Councillor Datta declared a Non-Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest for item *EO2 Proposed Closure of Exeter Road, Homebush West* and left the meeting, the time being 6:59pm.

## **EO2 Proposed Closure of Exeter Road, Homebush West**

**159/23**

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

That Council adopt the recommendation as outlined in the Confidential Attachment.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

## **Recommittal - EO2 Proposed Closure of Exeter Road, Homebush West**

**160/23**

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

That item EO2 Proposed Closure of Exeter Road, Homebush West be recommitted as the item will need to be discussed in Closed Session.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

## **Closed Session**

**161/23**

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Reddy)

That in accordance with Section 10A (2) (c) of the *Local Government Act 1993* the following matter be considered in Closed Session for the reasons stated:

**EO2 Proposed Closure of Exeter Road, Homebush West**

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.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

The meeting moved into Closed Session, the time being 7:02pm.

**Open Session**

162/23

**RESOLVED:** (Blackmore / Cai)

That Council move into Open Session.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

The meeting moved into Open Session, the time being 7:05pm.

**Open Council Resumed**

**EO2 Proposed Closure of Exeter Road, Homebush West**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopt the recommendation as outlined in the Confidential Attachment.

**MOTION:** (Pensabene / Reddy)

That Council not proceed with the Deed of Lease.

163/23

**RESOLVED:** (Pensabene / Reddy)

That Council not proceed with the Deed of Lease.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

## 11. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Councillor Datta returned to the meeting, the time being 7:06pm.

### 11.2 Report from Traffic Committee Meeting on 16 May 2023

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting held on 16 May 2023 be noted and the recommendations be adopted.

**MOTION:** (Hall / Reddy)

That the Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting held on 16 May 2023 be noted and the recommendations be adopted excluding recommendations for Item *6.2 Homebush Road, Strathfield – Extended ‘No Stopping’ Hours (East Side) North of Liverpool Road* and that no change be made at this location (P.329 – 333).

**164/23**

**RESOLVED:** (Hall / Reddy)

That the Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting held on 16 May 2023 be noted and the recommendations be adopted excluding recommendations for Item *6.2 Homebush Road, Strathfield – Extended ‘No Stopping’ Hours (East Side) North of Liverpool Road* and that no change be made at this location (P.329 – 333).

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

Against the Motion: Councillors Blackmore and Pensabene

## 12. MOTIONS PURSUANT TO NOTICE

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**12.2 Councillors Expenses and Facilities Policy – Councillor Raj Datta**

165/23

**RESOLVED:** (Datta / Reddy)

That the General Manager provide a report outlining the following:

The adjustment of clause 2.2.47, Home office expenses, so that each Councillor may be reimbursed for costs associated with the maintenance of a home office, up to \$1,500 per year (as it is currently), with an adjustment to the definition of home office to include, printers, book shelf and home office chair, or similar items that are genuinely required for setting up and maintaining a home office for Council and Councillor related work.

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

Against the Motion: Councillors Blackmore and Pensabene

**13. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Nil.

**14. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

Nil.

**15. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

Nil.

**16. CONCLUSION OF MEETING**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7:27pm.**

The foregoing Minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the Council of the Municipality of Strathfield on 4 July 2023.

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Chairperson\_\_\_\_\_

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

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

# EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

## MINUTES

Tuesday 27 June 2023

6:30pm

Ironbark Room, Strathfield Council Library and Innovation Hub

65-67 Rochester Street, Strathfield



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Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting of Strathfield Municipal Council held on 27 June 2023, in the Ironbark Room, Strathfield Council Library and Innovation Hub, 65-67 Rochester Street, Strathfield.

**COMMENCING:** 6:30pm

**PRESENT:** Councillor Karen Pensabene  
Councillor Matthew Blackmore  
Councillor Benjamin Cai  
Councillor Raj Datta  
Councillor Nella Hall  
Councillor Sandy Reddy

**STAFF:** Michael Mamo, General Manager  
Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community  
Clare Harley, Director Planning and Environment  
Cathy Edwards-Davis, Director Engineering and Operations  
Don Johnston, Chief Financial Officer  
Rodney Sanjivi, Manager, Financial Service and Chief Financial Officer  
Melissa Mallos, General Counsel  
Jack Britton, Senior Coordinator Governance and Risk

1. **PRAYER** The Prayer was read.

2. **RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL CUSODIANS** The Recognition was read.

3. **APOLOGIES**

Councillor Maheswaran.

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

Nil.

5. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

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**CCSI Adoption of Delivery Program 2022-2026, Operational Plan 2023-2024 and Statement of Revenue, Including Budget and Schedule of Fees and Charges.**

166/23

**RESOLVED:** (Pensabene / Blackmore)

1. That Council considered the submissions received in response to the public exhibition of the draft Delivery Program 2022-2026 and draft Operational Plan 2023-2024, as summarised in Attachment 1 to the report.
2. That Council note the amendments to the documents following exhibition included within this report.
3. That Council note that IPART has approved Council's application to increase its general income by a cumulative 92.8% (including the rate peg) through a permanent special variation over a four (4) year period commencing 2023-2024 through until 2026-2027 and to establish the minimum rates as follows:
  - a. \$1,040 minimum rate to be applied for 2023-2024
  - b. \$1,200 minimum rate to be applied for 2024-2025
4. That Council adopt the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2023-2024 at Attachment 2, with the budget incorporating the Special Rate Variation (SRV) and the amendments outlined within this report in accordance with Section 404 and 405 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), respectively.
5. The Schedule of Fees and Charges 2023-2024 applying from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 at Attachment 3 in accordance with Sections 535 and 608 of the Act be adopted.
6. That Council authorises the General Manger to levy the rates and charges for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 by service of the rates and charges notices pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1993* and the Regulations made there under.
7. That Council make the following ordinary rates and charges in accordance with Section 494 and 535 of the Act:
  - a. **Residential – Ordinary Rate**
    - i. An ad valorem rate in the \$ of 0.04562 with a Minimum Rate of \$1,040.00.  
The Residential Ordinary Rate is to be applied to all land categorised as Residential throughout the whole of Strathfield Municipal Council Local Government Area.
  - b. **Business – Ordinary Rate**
    - i. Business General - an ad valorem rate in the \$ of 0.21800 with a Minimum Rate of \$1,040.00, with the Business General Rate to be applied to all areas identified within Council's Property Rating Classification Map as outlined on page 7 of this report.

- ii. Strathfield CBD - an ad valorem rate in the \$ of 0.18423 with a Minimum Rate of \$1,040.00, with the Strathfield CBD Rate to be applied to all areas identified within Council's Property Rating Classification Map as outlined on page 7 of this report.
- iii. Business North - an ad valorem rate in the \$ of 0.22786 with a Minimum Rate of \$1,040.00, with the Business North Rate to be applied to all areas identified within Council's Property Rating Classification Map as outlined on page 7 of this report.
- iv. Business South - an ad valorem rate in the \$ of 0.22786 with a Minimum Rate of \$1,040.00, with the Business South Rate to be applied to all areas identified within Council's Property Rating Classification Map as outlined on page 7 of this report.

**c. Residential - Stormwater Management Charge**

- i. A stormwater management service charge amounting to \$25 per residential allotment.
- ii. A stormwater management service charge amounting to \$12.50 per residential strata allotment.
- iii. A stormwater management service charge for residential flats, community title and tenants-in-common residential units amounting to \$12.50 per flat/unit.

**d. Business - Stormwater Management Charge**

- i. A stormwater management service charge amounting to \$25 per business allotment per 350m<sup>2</sup> or part thereof to a maximum of \$200.00.
- ii. For a lot in a strata scheme that is categorised as business - the greater of: \$5 or the relevant proportion of the maximum annual charge that would apply to the land subject to the strata scheme if it were a parcel of land categorised as business.

**e. Residential Domestic Waste Management Charge**

- i. The standard Domestic Waste Management Charge is set at \$550 for each residential property in the Strathfield Municipal Council Local Government Area, with further detail provided in the Schedule of Fees and Charges 2023-2024 in relation to eligible pensioners, availability charge (including non-rateable properties) and extra service charges (Attachment 3).

- 8. Ordinary Rates and Charges included in 7 above are to be made in respect to the twelve (12) month rating year commencing 1 July 2023 in accordance with Section 534 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
- 9. An interest rate of 9% per annum on overdue rates and charges for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, be adopted in accordance with Section 566(3) of the Act, subject to Council reserving the right to vary the interest chargeable on overdue rates to accord with any variations made to the Act and regulations thereunder.
- 10. That Council endorse any subsequent changes to statutory or regulatory fees, as determined and issued by the appropriate regulatory authorities (prior to 1 July 2023), to be incorporated into the final fees and charges for 2023-2024.

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

Against the Motion: Nil

## 6. CONCLUSION OF MEETING

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6:39pm.**

The foregoing Minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the Council of the Municipality of Strathfield on 4 July 2023.

Chairperson\_\_\_\_\_

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

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GMU1 DRAFT STRATHFIELD PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

AUTHOR: Cathy Jones, Chief Strategy Officer

APPROVER: Michael Mamo, General Manager

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## RECOMMENDATION

That the draft Plan of Management for Strathfield Park be adopted.

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

At the Council Meeting of 7 March 2023, it was resolved:

*"59/23*

*RESOLVED: (Datta / Reddy)*

- 1. That the draft Plan of Managements for Strathfield Park and Bressington Park be placed on public exhibition for a 42 day period.*
- 2. That Council convene a Public Hearing under section 40A of the Local Government Act 1993 in relation to the land in Bressington Park owned by Strathfield Council.*
- 3. That the draft plans, submissions received and recommendations from the public hearing be presented to Council for adoption following the public exhibition process.*
- 4. In the event of proposed substantive amendments arising from the consultation process, the draft plans be submitted for approval to the Minister."*

This report is pursuant to this resolution.

## REPORT

The *Local Government Act 1993* and *Crown Lands Management Act 2016* requires that Plans of Management (PoM) are prepared for all public land that is classified as 'community' land. This includes Council owned land and Crown Land. Plans of Management are important strategic governance documents. PoMs describe the features of the land and set out how Council intends to manage, use and develop the land in the future. This is intended to provide a transparent and coordinated approach to public land management. The Plans also include action plans with objectives and performance targets for the land and prescribe permissible uses and management of tenures over the land.

Strathfield Park contains Crown Land. Though Strathfield Park had an existing Plan of Management dated 2008, a new Plan was prepared to meet the requirements of the *Crown Lands Management Act 2016* and *Local Government Act 1993*. In 2023, the Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands advised that the Department consented to Council progressing to public exhibition of the draft plan. However, during the engagement and exhibition period, Council was requested by Crown Lands to delay adoption of the Strathfield Park POM. Council has since been advised that the plan can be progressed to adoption.

### Strathfield Park Plan of Management exhibition

The draft Strathfield Park Plan of Management was exhibited from 9 March to 28 April 2023 after receiving approval from Crown Lands to proceed with Council adoption. This was the second round of community consultation. A previous consultation was held during the preparation of the plan. This consultation attracted 280 survey responses and 3 submissions. The feedback from this process guided the preparation of the draft plan, particularly the management actions.

As Strathfield Park is a significant park and attracts usage across the Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA), community engagement was notified across the Strathfield LGA. This included:

- Flyer issuing to all households in Strathfield LGA in April 2023
- Exhibition of the draft plans on Council's online engagement site at <https://haveyoursay.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/strathfield-park>, which included feedback forms and related documents to view.
- Issue of notifications via eNews and social media
- Print copies of the draft plans were available to view in Council's Customer Service Centre and Library.

During the exhibition of the draft Strathfield Park Plan of Management, the project site received 541 visits and the draft plan was downloaded 168 times. 71 separate comments were received in relation to the draft plan.

The majority of responses were from persons aged 35-49 years (52%). Other responses were received from those aged 50-59 years (14%), 24-34 years (11%), 18-24 years (10%), 70-84 years (8%) and under 18 years (4%).

Responses were received from residents of the suburb of Strathfield (58%), Outside LGA (15%) Homebush (8%), Belfield (8%), Homebush West (6%), Strathfield South (3%) and Greenacre (1%).

Outside of LGA comments were received from residents of the following suburbs: Croydon Park, Greenacre, Lidcombe, Newington, Enfield, Concord West, Tempe, Ashfield, Blakehurst, Liberty Grove, Mascot.

### Support for the draft plan of management

A total of 71 responses were received regarding support for the draft plan of management. 58% indicated support and 42% did not support the draft plan.

Of the 30 responses that did not support the plan, 6 contained comments which were clearly critical of aspects of management of the park. 4 made comments on matters that were not in the draft plan.

20 responses contained generally supportive comments and did not raise any comments about the content of the draft plan but voted to not support the plan. 5 of the 11 responses from respondents living outside of the Strathfield LGA did not support the draft plan.

Comments concerning lack of support for the draft plan are addressed in comments below.

### Soccer at Strathfield Park

Over 80% of all comments received concerned the playing of soccer at Strathfield Park. Most of these submissions identified they had an association with the Strathfield Football Club (Strathfield Strikers), generally as a player or parent of a player(s).

The majority of these comments supported the playing of soccer at the Strathfield Park and the facilities provided for this purpose. Few, if any, comments addressed any specific parts of the draft plan. Comments from these submissions mainly stated:

- Playing soccer has a positive community physical and social benefit to persons of all ages, especially young people.
- Soccer should continue to be played at Strathfield Park
- The two synthetic fields have beneficial in supporting all-weather play.

#### Specific issues concerning soccer at Strathfield Park

There were comments that usage data of Strathfield Park in the draft Plan of Management was incorrect, and numbers of soccer participants has been underestimated. The draft plan of management does not contain usage data and makes no comments about the number of soccer participants. The only data in the draft plan regarding participant activities was based on a community survey which issued to all households in the Strathfield LGA, asking what activities they participated in at Strathfield Park e.g., walking, gatherings, formal sport, use of courts, relaxing etc. The results are reported in Table 4 of the draft plan (page 13). The results indicated there were multiple uses of the park, including active and passive activities. The plan does not advocate that any one activity is more important than another, rather it acknowledges a wide range of community interest in Strathfield Park and the park should continue to meet these needs.

There were a few submissions that claimed that the draft Plan made comments about the future of soccer at Strathfield Park including:

- 'I don't agree that Soccer should be the least of your priorities.....Please reconsider your draft plan and put soccer amongst the key priorities in your draft plan'.
- 'Do not diminish my son's ability to play as a part of a registered club (soccer club)'
- 'Need 2 football fields to continue'
- 'To say that the sporting fields are barely used is absolutely ridiculous'
- 'Quite frankly out of touch that Council would consider that both fields are not needed (for soccer/football)'.

However, there are no proposals to reduce or change the current conditions relating to soccer or prioritising any specific sport at Strathfield Park in the draft plan. The draft plan identifies a range of permissible uses of specific land categories such as Sportsgrounds. For instance, Table 10 'Permissible Uses of Land Categories – Sportsgrounds' clearly includes several sports including football and soccer as permissible uses.

#### **Criticism of the management of the park**

6 responses were received that were critical of the management of the park, especially the conflicts between active and passive activities in the park. Most of these comments appear to be from those living close to Strathfield Park. Comments included:

- High levels of noise from sports games, boom-boxes from personal trainers
- Invasive levels of light from floodlights after 10pm at night
- Overcrowding of the park
- Negative impact of built structures including buildings, hard surfaces and synthetic sportsfields on the natural environment.
- Placement of sportsfields close to resident's homes
- Lack of notification of changes to the park to local residents
- Why does Council only cater for soccer and not women's sports?
- How much more is Strathfield Park to be built in the future?
- Ecological areas have been degraded and weeds are not managed.

Many of the criticisms above were identified in the first round of consultations and actions are proposed in Section 6 of the plan to address outstanding issues.

Comments	Response
Noise from sports games, boom-boxes from personal trainers	Section 5 - Management Action Plan objective is to 'provide safe use and access to park and facilities'. Actions – take action to address noise complaints from neighbouring properties.
Invasive levels of light from floodlights after 10pm at night	Section 5 - Management Action Plan objective is to 'provide safe use and access to park and facilities'. Actions – review lighting and security for both day and night time use.
Overcrowding of the park	Section 5 - Management Action Plan objective is to 'minimise overcrowding of park facilities and achieve balance between organised and unstructured recreational use of park and facilities'. Actions – monitor activities, maintain plantings for division between activities, ensure all organised activities – sport and social – are booked.
Ecological areas have been degraded and weeds are not managed.	Section 5 - Management Action Plan objective is to 'Maintain and enhance the health of park ecology, including flora and fauna, trees and soil'. The Plan also contains an environmental management plan which includes a range of actions on weeds, habitat for local fauna species, landscaping, planting etc.
Noise from sports games, boom-boxes from personal trainers	Section 5 - Management Action Plan objective is to 'provide safe use and access to park and facilities'. Actions – take action to address noise complaints from neighbouring

<b>Comments</b>	<b>Response</b>
	properties.
Invasive levels of light from floodlights after 10pm at night	Section 5 - Management Action Plan objective is to 'provide safe use and access to park and facilities'. Actions – review lighting and security for both day and night time use.
Placement of sportsfields (synthetics) close to resident's homes. Synthetic fields have negative impact on the environment.	The placement of the synthetic sportsfields are existing built structures. It is unlikely that the placement can be changed in the short-medium future. However, Council has proposed changing the placement of basketball courts away from neighbouring properties.
Residents not notified of changes to the park	Council is committed via Community Engagement Strategy to notify proposals.
Why does Council only cater for soccer and not women's sports?	Sports played at Strathfield Park is based on applications by clubs, organisations and schools. Allocation of facilities is via new Council policy
How much more is Strathfield Park to be built in the future? Negative impact of built structures including buildings, hard surfaces and synthetic sportsfields on the natural environment.	Plan identifies future development. Proposed development via WestInvest grants does not involve addition of substantial built structures to the park.

## **Conclusion**

It is recommended that the draft Strathfield Park PoM be adopted. There are no changes proposed to the exhibited draft plan and the Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands have notified as there are no changes proposed, that the draft plan may be adopted.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Draft Strathfield Park Plan of Management

# ATTACHMENT 1



# STRATHFIELD PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT



**Strathfield Council**

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Title

This plan is titled Strathfield Park Plan of Management.

This plan of management (PoM) has been prepared by Strathfield Council and provides direction as to the use and management of Council owned community land and Council managed Crown reserves classified as 'community land' in the Strathfield Council area. The PoM is required in accordance with Section 3.23 of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* and Section 36 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

This PoM specifically addresses the management of Strathfield Park. The PoM outlines the way the land will be used and provides the framework for Council to follow in relation to the express authorisation of leases and licences on the land.

This land is primarily owned by the Crown and managed by Strathfield Council as Crown Land Manager under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

Information and assessment of Strathfield Park's environmental features was prepared by Anne Carey and Meredith Brainwood of Applied Ecology Pty Ltd in January 2021. This includes Section 5 – Environmental Features and Appendix A – Flora and Fauna Surveys.

This PoM was placed on public exhibition from 9 March 2023 to 28 April 2023, in accordance with the requirements of section 38 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. A total of 71 submissions were received. Council considered these submissions before adopting the PoM.

In accordance with section 39 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, prior to being placed on public exhibition, the draft PoM was referred to the Department of Planning & Environment – Crown Lands, as representative of the state of NSW, which is the owner of the Reserve. Council has included in the plan any provisions that have been required by the Department of Planning & Environment – Crown Lands.

Figure 1 - Strathfield Park Location Map



## 1.2 Land Description

This plan of management applies to land at Strathfield Park. This plan replaces the Strathfield Park Plan of Management 2008.

This plan of management covers all land in Strathfield Park. The reserve information is detailed in Table 1. The land is owned by the Crown and is managed by Council as the Crown Land manager under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

Strathfield Park is located between Homebush Road and Chalmers Road Strathfield. Strathfield Park is one of the largest parks in the Strathfield Local Government Area with a total land area of 7.2 hectares. The surrounding areas are zoned low-rise residential.

*Table 1 - Information about the Reserve covered by this plan of management.*

Reserve Number	Strathfield Park Reserve Trust (500465)
Reserve purpose	Public Park
Land parcel/s	Lots 1-2 DP 127825 (Crown) Lot 1 DP 937941 (Crown) Lots 1-2 DP 937942 (Crown) Lot 1 DP 907040 (Strathfield Council)
Area (ha)	7.2 hectares
LEP zoning	RE1 – Public Recreation
Classification	Community
Assigned categories	Park and Sportsground
Proposed categories	Park, Sportsground, Natural Area (Bushland), General Community Use

*Figure 2 - Strathfield Park Land Ownership Map*

## 1.2 Purpose of this Plan of Management

The *Local Government Act 1993* and amendments to the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* require all public land including Crown Reserves, owned or managed by Council, to be classified as either 'community' land or 'operational' land. Land classified as 'Community' land is managed and used in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management.

Plans of Management are developed by Council in consultation with the community. A Plan of Management describes the features of the community land and outlines how the land may be managed and used, consistent with land categorisations, core objectives and zoning, to provide a transparent and co-ordinated approach to public land management.

The purpose of this Plan of Management is to:

- contribute to the strategic goals and vision as set out in the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan
- ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, *Crown Land Management Act 2016* and relevant legislation and guidelines
- provide clarity regarding use and access to the community land as described in this plan.

## 1.3 Background to this Plan of Management

There are four parks in the Strathfield LGA which are Crown Land Reserves. This includes Hudson Park, Strathfield Park, Bressington Park and Mason Park. These are also among the largest parks in the LGA (more than five hectares) and are important to the local area in providing significant open space and recreation facilities.

With the adoption of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*, all Crown Land Reserves are required to be managed similar to Council owned land under the *Local Government Act 1993*. This requires land to be classified as community or operational land and categorised based on its primary use, consistent with the purpose of the land.

#### 1.4 Contents of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management is divided into the following sections, as outlined in Table 2.

**Table 2 – Structure of this Plan of Management**

Section	What does it include?
1. Introduction	Title, land covered by plan, land description, purpose of the plan, background, legislative framework, review of plan
2. About the Strathfield LGA	Recognition of traditional custodians, Strathfield LGA snapshot, trends, community vision and strategic directions, community engagement, references
3. Basis of Management	Management principles, categories and classifications of community land, land categorisations (including map), Council's strategic objectives and priorities, land use/history, description and condition of land and structures, heritage, native title review, condition of assets, maintenance of park, future development, minor development, scale and intensity of land use
4. Development and Uses	Permissible uses and development, authorisation of leases and licences, short term uses, current leases, licences etc.
5. Environmental Features	Soil landscapes, detailed description of park flora and fauna, ecological values
6. Management of the land	Objectives, performance targets, means and manner for assessment of performance
Appendix A	Flora and Fauna Surveys
Appendix B	Community engagement documents

*Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* (LG Act) provides the legislative framework for Council's management of community land. The LG Act requires all community lands to be covered by a Plan of Management that must identify:

- the category of the land
- objectives and outcomes for the land
- how Council proposes to achieve objectives and outcomes
- the way by which Council proposes to assess its performance
- expressly authorise any leases, licences or other estates

*Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (NSW)* (CLM Act) assigns certain functions to Council managers. As a Crown Land manager, Council is authorised to classify and manage its dedicated or reserved Crown Land as if it were public land within the meaning of the LG Act. Dedicate or reserved Crown Land may only be used for the following purposes:

- the purposes for which is dedicated or reserved, or
- any purpose incidental or ancillary to a purpose for which it is dedicated or reserved, or
- any purpose specified in a plan of management for the land, or
- any other purposes authorised by the Act

Council, as Crown Land Manager, may issue leases and licences over Crown Land in line with the LG Act, as per the assigned category and with consideration of the reserve purpose.

Generally, when managing dedicated or reserved Crown Land, and for the purposes of this Plan of Management, Council:

- must manage the land as if it were community land under the LG Act, and
- has for that purpose all the functions that a local council has under that Act in relation to community land (including in relation to the leasing and licencing of community land)

*Native Title Act (Commonwealth) 1993* (NT Act) concerns the legal recognition of the individual or communal rights and interests which Aboriginal people have in land and water, where Aboriginal people have continued to exercise their rights and interests in accordance with traditional law and custom. On Crown Land, native title rights and interests must be considered unless:

- Native title has been extinguished, or
- Native title has been surrendered, or
- Determined by a court to no longer exist.

Council must manage Crown Land in accordance with Part 8 of the CLM Act in relation to native title and ensure the requirements of the NT Act for the management of Crown Land are addressed.

*Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) (EP&A Act) is the principal planning legislation for NSW, that provides a framework for the environmental planning and assessment of development proposals and preparation of environmental planning instruments (including the Local Environmental Plan or LEP).

*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)* (BC Act) requires that Councils consider the impact on threatened species, populations and communities in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the EP&A Act for development approvals. It also covers management of threatened species and communities on Council owned lands.

*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)* (EPBC Act) provides a national scheme for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and incorporates

referral mechanisms and environmental impact assessment processes for projects of national significance.

*Companion Animal Act 1998 (NSW)* requires the identification and registration of companion animals (e.g. cats and dogs) and sets out the duties and responsibilities in relation to management of animals and specific areas of land.

*Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW)* provides a framework to ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State. Strathfield is part of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS), which provides guidance on matters such as community engagement, biosecurity and weeds.

Also relevant are:

- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)*
- *Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)*
- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)*
- *Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)*
- *Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)*
- *Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW)*
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)*

#### **Related Strathfield Council policies and plans**

- Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030
- Strathfield 2035 Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Development Control Plans 2005
- Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020
- Disability Inclusion Plan 2020-2024

#### **1.5 Change and Review of Plan of Management**

This Plan of Management will require regular review in order to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in Council priorities. The performance of this Plan of Management will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the park and sportsground use of land and buildings are well maintained and provide a safe environment for public enjoyment.

Strategic reviews of this Plan of Management will be required where there is significant change to legislation or at five (5) year intervals.

Council may continue to acquire or divest land for the benefit of the community and as such, land may also come into Council's ownership by dedication of land for open space. As such, the Plan of Management may be updated from time to time, reflecting significant changes to the condition of the community land, or to reflect new acquisitions or dedications of land. The community will have an opportunity to participate in reviews of this PoM.

## 2. About the Strathfield Local Government Area

### 2.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

Strathfield Council would like to show respect and acknowledge the Wangal people, the traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Strathfield area is located. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

### 2.2 Snapshot of Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA)

The Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) is well known for transport connections, educational opportunities, attractive streetscapes, parks, heritage and buildings. The Strathfield LGA is centrally located in Sydney's Inner West, approximately 10.5 kilometres from the Sydney CBD and half way between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD. The LGA includes the suburbs of Strathfield (postcode 2135), Strathfield South (2136), Homebush (2140), Homebush West (2140), part of Belfield (2191) and part of Greenacre (2190). Sydney Markets (postcode 2129) is also located within Strathfield LGA.

Strathfield LGA is well known for its extensive green open spaces and high quality recreational facilities, which enhance the liveability, amenity and sustainability of the local area. The Strathfield LGA has a total area of approximately 1390 ha (13.9km<sup>2</sup>) with 104 ha of the total area being public open space (2018 estimates). There is currently 9.06 ha of remnant bushland in the LGA and about 6 ha is under Council management.

The estimated residential LGA population is about 46,000 residents (2022 ABS ERP) and by 2036, the resident population is estimated to reach about 55,000 people (Forecast ID 2023). The growing population and accompanying building density will continue to increase demand for access to and usage of available open space and community facilities. Therefore, management of community land is of critical importance to current and future communities.

Open spaces range from regional and district sporting grounds to smaller local parks and reserves. Significant parks with major sporting facilities include Airey Park, Bressington Park, Bark Huts Reserve, Begnell Field, Cooke Park, Hudson Park, Mason Park and Strathfield Park. Many local biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity priority areas, including flora and fauna assets, are located within Strathfield LGA's parks and reserves. A number of connected parks and open spaces form the Cooks River Foreshore open space network, an important local and regional habitat corridor and pedestrian and cycle transport connection.

Strathfield LGA also provides many community facilities, located on community land including meeting rooms, halls and community centres which are available for hire by groups and individuals for sporting, community, recreation, social and other purposes.

### 2.3 Strathfield LGA community and recreational trends

Some of the challenges facing the Strathfield LGA include increasing and competing demands for public open space and community facilities. Strathfield Council is strongly focused on identifying and meeting the current and future needs of the Strathfield community in a sustainable manner.

Recent community engagement and analysis of social and recreational trends indicate increasing participation in recreation, sporting and leisure activities such as organised team sports, walking, cycling, running, aerobic fitness and dog walking. There is increased demand for access to community and recreation facilities, outdoor and indoor.

Priorities for Council involve increasing the capacity of local community facilities, parks and sportsgrounds, developing new community and recreational facilities as required and ensuring equity of access to land and facilities, to meet changing and diverse needs.

### 2.4 Community Engagement

Prior to developing the Strathfield Park Plan of Management, Strathfield Council undertook community engagement and encouraged local residents and park users to be involved in the future planning for the park. Council also resolved that consultation should also seek community feedback on proposals for a café and indoor gym. A survey was prepared to seek community views on the park, café and gym proposal. An information sheet issued with a survey that asked for responses on the following questions as well as identifying personal data:

- importance of Strathfield Park features
- priorities for Strathfield Park
- comments about future proposals to the park (eg café, gym)
- improvements to the park
- activities that should or should not be permitted
- additional comments

The survey was open from 27 August 2020 to 2 October 2020 (refer to Appendix B for consultation documentation). All households living within 1 km of the park received a letter and information sheet. Emails issued to clubs and park users regarding the consultative process. The survey was notified on Council's website and the Council e-News each week while the survey was open.

A total of 280 survey responses and 3 submissions were received during the consultation period.

#### Community Engagement Outcomes

The feedback received showed a high and varied degree of community interest in Strathfield Park. 86% of respondents were residents of the Strathfield LGA. Of the persons surveyed, 21% identified they played sport, 12% identified as a member of an organisation that uses the park and 6% were students at a local school. 6% of survey respondents were visitors.

Over 70% of those surveyed visited Strathfield Park at least once a week, 18% at least once a month and 8% a couple of times per year. The frequency of visit table shows there is high levels of visitation across all age groups.

**Table 3 - Frequency of visit (by age group)**

Frequency	<29 years	30-39 years	40-49 years	50-59 years	60+ years
Weekly	91%	66%	71%	73%	71%
At least monthly	5%	24%	19%	14%	20%

The most popular activity in the park, across all age groups, was walking (including dog walking) and jogging. 96% of survey respondents rated this as an activity they undertake at the park. The next most popular activity at 53% was visiting children's playgrounds. This was particularly supported by age groups, which are likely to be parents and grandparents (age groups 30-39 years, 60 years+ and 18-29 years). The recent upgrade of the park's playgrounds is likely to have increased interest and usage of playgrounds.

The next popular activity was relaxing in open space for 43% of respondents. This activity was particularly supported by persons aged over 30 years. The use of the park for passive recreation was important to large groups of residents and parks users. Other activities included social gatherings (27%), attending events (25%) and personal exercise/leisure (18%).

This table provides data on participant activities based on age group.

**Table 4 - Survey results participant activities in Strathfield Park (by age group)**

Feature/Activity	< 29 years	30-39 years	40-49 years	50-59 years	60+ years
Walking, jogging or running	73%	72%	75%	83%	90%
Open space relaxing	56%	56%	38%	41%	44%
Gatherings eg picnic, BBQs	42%	42%	32%	24%	12%
Personal exercise/leisure	11%	11%	23%	22%	19%
Children's playgrounds	80%	81%	61%	29%	47%
Formal sports	24%	24%	46%	29%	0%
Events	26%	25%	21%	31%	22%
Dog walking	18%	17%	17%	17%	20%
Self-organised ball games	16%	16%	18%	12%	2%
Use of Courts	11%	11%	11%	7%	0%

Strathfield Park has historically provided multi-purpose sports facilities for training and playing formal sports, particularly by sporting clubs and schools. In the last few years, two of the three sportsfields were upgraded with synthetic surfaces with new amenities constructed. While the use of the park for active recreation such as sports was lower rated by the total population, sports facilities such as sportsgrounds and courts were important particularly to persons in the 18-29 years category. 27% of total respondents rated use of sportsfields for formal sport and 9% use of courts at the park.

### ***Future proposals***

Over 62% of respondents responded favourably to proposals to build a café at Strathfield Park. Proposals concerning a construction of an indoor gym in the park attracted 69% opposition. There was over 60% favourable support for outdoor fitness equipment, which has proven to be popular in other parks in Strathfield. There was less than 30% support for additional basketball or netball courts in the park.

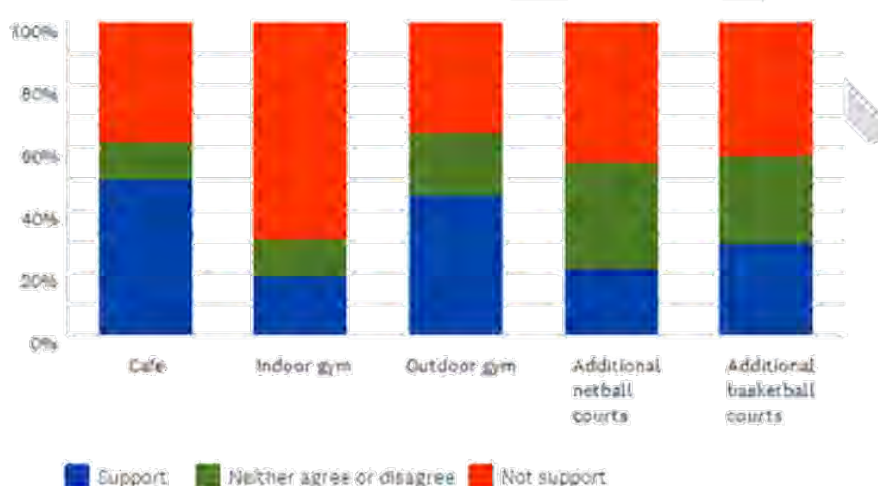


Figure 3 Strathfield Park responses to park future proposals

### ***Priorities and activities in the park***

The survey requested respondents rate important features of the park. At least one response was required, but multiple responses were permitted. The survey asked for respondents to identify the 3 highest priorities for the park. The highest responses were Trees, Gardens and Landscaping (90%), Amenities eg toilets (42%), Playgrounds (41%) and Sportsfields (41%).

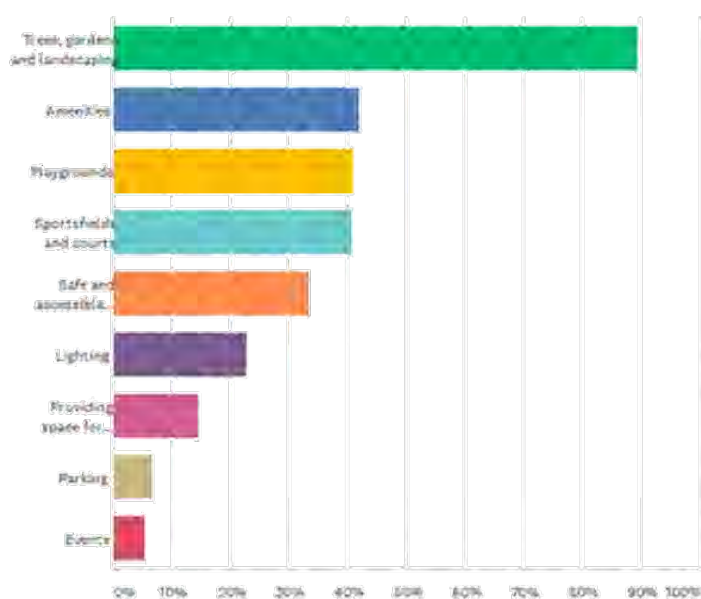


Figure 4 Strathfield Park respondent rating of importance of park features

### Issues identified

While Strathfield Park provides a wide range of facilities, many survey respondents were concerned about conflicts arising between the use of the park for active and passive recreation activities. There were also concerns about the encroachment of built facilities (including the sportsfields and playgrounds) on open and green space and natural environment.

Many local residents complained about overcrowding by large sporting and leisure activities including social gatherings. There were many comments about the use of park by non-residents, especially from littering and rubbish dumping and overuse of facilities such as picnic areas, BBQs, amenities and shelters.

Residents living close to Strathfield Park expressed concerns about the impact of park activity on neighbouring properties amenity such as noise especially from basketball courts, traffic congestion and increasing demand for parking in streets close to the park. There were a range of comments about anti-social behaviours including smoking (especially near playgrounds), littering (including failure to clean up dog droppings) and behaviours late at night in the park. Concerns were raised regarding use of drones and motorised bikes on pathways throughout the park.

Respondents who identified as being associated with a club using the park raised issues relating to hirers use of the park and facilities such as storage, use of the kiosk/canteen etc. There was higher than average opposition to proposals such as a new café in the park.

Table 5 provides a summary of the interests, participation and concerns based on age groups as there is a wide spread of age groups that frequent the park and preferences for parks facilities reflect age groups and personal interests.

*Table 5 - Key areas of interest, participation and concerns – age groups*

Age groups	< 29 years	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Key area of interest	Access & quality of sports facilities; Interest in environment, biodiversity	Café; improved amenities eg toilets, shade areas, upgraded playgrounds all ages	Improved amenities eg toilets, outdoor gyms, maintain green space, lighting	Outdoor exercise equipment, toilets, lighting, seating, maintain green space, pathways	Café, maintain open spaces, shaded seating, pathway improvements
Key areas of participation	Playgrounds; walking & jogging; open space relaxing; gatherings	Playgrounds; relaxing in open space; walking	Walking, jogging; playgrounds; formal sports	Walking, jogging; relaxing in open space; events	Walking; playgrounds; relaxing in open space
Concerns	Overcrowding of park; large gatherings and litter impacts	Oppose indoor gym, dogs w/o leash; cycling on pathways; smoking; large groups taking over spaces; litter	Oppose indoor gym, dogs w/o leash; cycling on pathways; smoking; large groups taking up space; litter	Dangerous sports eg golf, motorised bikes; not enough open space; smoking; off-leash dogs	Noise; dogs w/o leashes & droppings; bikes; smoking; large groups and litter

Overall the community engagement process highlighted the importance of the park to the local community.

#### **Discussion of issues relating to future park management**

Café facilities are available in many large parks in Sydney, which provide access to food and drink onsite but also provide opportunities for social interactions. The community consultation indicated that a proposal to build a café was generally supported by the community. Though there were some objections particularly from sporting clubs using the park's sportsfields, the provision of a café is not considered to conflict with the operations of a kiosk. A kiosk provides access to kitchen facilities for players when the field is in use for sport, it is not intended to operate as a food/drink outlet for general park users.

Council requested that consultation included seeking views on building an indoor gym in the park. This received little support in community consultation and therefore, this proposal is not supported.

Many residents have complained about noise and late night behaviours around the basketball courts in Strathfield Park, which are located in close proximity to the rear of neighbouring properties. This plan proposes converting the basketball court closest to neighbouring properties to a netball court and removal of back boards, which will cause less noise. It should be noted that Council is planning to build

new courts at Hudson Park, which would be located at a distance from residential properties and less likely to cause conflict.

Overcrowding of park and conflict between multiple uses of the park was raised by many respondents. The park does cater to a wide variety of activities and is a popular destination, therefore, organised activities including social gatherings and access to facilities in peak times such as BBQ's should be managed and monitored to avoid further conflicts. It is proposed that booking systems and monitoring processes are implemented especially for organised activities including social gatherings.

The consultation and review of facilities indicated that additional toilet facilities are required and should be located closer to Homebush Road, in order that facilities are within reasonable distance across the park. Sporting clubs have requested storage space for their equipment in the park. Consultation and options for storage will be considered.

Residents raised concerns about anti-social behaviours occurring within the park. It is recommended that signage will be reviewed and Council's Ranger service is activated to address issues such as illegal dumping, motorised bikes, smoking, off-leash dogs and failure to owners to manage dog droppings in the park.

The importance of Strathfield Park's open and green spaces, trees, vegetation and environmental walks was highlighted by the community consultation. Section 5 of this report provides a detailed assessment of the park's environmental features. These are addressed in the Action Plans included in Section 6.

## 2.5 References

Eco Logical Australia and Strathfield Council, 2019, *Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2030*, viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/live/biodiversity/>

ID Profile, June 2023, Strathfield Community Profile, viewed at <https://profile.id.com.au/strathfield/population-estimate>

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Strathfield Council, 2022, *Community Strategic Plan – Strathfield 2035* viewed at <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/council/policies-plans-and-regulations/community-strategic-plan/>

Strathfield Council, *Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012*, viewed at <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/EPI/2013/115>

Strathfield Council, 2019, Geographical Information System (GIS) Data

### 3. Basis of Management

#### 3.1 Management principles

Strathfield Council intends to manage its community land to meet:

- assigned categorisation of community land
- the Local Government (LG) Act guidelines and core objectives for community land
- the council's strategic objectives and priorities
- development and use of the land outlined in Section 6 of the LG Act.

All community land is required to be categorised as one or more of the following categories. Where the land is owned by the Crown, the category assigned should align with the purpose for which the land is dedicated or reserved.

The LG Act defines five categories of community land:

- 'Park' – for areas primarily used for passive recreation.
- 'Sportsground' – for areas where the primary use is for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.
- 'General Community Use' – for all areas where the primary purpose relates to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social, and intellectual welfare or development of members of the public. This includes venues such as community halls, scout and guide halls, and libraries.
- 'Cultural significance' – for areas with Aboriginal, aesthetic, archaeological, historical, technical, research or social significance.
- 'Natural area' – for all areas that play an important role in the area's ecology. This category is further categorised into bushland, escarpment, foreshore, watercourse and wetland categories.

Strathfield Park has multiple categorisations which are identified and mapped in Section 3.3.

#### 3.2 Categories and classifications of Community Land

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, its purpose, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land.

Council may then apply more specific management objectives to community land, though these must be compatible with the core objectives for the land.

The guidelines for categorisation of community land are set out in the *LG (General) Reg*. The core objectives for each category are set out in the *Local Government Act*. The guidelines and core objectives for the Park, Sportsground, General Community Use and Natural Area categories are set out in the relevant category sections of this plan of management.

Community land is valued for its important role in the social, intellectual, spiritual and physical enrichment of residents, workers, and visitors to the Strathfield Council area.

The intrinsic value of community land is also recognised, as is the important role this land plays in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem function.

Strathfield Council encourages a wide range of uses of community land and intends to facilitate uses which increase the activation of its land and facilities, where appropriate.

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land. The core objectives for each category are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993*. The guidelines and core objectives for relevant categories are set out in Table 6.

**Table 6 – Guidelines for and core objectives of community land**

Category	Guidelines <sup>1</sup>	Core objectives <sup>2</sup>
Park	<i>Regulation cl.104</i> Land which is, or proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, and for uses which are mainly passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.	<i>Category Park – (Section 36G)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities.</li> <li>provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games.</li> <li>improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.</li> </ul>
Sportsground	<i>Regulation cl.103</i> Land should be categorised as 'sportsground' if the land is used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.	<i>Category Sportsground - (Section 36F)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and</li> <li>to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.</li> </ul>
General Community Use	<i>Regulation cl.106</i> Land that may be made available for use of any purpose for which community land may be used, whether by the public at large or by specific sections of the public	<i>Category General Community Use - (Section 36I)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> *Local Government General Regulation 2021*

<sup>2</sup> *Local Government Act 1993*

Category	Guidelines <sup>1</sup>	Core objectives <sup>2</sup>
		<p>and future needs of the local community and of the wider public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public.</li> <li>- in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).</li> </ul>
Natural Area – bushland	<p><i>Regulation cl.107</i></p> <p>Land that contains primarily native vegetation that is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or although not the natural vegetation, is still representative of the structure or floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality.</p>	<p><i>Natural Area - Bushland (Section 36))</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and</li> <li>• to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and</li> <li>• to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and</li> <li>• to restore degraded bushland, and</li> <li>• to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and</li> <li>• to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and</li> <li>• to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.</li> </ul>

Council must manage community land in according to these core objectives. Any activities or uses of the land should be consistent with the core objectives for that category of land. Additional objectives which support the above core objectives are included in Section 6 Management of the land.

The land classified as community land under the *Local Government Act 1993* is categorised as Park, General Community Use, Natural Area (Bushland) and Sportsground. The categorised areas are marked in Figure 5.

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### 3.3 Strathfield Park – land categorisations

Strathfield Park was gazetted on 11 February 1914 for Public Recreation as the Strathfield Public Park (R500465) Reserve Trust. The Department of Planning & Environment notified that approval was granted for the initial classification of Strathfield Park as 'community land' and the categorisations of park and sportsground in February 2020. In the course of preparation of the draft Plan of Management, the following categorisations are proposed:

- Sportsgrounds. These are the areas of Strathfield Park which contains sportsfields, which are used primarily for sporting purposes.
- General Community Use. These areas contain or are proposed to contain built structures that contain potential commercial uses such as cafes. This includes the Pavilion with Café/Amenities (close to Chalmers Road) and the Café/Amenities building (near Homebush Road).
- Natural Area (Bushland). The park contains biodiversity connectivity areas, which are primarily located on the north and south perimeters of the park.
- Park. The majority of land in Strathfield Park is categorised as park. This land is used for active and passive recreation and leisure purposes.

*Figure 5 – Map of Strathfield Park land categorisations*



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### 3.4 Material Harm Considerations

The land at Strathfield Park was dedicated in 1914 for the reserve purpose of Public Park. The land is 72,562m<sup>2</sup> in size. This Plan of Management proposes four land categorisations for Strathfield Park. The categories of Park and Sportsground are already assigned, with the additional categories of Natural Area and General Community Use are proposed. All proposed land categorisations support the reserve purpose of Public Park. Material harm considerations are set out under each land categorisation and address the considerations set out in Section 2.14(3) of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

#### *Current categorisations*

##### Park

The majority of land at Strathfield Park is categorised as 'Park' and has a land area of about 36,363 m<sup>2</sup>, which is about 50% of the total land area. The land categorised as 'Park' contains mainly open space, open space, landscaping, pathways and amenities. The land is open and accessible to the public for a range of recreational and leisure activities, generally informal and for short and intermittent periods. There is minimal likelihood of harm to the land by these activities or fixtures. The land is maintained by Council to a high standard.

##### Sportsground

The Sportsground categorisation contains three sportsfields including two synthetic and one turf sportsfields. This area measures about 19,186.96 m<sup>2</sup> which is about 26% of the total land area. The three sportsfields are used for summer and winter sports. All sportsfields have lighting which supports night use of the facility. The sportsfields are open to the public at all times except when hired for formal sports. The land is maintained by Council to a high standard.

The turf sportsfield has minimal impact on the condition of the land. The synthetic sportsfields are a replacement surface which provides benefits such as increased hours of usage to meet increasing demands for facilities, though synthetic field are known to increase heat and may have adverse impacts on the local environment.

#### *Proposed additional categorisations*

##### Natural Area - Bushland

Areas within Strathfield Park have been identified as biodiversity connectivity areas, which are primarily located on the north and south perimeters of the park, and are categorised as Natural Area (bushland). This land measures about 15,999m<sup>2</sup> or about 22% of the total land area. This categorisation will cause no material harm to the land and will provide protection for trees, vegetation and biodiversity. The land is maintained by Council to a high standard.

### General Community Use

The area categorised as General Community Use is about 1,014m<sup>2</sup> square metres or about 1.3% of the total land area. Facilities such as toilets and storage sheds are included as ancillary in the Park or Sportsground land categories. However, the General Community Use land category includes built structures which include cafes which can be licenced or leased. These include:

- Strathfield Park Pavilion building which contains amenities and a café/kiosk (located between Field 1 & 2 near Chalmers Road).
- The Park Pavilion is located near Homebush Road and contains toilets and a café.

These buildings provide refreshments which support the use of the land as a park. All buildings are permanent structures. The buildings facilitate activities which are generally intermittent and infrequent such as change rooms and toilets. The café or kiosks are accessible and open in accordance with agreements. The land is maintained by Council to a high standard.

### 3.5 Councils strategic objectives and priorities

Strathfield Council, in consultation with the community, has developed the following strategies and plans to identify the priorities and aspirations of the community and the delivery of a vision for the future. They have a direct influence on the objectives, uses and management approach covered by PoMs.

The community vision describes the community's aspirations for the future of the Strathfield Local Government Area by 2035:

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

Strathfield 2035 is the community strategic plan (CSP) for the Strathfield Local Government Area until 2035. The plan was developed following extensive community engagement and is divided into the key themes of Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Celebrating Culture and Place, Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership. The following themes, goals and strategies are relevant to this Plan of Management.

CSP Theme	Goal	Strategies
Connectivity	1.1 Sustainable growth supported by well-planned and accessible	1.1.1 Collaborate with NSW Government and agencies to plan and deliver high quality and accessible infrastructure to support population growth and increasing density

CSP Theme	Goal	Strategies
	infrastructure and services	1.1.2 Plan and deliver high quality and strategically located local infrastructure to support current and future population needs
Community Wellbeing	2.2 Healthy & Active Communities	2.2.1 Manage open space, recreation and community facilities and programs to provide fair access and meet community, leisure and recreational needs
		2.2.2 Promote healthy and active living programs
Liveable Neighbourhoods	4.3 Healthy, thriving, sustainable and resilient environments	4.3.1 Conserve, restore and enhance Strathfield's biodiversity, ecological health, tree canopies and resilience
		4.3.2 Implement sustainable practices and efficiencies in resource use to support a healthy built environment
Responsible Leadership	5.1 Council's leadership and decision making reflects community priorities and values	5.1.1 Strathfield community is well informed, engaged and represented in Council policy making and advocacy
	5.2 Council is effectively and responsibly managed and responds to community needs	5.2.1 Prepare and implement plans and strategies to deliver and resource efficient and accountable services, programs and infrastructure

This plan is aligned with the Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which defines the long term vision for land use and infrastructure provisions within the Strathfield LGA and supports place within the Greater Sydney and District planning frameworks. This plan of management aligns with the priorities and actions set out in the LSPS.

- Priority P13 'Biodiversity and ecological health and resiliency is conserved, restored and enhanced' and
- Priority P15 'Quality Open Spaces and thriving green corridors offset the impacts of growth across the LGA'
- Action A93 'review and prepare new plans of management'.

### 3.6 Strathfield Park - prior use and history<sup>3</sup>

Strathfield Park was the first public park in the Strathfield Local Government Area. By the late nineteenth century, Strathfield was known for its vast country-style mansions and gardens, however the Council area was without a public park. Due to rising land prices, Council approached the NSW Government for financial assistance to acquire a large site for a public park. In selecting the site, the Council held a poll of residents. With the financial assistance of the NSW Government, the site was purchased and dedicated as a public park on 11 February 1914.

The land on which the park is situated is located on the 1867 Redmire Estate. There is evidence that the land was once used as a private golf course when owned by the Waller family in the late 1890s and early 1900s. Though the land was some distance from the Strathfield Town Centre and railway station, the land measured nearly nine hectares in size and had not been developed. Following the dedication of land for public recreation in 1914, the land was remained undeveloped for a few years. Activities such as shooting and cattle grazing were permitted in the park but by 1918, cricket pitches were laid out in the park. Newspaper records that the athletics events and cricket games were regularly played in the park. A caretaker cottage was located in the park near Homebush Road, but was demolished in the late 1950s.

During World War II, Strathfield Park was requisitioned by the Australian Armed Forces as a military training area and the park's dressing sheds were used from storage areas for clothes and equipment. At the end of World War II in August 1945, a large thanksgiving service was held in Strathfield Park to celebrate Victory in the Pacific. Strathfield Park has been frequently used for many events and civic functions including Australia Day celebrations, annual Christmas Carols, Spring Festivals as well as large public meetings.

An audit of recreational facilities in 1961 recorded the following recreational facilities at Strathfield Park: three cricket concrete wickets, three hockey fields, eight basketball grass fields and two softball courts. The park contained a playground, dressing sheds and toilets. By the 1970s, Strathfield Park's facilities included three cricket wickets, children's playground, soccer field, toilets, change rooms and kiosk.

In 1985, renowned landscape architects Harry Howard & Associates were commissioned by Council to prepare a new landscape plan for Strathfield Park. The plan focused on creating a network of native plantings that created zones in which key features such as sportsfields, civic space and playgrounds could be located. The plan also included changing ground levels throughout the park to create different zones.

In 1985, Council's centenary celebrations were held in Strathfield Park and a plaque commemorating Council's first 100 years and redevelopment of its first park was dedicated in the park. During the Bicentennial Celebrations in 1988, the Open Air Theatre (the rotunda) and flagpoles were erected in the Park. A plaque is dedicated near the rotunda.

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<sup>3</sup> Jones, C, 2021, Strathfield Park History, <https://strathfieldheritage.org/parks-and-reserves/strathfield-park/>

In 2017, a large children's playground was installed at the Homebush Road end of the park. The playground at Chalmers Road was replaced and upgraded to include a children's bike track. Both sites have all abilities playground equipment with wheelchair access. In 2017 and 2019, two of the turf sportsfields were converted into synthetic sportsfields at Field 1 and 2 to increase the sustainable use of the sportsfields and all weather use.

In 2022, the Pavilion which is located between the two sportsfields was completed. This contains change rooms, toilets and a kiosk.

*Figure 6 - Historic Photos of Strathfield Park*



*Aerial photo of Strathfield Park (1930). Six Maps*



*Aerial photo of Strathfield Park (1947)*



*Aerial photo of Strathfield Park (1980s)*



*Aerial photo of Strathfield Park (1997)*



*Aerial photo of Strathfield Park (2009) © Near Maps*



*Aerial photo of Strathfield Park (2022) © Near Maps*

### 3.7 Strathfield Park – Description and condition of land and structures

Strathfield Park is Strathfield's oldest public park as well as one of the Strathfield LGA's largest parks, measuring 7.2 hectares in size. Strathfield Park attracts high levels of usage and visitors and is one of the most popular parks in the LGA.

The design of the park conforms largely to the landscape plan designed in 1985 which developed a series of zones, buffered by native trees and vegetation, throughout the park in which key park elements are located. The landscaping of the park is largely consistent with the 1985 plan and facilities such as sportsfields have been developed within the landscaped zones.

The park features three multi-purpose sportsfields, including two synthetic and one turf field, which are primarily used for sports such as cricket, rugby league and soccer. Field 1, a multi-purpose synthetic sportsfield, was completed in September 2017. The field is located in the south-west area of the park, closest to Chalmers Road.

Construction of Field 2, a multipurpose synthetic sportsfield, was completed in November 2019. The field is located in the south-east section of the park, closest to Homebush Road.

An amenities pavilion is located between Field 1 and 2 and provides toilets, change rooms and a kiosk. This was constructed in 2021. The older amenities building is located close to the new amenities pavilion and it is likely that this building will be demolished in the future to create an area for seating and shelters.

Figure 7 – map of Strathfield Park facilities

#### STRATHFIELD PARK- KEY FEATURES



Field 3 is a grass sportsfield located at the north-west area of the park.

There are two playgrounds in Strathfield Park, both are all abilities with wheelchair access. The largest playground is located near Homebush Road. The large children's playground was constructed in 2017 at the north-eastern area of the park. The smaller children's playground includes a children's bicycle track and is located near Chalmers Road at the north-western area of the park. This was upgraded in 2017-2018.

There are passive recreation spaces for leisure and picnics are located throughout the park with shelters, seating and BBQs.

A new café with public toilet amenities is completed near the large playground at the Homebush Road end of the park.

A civic space contains a rotunda and flagpoles. This area has been used for civic occasions and events such as Australia Day and Citizenship ceremonies. The rotunda was constructed in 1988 and is in poor condition. Council is reviewing replacement of the rotunda.

The park's flora are primarily native plantings were planted in the late 1980s and early 1990s in accordance with the landscape plan. There are open grassed areas and revegetated parkland mostly indigenous vegetation on the northern and western edges of the park. While there are no identified threatened species in the park, the park is considered a 'gateway' reserve – one which allows visitors

the opportunity to 'meet' and enjoy Australian native species, encouraging local residents to become more familiar with native species and native bushland species so they then become more desirable in the urban landscape. There is an environmental walking trail on the northern side of the park and groves of plantings including the Rainforest Walk, the Fig Walk and the Grasslands Walk.

Pathways run through the park linking Homebush Road to Chalmers Road. There is street entry to the park from Homebush Road and Chalmers Road Strathfield with car parking at Chalmers Road. The park is accessible by public transport, mainly buses, on Homebush Road.

### 3.8 Heritage

There are no statutory heritage listings associated with this land.

### 3.9 Native Title Review

Crown land has significant spiritual, social, cultural and economic importance to the Aboriginal peoples of NSW. The CLM Act recognises and supports Aboriginal rights, interests and involvement in Crown land.

On Crown land, Native Title rights and interests must be considered unless Native Title has been extinguished, surrendered, or determined by a court to no longer exist.

Dealings in land or water that affect (impair or extinguish) Native Title are referred to as 'Future Acts' and these acts must be done in compliance with the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) ("NT ACT"). The NT Act specifies procedures that must be followed before future acts can be done legally.

Some examples of acts which may affect Native Title on Crown land managed by Council include:

- The construction of new buildings and other facilities such as toilet blocks, walking tracks, basketball courts, grandstands and barbecues
- The construction of extensions to existing buildings
- The construction of new roads
- Installation of infrastructure such as sewerage pipes, etc.
- The creation of an easement
- The issue of a lease or licence
- The undertaking of major earthworks.

On Crown land, a future act undertaken by Council which is not covered by one of the Future Act subdivisions of the NT Act will be invalid.

Section 8.7 of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* requires that written Native Title Manager advice is required before a council Crown land manager does any of the following:

- a. Grants leases, licences, permits, forestry rights, easements

- b. Approves (or submits for approval) a plan of management for the land that authorises or permits any of the kinds of dealings referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c). Accordingly, Native Title Manager advice must be obtained prior to the approval (or submittal for approval) of a PoM that allows a dealing in (a)–(c) and the execution of any lease, licence, permit, etc. that may be authorised under that plan.

Council's Native Title Manager has been and will continue to be consulted in all relevant aspects of Native Title pertaining to the land that is covered by this Plan of Management.

### 3.10 Condition of assets in Strathfield Park

The condition of land and structures upon adoption of this plan of management are shown in Table 4 and the interpretation of buildings/site conditions include:

*Table 7 - Condition rating assessment criteria*

Rating	Descriptor	Guide	Residual Life as a % of Total Life	Mean % age residual life
<b>1 - Excellent</b>	Sound physical condition. Asset likely to perform adequately without major work.	Normal maintenance required	>86	95
<b>2 – Good</b>	Acceptable physical condition, minimal short term risk of failure.	Normal maintenance plus minor repairs required (to 5% or less of the asset)	65 to 85	80
<b>3 – Satisfactory</b>	Deterioration evident, failure in the short term unlikely. Minor components need replacement or repair now but asset still functions safely.	Significant maintenance and/or repairs required (to 10-20% of the asset)	41 to 64	55
<b>4 – Worn</b>	Deterioration of the asset is evident and failure is possible in the short term. No immediate risk to health and safety.	Significant renewal required (to 20 - 40% of the asset)	10 to 40	35
<b>5 - Poor</b>	Failed or failure is imminent or there is significant deterioration of the asset. Health and safety hazards exist which present a possible risk to public safety.	Over 50% of the asset requires renewal	<10	5

*Table 8 – Photos and Condition of assets at Strathfield Park*



*Playground at Homebush Road is rated as Excellent*



*Playground at Chalmers Road is rated as Excellent.*



*Field 1 (Synthetic). This field condition is rated as Excellent.*



*Field 2 (Synthetic). This field condition is rated as Excellent.*



*Field 3 (Turf). This field condition is rated as Satisfactory*



*Sports floodlighting (synthetic fields) condition is rated as Excellent.*



*Sports Grandstand condition is rated as Excellent.*



*Ball protection fence is rated as Excellent.*



*Signage is rated as Good.*



*Amenities building (former) is rated as Good.*



*Benches and seats are rated as Excellent*



*Bollard Solar LED lights are rated as Good*



*Gardens are rated as Good*



*Pavilion was built in 2021 and is rated as Excellent.*



*Fences are rated as Excellent*



*Multipurpose courts are rated as Worn*



*The BBQs are rated as Good.*



*Shade structures are rated as Excellent.*



*Grass Netball Courts are rated as Good*



*Pathways are rated as Excellent*



*Flagpoles are rated as Good*



*Stone Pillar and Plaque are rated as Excellent*



*Rotunda is rated as Worn.*



*Amenities building (near Homebush Rd) built in 2022 and rated Excellent*

### 3.11 Maintenance of Strathfield Park

Council's management of community and Crown Land integrates with strategies set out in the Community Strategic Plan, actions in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan and resourcing and operational plans, especially resource and asset management plans and operations to meet community needs and priorities. Major parks such as Strathfield Park provide significant recreational and community facilities and are highly valued by the community. To ensure the park is well and safely maintained, there are weekly visual inspections of the grounds and equipment. The park operates on a two weekly maintenance cycle. Inspections and condition assessment of equipment and playgrounds are conducted regularly to ensure all equipment is fit for purpose and risks are minimised.

Minor changes to community land are regularly made on a routine basis, such as garden beds are replanted, and damaged play equipment is replaced.

### 3.12 Future development process

Substantial work has been undertaken in Strathfield Park since 2017 including construction of sportsfields, playgrounds and amenities buildings including a kiosk and café.

The Rotunda has reached the end of its usable life and is likely to be demolished. Council are also planning to undertake the following works (conditional on receiving grants), these may include:

- Demolition of the existing old amenities building. In replacement, the area will be landscaped with the addition of seating, shelters and BBQs. A small storage facility will be built and located near the southern boundary of the park.
- The basketball court near Homebush Road is at the end of its serviceable life. A new basketball court is planned but located closer to the middle of the park to minimise noise impact on nearby homes. The site of the old basketball court will be grassed and may be used for grass netball or volleyball.
- A terraced seating area may be built near the Homebush Road amenities block to provide additional seating in the park.

In the event of potential future development other than that listed, proposed changes of use of community land will:

1. Meet legislative requirements - zoning tables in the Strathfield Council Local Environmental Plan specifies the range of uses and activities that may be permitted on the land. A number of uses are also set out in the Regulations to the *Local Government Act 1993*.
2. Be consistent with the guidelines and core objectives of the community land category - under the *Local Government Act 1993* uses and development of community land must be consistent with the guidelines for categorisation and the core objectives of each category, and any other additional objectives the Council proposes to place on the community land categories.
3. Be consistent with relevant Council policies - substantial upgrades and proposed new development will take into account a range of factors, including:
  - this Plan of Management and the core objectives for the land
  - the planning controls for the land
  - Council's adopted policies
  - the characteristics of the land affected, including existing and future use patterns
  - any landscape masterplan for the land.

### 3.13 Scale and intensity of land use

The scale and intensity of use and development associated with community land in Strathfield is generally dependent on:

- the nature of the approved uses and developments
- approved Development Applications and any conditions
- an approved masterplan
- the physical constraints of the land
- the carrying capacity of the land
- relevant government legislation
- permissible times of use
- proximity of neighbours

The scale and intensity of use of parks and sportsgrounds should be monitored by:

- regular inspection of the physical impacts on the park or sportsground
- reports to Council regarding any conflicts between park and sportsground users
- reports to Council from adjoining neighbours

## 4. Development and Use

Community land is valued for its important role in the social, intellectual, spiritual and physical enrichment of residents, workers, and visitors to the Strathfield Council area.

The intrinsic value of community land is also recognised, as is the important role this land plays in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem function.

Strathfield Council encourages a wide range of uses of community land and intends to facilitate uses which increase the activation of its land, where appropriate. Within buildings, recreational and sporting facilities in particular, Strathfield Council intends to permit and encourage a broad range of appropriate activities.

The use of community land is often supported by appropriate ancillary development such as playground equipment or amenities buildings.

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Park, Sportsground, General Community Use and Natural Area (Bushland), and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in the tables below in relevant categories of this plan of management.

### 4.1 Permissible uses and developments

The tables below set out the purpose/use of the land consistent with its land categorisation and the types of development generally associated with those uses. Facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community. The anticipated uses, and associated development, identified in the categories below are intended to provide an overview or general guide.

#### 4.1.1 Park

Parks are defined in clause 104 of the *LG (General) Regulation* as land which is improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, and for uses which are mainly passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.

The core objectives for parks, as outlined in Section 36G of the LG Act, are to:

- encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities
- provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games
- improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.

*Table 9 - Permissible uses of land categories – Park*

Purpose/Use	Development to facilitate uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active and passive recreation including children's play</li> <li>• Group recreational use, such as picnics and celebrations</li> <li>• Publicly accessible ancillary areas eg toilets</li> <li>• Festivals, fairs, similar events and gatherings</li> <li>• Low intensity commercial activities</li> <li>• Filming and photographic projects</li> <li>• Public address (speeches)</li> <li>• Easement, utilities and estate</li> <li>• Community gardening</li> </ul> <p>Note: Some of the uses above require a permit from Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development for the purposes of improving access, amenity, and the visual character of the park eg paths, pergolas, flagpoles, lights, water bubblers, seating, paved areas, hard and soft landscaped areas etc</li> <li>• Development for the purposes of active recreation eg play equipment, children's playgrounds, exercise equipment, courts etc</li> <li>• Amenities to facilitate leisure use of the park eg picnic tables and shelters, BBQ's &amp; sheltered eating areas</li> <li>• Kiosk/café, mobile food vans or refreshment areas including external seating</li> <li>• Storage areas associated with functions, gardening equipment</li> <li>• Hard and soft landscaped areas</li> <li>• Transport access and service areas ancillary to the use of land (eg public transport, car parking, loading zones, bicycle racks)</li> <li>• Community gardens</li> <li>• Off-leash areas</li> <li>• Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art etc</li> <li>• Locational, directional and regulatory signage</li> <li>• Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council.</li> <li>• Water/Energy savings initiatives including bio-detention basin (lake)</li> <li>• Bio-banking and carbon sequestration initiatives</li> </ul>

#### 4.1.2 Sportsgrounds

Sportsgrounds are defined in clause 103 of the *LG (General) Reg* as land used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or playing outdoor games.

The core objectives for sportsgrounds, as outlined in Section 36F of the LG Act, are to:

- encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games
- ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.

Strathfield Park contains three sportsfields which are categorised as Sportsgrounds, which are used for playing of sports such as Football and Cricket.

*Table 10 - Permissible uses of land categories – Sportsgrounds*

Purpose/Use	Development to facilitate uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active and passive recreational and sporting activities consistent with the nature of the particular land and any relevant facilities</li> <li>• Organised and unstructured recreation activities</li> <li>• Community events or gatherings, and public meetings</li> <li>• Commercial uses associated with sports facilities</li> <li>• Easement, utilities and estate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development for the purpose of conducting and facilitating organised sport (both amateur and professional)</li> <li>• Sportsfields (turf and synthetic) including cricket, football, soccer, track and field athletics, baseball, softball etc</li> <li>• Courts (basketball, netball, badminton, tennis, hockey, badminton etc)</li> <li>• Facilities for sport training eg batting cages, tennis rebound walls</li> <li>• Amenities eg change room, lockers, shower/toilet facilities, first aid rooms, seating</li> <li>• Café or kiosk facilities, mobile coffee cart or food vending subject to site assessment and Council approval</li> <li>• Car parking and loading areas</li> <li>• Ancillary areas eg staff rooms, meeting rooms, equipment storage areas</li> <li>• Shade structures</li> <li>• Seating and scoreboards</li> <li>• Sports or fitness training, and practice facilities</li> <li>• Equipment sales/hire areas</li> <li>• Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art</li> <li>• Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council.</li> <li>• Water/Energy savings initiatives</li> <li>• Lighting and water (eg taps, bubblers)</li> <li>• Locational, directional and regularly signage</li> </ul>

#### 4.1.3 General Community Use

General community use land is defined in clause 106 of the *LG (General) Regulation* as land that may be made available for use for any purpose for which community land may be used, and does not satisfy the definition of natural area, sportsground, park or area of cultural significance. The core objectives for community land categorised as general community use, as outlined in Section 36I of the *Local Government Act*, are to:

- promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land
- provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public:
  - (a) in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and
  - (b) in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).

Strathfield Park contains a number of buildings which are categorised as General Community Use. This includes the Pavilion building containing amenities and a café/kiosk (near Chalmers Road) and the Café/Amenities building near Homebush Road.

**Table 11 - Permissible uses of land categories – General Community Use**

Purpose/Use	Development to facilitate uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides a location for, and supports, the gathering of groups for a range of general social, cultural or recreational purposes</li> <li>• Council facility to support and deliver Council services</li> <li>• Includes multi-purpose buildings e.g. leisure centre, aquatic centre, indoor courts, sports, community halls etc. Uses may include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• casual or informal sporting and recreational use</li> <li>• meetings (including for social, recreational, educational or cultural purposes)</li> <li>• functions</li> <li>• leisure or training classes including fitness</li> <li>• concerts</li> <li>• performances (including film and stage)</li> <li>• exhibitions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Development for the purposes of social, community, cultural, recreational activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provision of buildings or other amenity areas to facilitate use and enjoyment by the community</li> <li>• provision of building to support delivery of Council services</li> <li>• development (particularly within buildings) for the purposes of addressing the needs of a particular group (for example, a stage)</li> <li>• landscaping and finishes, improving access, amenity and the visual character of the general community area</li> <li>• water-saving initiatives such as rain gardens</li> <li>• energy-saving initiatives such as solar lights and solar panels</li> <li>• car parking and loading areas</li> <li>• advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ relate to approved uses/activities</li> <li>○ are discreet and temporary</li> <li>○ are approved by the council</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Purpose/Use	Development to facilitate uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fairs and parades</li> <li>• workshops</li> <li>• designated group use</li> <li>• entertainment facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• locational, directional and regulatory signage.</li> </ul>

#### 4.1.4 Natural Area (Bushland)

Bushland is defined in clause 107 of the *LG (General) Regulation* as land containing primarily native vegetation that is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or although not the natural vegetation, is still representative of the structure or floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality.

The core objectives for bushland, as outlined in Section 36j of the LG Act, are to:

- ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna of the land and other ecological values
- protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land
- manage the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures to minimise or mitigate disturbance caused by human intrusion
- restore degraded bushland
- protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores
- retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term
- protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

Strathfield Park was identified in Council's Biodiversity and Conservation Strategy 2020 (p41) as a Connectivity Priority Area. Established vegetation within the park can be considered a wildlife corridor and categorised as a natural area within the meaning of the *LG (General) Regulation*. Section 5 of this plan contains descriptions and analysis of Strathfield Park's environment with survey data results outlined in Attachment A.

**Table 12 – Permissible uses of land categories – Natural Area (Bushland)**

Purpose/Use	Development to facilitate uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking and cycling</li> <li>• Guided bushwalks and bird watching</li> <li>• Environmental programs and scientific study</li> <li>• Preservation of biodiversity and habitat</li> <li>• Bush regeneration and revegetation works</li> <li>• Relaxation and passive informal recreation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpretative and directional signage</li> <li>• Seating</li> <li>• Lighting</li> <li>• Low impact carparks</li> <li>• Low impact walking trails</li> <li>• Water saving initiatives eg swales, sediment traps, rainwater gardens</li> </ul>

#### 4.2 Authorisation of Leases, Licences or other Estates over community land

Under section 46(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act*, leases, licences and other estates formalise the use of community land. A lease, licence or other estate may be granted to organisations and persons, community groups, sports clubs and associations, non-government organisations, charities, community welfare services, non-profit organisations and government authorities.

The lease or licence must be for uses consistent with the reserve purpose(s), the assigned categorisation and zoning of the land, be in the best interests of the community as a whole, and enable, wherever possible, shared use of community land.

Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this PoM and the capacity of the community land itself and the local area to support the activity.

A lease is normally issued where exclusive control of all or part of an area by a user is proposed. In all other instances a licence or short-term licence or hire agreement will be issued.

When planning to grant a lease or licence on Crown reserves, Council must comply with the requirements of the *Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 (NT Act)* and have regard for any existing claims made on the land under the *NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*. Council's Native Title Manager will provide written advice in certain circumstances to advise if the proposed activities and dealings are valid under the *Native Title Act*.

This plan of management **expressly authorises** the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land covered by the plan of management, provided that:

- the purpose is consistent with the purpose for which it was dedicated or reserved
- the purpose is consistent with the core objectives for the category of the land
- the lease, licence or other estate is for a permitted purpose listed in the *Local Government Act 1993* or the *LG (General) Reg*
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate and the provisions of the lease, licence or other estate can be validated by the provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth)
- where the land is subject to a claim under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* the issue of any lease, licence or other estate will not prevent the land from being transferred in the event the claim is granted
- the lease, licence or other estate is granted and notified in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* or the *LG (General) Reg*
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate will not materially harm the use of the land for any of the purposes for which it was dedicated or reserved.

Under Section 46 of the LG Act, a lease or licence may only be granted for a maximum term of 21 years including options, or for 30 years with consent of the Minister. A lease or licence for a term exceeding five (5) years may be granted only by tender unless it is granted to a non-profit organisation. All leases and licences must be publicly notified for a minimum period of 28 days.

Agreements for a short-term, casual purpose may be issued in accordance with Section 46 of the LG Act where that purpose is prescribed by the Regulations.

The tables set out below in the relevant categorisations of this plan of management further identifies the purposes for which leases and licences may be issued over the reserves identified in this plan of management.

*Table 13 - Leases, Licences and other estates*

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
Lease	Park	<p>A lease proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kiosk/café and refreshment purposes including seating and tables</li> <li>• Management of court, driving range or similar facilities</li> <li>• Hire or sale of recreational equipment</li> </ul>
Licence	Park	<p>A licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sporting and recreational purposes, including team sports, fitness activities and games</li> <li>• Outdoor kiosk/café and refreshment purposes including seating and tables</li> <li>• Management of court, driving range or similar facilities</li> <li>• Hire or sale of recreational equipment</li> </ul>
Lease	Sportsground	<p>A lease proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p>

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kiosk/café and refreshment purposes including seating and tables</li> <li>• Management of court, driving range or similar facilities</li> <li>• Hire or sale of recreational equipment</li> </ul>
Licence	Sportsground	<p>A licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sporting and recreational purposes, including team sports, fitness activities and games</li> <li>• Outdoor kiosk/café and refreshment purposes including seating and tables</li> <li>• Management of court, driving range or similar facilities</li> <li>• Hire or sale of recreational equipment</li> </ul>
Lease	General Community Use	<p>Any lease proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural purposes, including concerts, dramatic productions and galleries</li> <li>• Recreational purposes, including fitness classes, dance classes and games</li> <li>• Sporting uses developed/operated by a private operator</li> <li>• Kiosk, café and refreshment purposes</li> <li>• Commercial retail uses associated with the facility (e.g. sale or hire of sports goods)</li> </ul>
Licence	General Community Use	<p>Any licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational purposes, including fitness classes, dance classes</li> <li>• Café/kiosk areas</li> </ul>

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sale of goods or services that are ancillary to community land use and reserve purpose</li> </ul>
Licence & Lease	Natural Area (Bushland)	<p>Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar</li> <li>Walkways, pathways, bridges or causeways</li> <li>Signs, observation platforms</li> <li>Information kiosk</li> <li>Small kiosk (not restaurant) selling light refreshments</li> <li>Work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land</li> <li>Temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project or works to be carried out</li> </ul>
Other Estates	Park; Sportsground; General Community Use; Natural Area (Bushland)	<p>This Plan of Management allows Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p> <p>Estates may also be granted across community land that is not affected by endangered communities for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</p>

The grant of a lease or licence is an important step in using community land, but there may be other requirements relevant to any proposed use. For example, the refurbishment of a kiosk may also require development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Any interested person should check carefully to make sure they are aware of all relevant requirements.

#### 4.3 Short Term Uses

Short-term licences and bookings may be used to allow the council to program different uses of community land at different times, allowing the best overall use. Short-term licences are authorised for the purpose of:

*Table 14 - Seasonal, regular and casual use agreements*

Community land category	Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval	Requirements
Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community events and festivals</li> <li>Playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward</li> <li>Picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings</li> <li>Filming, including for cinema/television</li> <li>Conducting a commercial photography session</li> <li>Public performances</li> <li>Engaging in an appropriate trade or business</li> <li>Delivering a public address</li> <li>Community events</li> <li>Fairs, markets, auctions and similar activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed use must comply with terms and conditions approved e.g. SafeWork NSW regulations, insurance, waste management etc.</li> <li>The use should not result in physical damage to the park, sportsground or natural area</li> <li>The use should not result in a significant adverse impact on adjoining residents or disturbance to nearby residents</li> <li>Organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and notify authorities and Council of any damage or incidents that may occur</li> </ul>
Sportsgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community events and festivals</li> <li>Sporting fixtures and events</li> <li>Sports and fitness training and classes</li> <li>Filming or photography of sporting fixtures or events</li> <li>Uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events</li> </ul>	
Natural Area (Bushland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar</li> <li>Temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out</li> </ul>	
General Community Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public speeches, meetings, seminars and presentations, including educational programs</li> <li>Functions (including commemorative functions, and similar activities)</li> <li>Displays, exhibitions, fairs, fashion parades and shows</li> <li>Events (including weddings, corporate functions, and community gatherings)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed use must comply with terms and conditions for facility use</li> <li>The use should not result in physical damage to the facility</li> <li>Organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up</li> </ul>

Community land category	Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval	Requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerts and other performances, including both live performances and film (cinema and TV)</li> <li>• Broadcasts associated with any event, concert, or public speech</li> <li>• Engaging in an appropriate trade or business delivering a public address, community events; auctions, markets and similar activities</li> </ul>	the site and repairing any damage that may occur.

In assessing community land categorised as Park, General Community Use, Natural Area (Bushland) or Sportsground as a venue for any proposed utilisation, the Council applies the following minimum criteria:

- Council reserves the right to refuse bookings based on previous unsatisfactory payment or performance history or where proposed use would damage the facility or cause significant disruption to other regular users.
- Fees for short-term casual bookings will be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges at the time.

#### 4.4 Current leases, licences and uses of Strathfield Park

There is a licence to C Major Café & Desserts Pty Ltd for a period of 5 years from 13 October 2022 to 12 October 2027 with an option for a further five years to operate a café for Monday – Friday 7am – 8pm and Saturdays & Sundays 7.30am – 8pm.

## 5. Environmental Features

### 5.1 Soil Landscapes

Strathfield Park is underlain by two soil landscapes (Figure 8). Soil landscapes inform the types of vegetation that were very likely present pre European occupation and can assist in making sound ecological decisions when choosing plants for landscaping and revegetation works. The Birrong soil landscape is associated with floodplains of watercourses draining Wianamatta Group shales, on the Cumberland Lowlands and is dominated by silt and clay sized alluvial materials derived from this group. The landscape is extensively cleared with remnants of ironbark *Eucalyptus paniculata*, turpentine *Syncarpia glomulifera*, and Sydney blue gum *E. saligna* forest and woodland.

The landscape was historically filled to reduce its limitations that include flood hazards, seasonal waterlogging and water erosion hazards. The Blacktown soil landscape occurs extensively on the Cumberland Lowlands between the Georges and Parramatta Rivers in the south-west and is part of the Wianamatta Group-Ashfield Shale consisting of laminite and dark grey siltstone and Bringelly Shale which consists of shale, with occasional calcareous claystone, laminite and coal. This landscape has been almost completely cleared with only very small remnants of the original wet sclerophyll forest containing Sydney blue gum *E. saligna* and blackbutt *E. pilularis*.

The original woodland and open-forest in drier areas to the west were dominated by forest red gum *E. tereticornis*, narrow leaved ironbark *E. crebra* and grey box *E. moluccana* (Bannerman SM and Hazelton PA 1990).



Figure 8 Soil landscapes underlying Strathfield Park

Vegetation was mapped in 2016 by OEH for the Sydney metropolitan area. While parts of the park have good canopy cover and can be considered as natural areas, there is no remnant native vegetation remaining in the park and this is reflected in the mapping (Figure 9).



Figure 9 Mapped vegetation communities, Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) 2016

## 5.2 Detailed descriptions of park flora and fauna

Vegetation provides a visual buffer from the street for the park's playing fields, which occupy approximately half the park (Figure 9). The park is surrounded by planted, mostly native, flora that has created a pleasant shady atmosphere (Figure 10).

On the western side of the park, there is a children's playground that includes footpaths and cycle paths for use by young children. These are nestled amongst the native gardens (Figure 12). Several large Brush Box trees have been retained between the new all-weather sports oval and one of the smaller turfed ovals (Figure 11), where they provide good shade and a pleasant place to sit and enjoy the park's amenities.



*Figure 10 Strathfield Park is a formal park with well established native flora planted around the perimeter*



*Figure 11 At least half of the park's area has been allocated to sporting fields, including a new all weather playing field*



*Figure 12 On the western side there is a children's play area among footpaths and garden style planted beds with native species*



*Figure 13 Several large Brush Box (an introduced species for the area) have been retained and provide good shade*

The northern boundary of the reserves interfaces with urban residential dwellings, most of which are fully detached houses. This area has been planted with native rainforest species from Sydney and further north. Information signs provide an opportunity for park users to become familiar with some of these species and learn a little bit about them (Figure 11). The rainforest walk is a concrete footpath that is accessible by most park users, and provides a cool sheltered walk through this vegetation (Figure 15).



*Figure 14 The northern boundary has been planted with local rainforest species, and signage installed to inform locals*



*Figure 15 The rainforest walk provides a sheltered and cool path through vegetation and take a step away from the city life*

There are areas adjoining the rainforest walk that could be vegetated to extend the resources in this part of the park (Figure 12). One of the important features of the rainforest walk is the vegetation structure which provides a range of habitat niches for a variety of local native fauna. This area of rainforest planting extends along the whole northern boundary of the park.



*Figure 16 Opportunities exist nearby to expand the rainforest walk, or supplement with local woodland species*



*Figure 17 - Another children's play area and picnic area with barbecues is located on the north-eastern corner of the reserve*



*Figure 18 Parts of the Rainforest walk have native flora species arranged so that there is complexity in the structure, creating a range of habitat opportunities for native fauna*



*Figure 19 Flying fox rope swings and more children's play equipment is located in open space on the eastern side of the park*



*Figure 20 An adventure playground is located among trees on the eastern side of the park*



*Figure 21 Grassed open space beside the all weather sports oval is used for games by older children*

Towards the north-eastern corner of the park is a second children's playground and a picnic area with barbecues (Figure 17). Shelters over picnic tables and shade sails over the playground equipment compensate for the lack of mature trees in this area. Shrubs provide some separation between different sections of the park, particularly in this corner.

Heading south along the eastern boundary, there is an adventure playground located among mature trees in native garden beds (Figure 20). The retained vegetation helps to add to the adventure feel of this part of the park. South of this is a series of flying fox rope swings, and another small children's playground area with climbing walls and switchback slides, and more picnic facilities and shelters (Figure 16).

Smaller areas of grassed open space are located away from the road but in the south-eastern corner of the reserve. These grassed areas are alternately used for passive and active recreation (Figure 21). Again, semi mature trees and mature shrubs create good shade in many areas. This grassed area adjoins a pair

of hardstand basketball courts that are separated from the roadway by a densely planted native species boundary (Figure 22).

Stands of maturing eucalypt specimens provide shade and shelter over sparse garden shrubs (Figure 23). These semi-formal gardens provide good shade around the park and help to divide the space into separated areas without compromising public safety.



*Figure 22 Basketball courts adjoin the grassed open space near the eastern boundary of the park*



*Figure 23 Several stands of maturing eucalypts provide good shade at intervals through the park*

Along the southern boundary is the area known as the Fig Walk (Figure 24). This includes a road of mature fig trees that have been planted sometime in the distant past. While not a local native species, the Hills Weeping Figs are beautiful trees that provide food for Grey-headed Flying Foxes and other native birds and mammals in the area.

Dense but patchy stands of lomandras help to create the vegetative buffer for adjoining neighbours south of the park. Very mature stands of large trees have considerable importance in an urban landscape (Figure 25), providing good shade and cooling to combat global warming, creating oxygen and reducing carbon dioxide levels, helping to filter fine particulates from the atmosphere, and providing fauna habitat resources including food, nesting opportunities and roosting or perching opportunities.



*Figure 24 The Fig Walk celebrates the beautiful old Hills Weeping Figs from Queensland, located along the southern boundary*



*Figure 25 The Hills Weeping Figs provide good shade along the Fig Walk and privacy to adjoining landholders*

The southwestern corner of the park has been dedicated to the flora most likely to be found in grasslands (Figure 23), but also common in woodlands that were typical of the vegetation across the Sydney basin before the arrival and settlement of Europeans in Australia. This area also has an accessible footpath that meanders through areas with planted canopy species, shrubs and groundcover species that are likely to have been found in the Strathfield area before ongoing urbanization forced them towards local extirpation (Figure 26). Like the Rainforest Walk, this area is largely confined to a narrow strip along the edge of the park, and again like the Rainforest Walk, there are areas for expansion of the existing garden plantings which can be used to consolidate the local ecology in the reserve.



*Figure 26 An accessible footpath meanders through plantings that commemorate the grassy woodlands of the Sydney basin*



*Figure 27 The south-western corner of the park has been dedicated to the grassland flora that would have been characteristic for the area*

### 4.3 Ecological Values

No vegetation communities have been mapped for the vicinity of Strathfield Park (Figure 9), and nor were there any threatened species recorded during surveys in 2020. The native flora on site appears to be predominantly in the 20 – 25 years age class, many of which were planted early in that time period. Considering the native flora species more holistically, there is no recognizable local vegetation community on site. This is despite the reasonably large numbers of species recorded in the area including 48 native species and 25 introduced species recorded during a snapshot survey of the park in 2020 to assist in preparing this Plan of Management. Survey results for both flora and fauna are provided in Appendix A.

The reserve is best considered a 'gateway' reserve – one which allows visitors the opportunity to 'meet' and enjoy Australian native species, encouraging local residents to become more familiar with native species and native bushland species so they then become more desirable in the urban landscape. This is reflected in the configuration of existing landscaping and planting strategies in the park (Figure 28). Areas with good ecological values for fauna and climate are the Rainforest Walk, the Fig Walk and the Grasslands Walk.



Figure 28 Landscaping/vegetation zones within Strathfield Park

The extant bird fauna of the site consists largely of species that have successfully adapted to living in the urban environment including Pied Currawongs, Rainbow Lorikeets and Noisy Miners. These species have been able to exploit the resources found in urban parks and surrounding gardens of lower density housing. These resources include heavily flowering natives, fruiting exotics and the simplification of vegetation structure. These species can aggressively exclude other species reducing the value of the park to a variety of species. However, Wallis Park and Strathfield Golf Course to the west provide additional local habitat forming a stepping stone corridor between Strathfield Park, the upper Cooks River and Rookwood cemetery.

The vegetated areas of the park (as mapped by OEH 2016; Figure 3) can be considered a wildlife corridor and categorised as a natural area within the meaning of the LG (General) Reg. Mature trees provide nesting, foraging and roosting opportunities for birds and mammals and grassed open space provides foraging opportunities for species such as Masked Lapwings, Australian Magpies and species that feed on grass seeds, including Crested Pigeons (Figure 30) and many of the parrot species typically found around open space parks in Sydney. Areas of artificial turf have no ecological value.

The park offers areas of deep shade which is vital during summer, for birds in particular, if wildlife is to persist through increasingly hot summers. A variety of native mammals use the park and surrounding areas including Common Brushtail Possums, Grey-headed Flying-foxes, and microbats could be seen at dusk and heard (using specialized equipment) hunting over the open space and along the vegetation patches. Lighting in the park at night attracts insects that certain species of microbat, that are adapted to foraging along edges and in open space, can exploit. Some areas of the park have minimal light spill which most nocturnal species prefer, including Tawny Frogmouths (Figure 29). The park does not have a source of open water and frogs were only heard calling from nearby properties, likely to have backyard water features.



*Figure 29 Tawny Frogmouth hunting in the native sensory garden in Strathfield Park 2020*



*Figure 30 Crested pigeons courtship ritual – Strathfield Park 2020*

Seventeen species were observed during the survey and a further twenty species have been recorded in and around the park. It is likely that a variety of terrestrial migratory species visit the park on seasonal migrations on a temporary basis. Species lists from the current survey and public databases are provided in Appendix A.

## 6. Management of the land

### 6.1 Objectives and management of community land

The land is managed in accordance with the objectives and methods set out below:

*Table 15 – Objectives, means and performance measures for parks, sportsfields and general community use facilities*

Management Issues	Objectives	Actions	Performance Indicators
<b>Improve availability of information on Strathfield Park</b>	1. Promote and provide information on Strathfield Park and facilities	1. Provide information about Strathfield Park in Council publications including website and social media including location, park features, access, hire policies and booking information  2. Promote and educate community on Strathfield Park and features as a desirable local destination in Council's media and publications	1. Resident satisfaction survey  2. Production and distribution of information on park
<b>Maintain a balance between 'active' and 'passive' park spaces and control overcrowding in park</b>	1. Minimise overcrowding of park facilities and achieve balance between organised and unstructured recreational use of the park and facilities	1. Monitor organised and informal/unstructured activities in Strathfield Park  2. Utilise and maintain plantings for clear definition between activity spaces throughout the park  3. Minimise impact of overcrowding through implementing booking systems for organised activities and large social gatherings in Strathfield Park.	1. Monitor local use of parks and sportsgrounds by bookings, surveys, complaints and observation.  2. Provide ranger patrols in park

Management Issues	Objectives	Actions	Performance Indicators
		4. Implement a time based booking for high demand facilities such as BBQs during peak times eg weekends, public holidays etc	
<b>Management of dogs in Strathfield Park</b>	1. That dogs in Strathfield Park are exercised on-leash and the park is kept free of faecal matter	1. Ensure owners of dogs are responsible for clean up faecal matter 2. Ensure and monitor dogs being kept on-leash within the park 3. That receptacles for dog waste disposal are available in the park 4. Rangers regularly patrol the park and take action on infringements	1. Monitor behaviour of dogs in parks 2. Actions to address infringements
<b>Managing and maintaining assets</b>	1. Provide effective and efficient management of community land and facilities	1. Review condition of assets on a regular basis 2. Schedule regular inspections and condition/risk assessments 3. Include maintenance standards in licence, lease or hire agreements.	1. Respond to complaints and audits. 2. Monitor agreements and ensure maintenance actions are implemented 3. Review and update asset management plans periodically
<b>Protect and promote aesthetic character, historic and Aboriginal history and heritage</b>	1. That aesthetic character and visual quality of public open spaces is enhanced 2. Identify, commemorate and educate on the historical, heritage and environmental significance of Strathfield Park.	1. Design buildings, structures and features that complement and enhance the park setting and character including consistency of selection and design of park and sportsground furniture, paving, fencing etc 2. Implement and maintain co-ordinated signage and public art strategy including providing information on key park features,	1. Community consultation and satisfaction surveys. 2. Installation of signage and historical/educative information throughout the park

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Management Issues	Objectives	Actions	Performance Indicators
		<p>natural environment (eg trees, plant species etc), Aboriginal heritage etc</p> <p>3. Incorporate historical and educational information on signage to enhance understanding and appreciation of the park and its features</p>	
<b>Provide a safe environment and facilities for children and young people</b>	<p>1. Provision and safe maintenance of play equipment for children and youth</p>	<p>1. Provide adequate shade over and around children's play areas and where required, provide additional seating and shading for adults supervising children's play areas.</p> <p>2. Ensure all play equipment meets all relevant standards</p> <p>3. Ensure play items are kept free of rubbish and hazardous items, such as needles or broken glass</p> <p>4. Review need for fencing of play areas</p>	<p>1. Regular safety audits and maintenance schedules</p> <p>2. Review equipment and fencing requirements</p>

Management Issues	Objectives	Actions	Performance Indicators
<b>Provide safe access, pathways and facilities for all community members including seniors and persons with disabilities</b>	1. Provide safe access to and within the parks for persons of all abilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure upgrades, refurbishments and/or improvement works on community land to consider public access requirements for mobility and connections.</li> <li>2. Ensure buildings ramps, stairs and pathways are fully accessible and comply with relevant Council and BCA requirements consistent with Australian Standards.</li> <li>3. Provide and maintain all abilities children's playgrounds in Strathfield Park</li> <li>4. Provide clear directional signage in the park to key facilities</li> <li>5. Ensure seating is provided within the park near primary pathways, playgrounds and sportsfields which are accessible for seniors and persons with disabilities</li> <li>6. Unless designated for cycles that all pathways in Strathfield Park are pedestrian only. All motorised vehicles and cycles and scooters are not permitted in Strathfield Park</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Audits of community land and facilities to comply with standards</li> <li>2. Comply with actions and measures in the Council Disability Inclusion Plan</li> </ol>
<b>Reasonable access to clean toilet facilities in Strathfield Park</b>	1. Provide access and maintain park toilets to a high standard throughout the park	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure toilets are maintained and kept clean</li> <li>2. Install directional signage in the park to indicate location of toilets.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cleanliness and access to toilets is monitored</li> <li>2. Directional signage is installed</li> </ol>

Management Issues	Objectives	Actions	Performance Indicators
<b>Rubbish and waste</b>	1. Provide effective and efficient waste management of park and facilities	1. Provide waste and recycling bins throughout the park. 2. Ensure the regular collection of waste and recycling collection to minimise litter overflow 3. Inclusion of litter management standards in licence, lease or hire agreements and inspection of conditions post-use.	1. Comply with service standard for waste collection 2. Monitor and respond to complaints and audits.
<b>Safety and risk Management</b>	1. Provide safe use and access to park and facilities.	1. Design and maintain layouts, landscaping and facilities in accordance with CPTED principles (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) principles including passive surveillance, good sight lines, territorial reinforcement and space management and lighting. 2. Review lighting and security for both day and night time use. 3. Work with local police to identify and act on safety issues. 4. Respond to reports of condition damage, vandalism or graffiti as soon as practicable 5. Monitor and review use of mechanical devices such as drones in the park	1. Works to be in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and CPTED principles. 2. Monitor and action incident and accident reports. 3. Audits of community land and facilities to comply with standards

Management Issues	Objectives	Actions	Performance Indicators
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take action to address noise complaints from neighbouring properties</li> <li>Ensure that only BBQ's that are installed in the park be permitted for use</li> </ol>	
<b>Sustainability</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement best environmental management practises and principles having regard to environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community facilities meet sustainable building requirements and/or are progressively upgraded to incorporate best practice energy and water efficiencies to minimise water and energy use in parks, sportsgrounds and ancillary facilities.</li> <li>Promote waste reduction strategies</li> <li>Increase tree canopies and vegetation to improve natural heating and cooling (island effect)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor usage and trends via quarterly and annual consumption and billing.</li> <li>Periodically monitor tree canopy and heat island effect in Strathfield Park</li> </ol>
<b>Traffic and Parking</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control vehicle access to Strathfield Park</li> <li>Do not impact on the amenity of the neighbouring properties and adjacent streets</li> <li>Promote public transport and community transport.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibit vehicle access to the park except for Council authorised service and emergency vehicles</li> <li>Install signage and barriers to prevent vehicles from entering unauthorised areas.</li> <li>Where vehicles are permitted, provide clearly marked areas for vehicle movement</li> <li>Ensure on-street parking near Strathfield Park is patrolled by Council rangers</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle conflicts.</li> <li>Improved public safety.</li> <li>Traffic access to community land is via agreement.</li> </ol>

Management Issues	Objectives	Actions	Performance Indicators
<b>Use agreements</b>	1. That use arrangements facilitate wide community access to community land, community benefits and support financial sustainability.	1. Licence, leases, estates and short term use agreements comply with legislative and policy requirements.	1. Monitor agreements in accordance with terms and conditions of agreement.
<b>Vegetation, landscaping and tree management</b>	1. Maintain and enhance the health of park ecology, including flora and fauna, trees and soil	1. Manage trees, gardens and natural areas to maintain and improve the quality of the natural environment in accordance with Council's tree management, biodiversity strategies and actions identified in this plan 2. Implement actions to improve tree canopies, walking trails and environmental zones in Strathfield Park 3. Maintain and improve vegetation and habitat corridors in Strathfield Park 4. Maintain weed management program to minimise spread of weeds	1. Measure and monitor tree canopies, vegetation, weeds and habitat.

Management Issues	Objectives	Actions	Performance Indicators
<b>Visual amenity, history and character</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Strathfield Park contributes, maintains and improves the aesthetic character and visual quality of public open spaces</li> <li>2. Identify, commemorate and educate on the historical and/or heritage significance of Strathfield Park and its natural/built features</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain consistency in selection and design of park and sportsground furniture, paving, fencing that is appropriate to the setting</li> <li>2. Implement &amp; maintain co-ordinated signage strategy including information on key park features and natural features</li> <li>3. Incorporate historical information on signage to enhance understanding and appreciation of the site and the history it represents</li> <li>4. Upgrade outdated or worn information signage in the park</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community consultation including surveys regarding community views</li> </ol>

*Table 16 – Fauna objectives, means and performance measures*

Actions can be undertaken to improve habitat for local fauna species within the park. Key areas for fauna are located away from roads and primary access points for the main playing fields within the park. Best areas are, therefore, along each of the northern and southern boundaries, and to a lesser extent along the linking vegetation corridors within the centre of the park. Maintaining these as access corridors for fauna is an important outcome for the park.

Control of state and regional priority control weeds is strongly recommended, and could be part of a second education campaign. Liaising with adjoining landholders to encourage supplementary planting on their side of the fence is also an option for consideration, as is managing their gardens to exclude garden pest plants that escape to bushland and other environmental weeds. Expanding areas of vegetation does not need to be limited to simply planting more plants, but could include use of artificial habitat elements, harvested natural habitat elements such as hollow logs and tree mounted hollows that provide habitat. Targeting areas of feed trees, shrubs and groundcovers is also an option. Selection of flora species to plant to add to the food resources on site should be managed based on the results of the recent fauna surveys.

The Rainforest Walk and the Grasslands Walk could be expanded to consolidate the themed plantings, and with additional signs could be an educational opportunity within the park.

Management Issues	Objectives	Actions	Priority	Performance measures
Improve habitat for local fauna species	Improve ground level refugia for reptiles. Currently many beds are heavily chipped with scattered Lomandras (Figures 25 & 26). Species that would benefit include Eastern Blue-tongue Lizards and garden and Grass Skinks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Import larger woody debris into the wide beds on the northern and southern boundaries of the Park.</li> <li>2. Create complex piles of woody debris and rocks for basking. Increase diversity of ground cover plantings whilst retaining basking areas</li> </ol>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the number of (harmless) reptiles in the park.</li> <li>• Increased complexity in landscape beds.</li> </ul>

Management Issues	Objectives	Actions	Priority	Performance measures
	Improve access for fauna to clean drinking water every day within the park. Accessing water outside the park would increase the risk of vehicular strike and predation of native fauna	Construct several small water features in the park, or a centrally located larger water feature	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birds visiting water feature.</li> <li>Frogs detected within the park.</li> </ul>
	Provide and maintain existing nest boxes <sup>4</sup>	Monitor and treat or remove exotic species	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nest boxes occupied by native species.</li> </ul>
	Provide hollows and pipes in mature trees for refugia and breeding as many native species are reliant upon them.	Install nest boxes noting that nest boxes are not appropriate in many locations (see Table 2)	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nest boxes occupied by native species.</li> </ul>



<sup>4</sup> Note nest boxes refers to harvested hollows, artificial nest boxes and bat boxes

*Figure 31 Northern boundary beds are wide but lack complexity in the ground layer*

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*Table 17 Specific actions recommended for landscaping/vegetation zones in Strathfield Park*

Vegetation zones	Objectives	Actions	Priority	Performance measures
Rainforest Walk (vegetation zone)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds</li> <li>2. Diversify species planting</li> <li>3. Introduce elements to improve habitat.</li> <li>4. Include interpretative and cultural elements to improve understanding of local habitat</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake weed control on a regular basis</li> <li>2. Provide supplementary planting to increase availability of deep shade, increase ground layer complexity, increase species diversity and use rainforest species found in the Sydney area.</li> <li>3. Add habitat elements including hollow logs and piles of woody debris, rock piles for basking and refuge and water feature and artificial hollows and nest boxes</li> <li>4. Add cultural elements including animal sculptures and information signage</li> </ol>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed free.</li> <li>• Plants installed and maintained.</li> <li>• Habitat elements installed.</li> <li>• Increased diversity of fauna.</li> </ul>
Bushtucker Trail (vegetation zone)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds</li> <li>2. Diversify species planting</li> <li>3. Introduce elements to improve habitat.</li> <li>4. Include interpretative and cultural elements to improve understanding of local habitat</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake weed control on a regular basis</li> <li>2. Liaise with local indigenous community to increase capacity for cultural involvement and expansion</li> <li>3. Supplementary planting to Increase species diversity, increase fauna habitat resources to link with the rainforest walk, use bush tucker species found in the Sydney area.</li> <li>4. Addition of cultural elements including animal sculptures, Aboriginal artworks, Aboriginal cultural events and Information signage</li> </ol>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed free.</li> <li>• Plants installed and maintained.</li> <li>• Cultural elements installed.</li> <li>• Established relationship with local indigenous community.</li> </ul>

Vegetation zones	Objectives	Actions	Priority	Performance measures
Paperbark Grove (vegetation zone)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds</li> <li>2. Diversify species planting</li> <li>3. Introduce elements to improve habitat.</li> <li>4. Include interpretative and cultural elements to improve understanding of local habitat</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake weed control on a regular basis.</li> <li>2. Retain open understorey for public safety.</li> <li>3. Install nest boxes away from the road to add to habitat resources in the reserve</li> </ol>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed free.</li> <li>• Nest boxes installed.<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>
Jurassic Walk (vegetation zone)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds</li> <li>2. Diversify species planting</li> <li>3. Introduce elements to improve habitat.</li> <li>4. Include interpretative and cultural elements to improve understanding of local habitat</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake weed control on a regular basis</li> <li>2. Retain open understorey for public safety</li> <li>3. Replace plantings as they reach senescence</li> </ol>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed free.</li> <li>• Plants healthy.</li> </ul>
Flowering Gum Walk (vegetation zone)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds</li> <li>2. Retain open understorey</li> <li>3. Introduce elements to improve habitat.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake weed control on a regular basis</li> <li>2. Retain open understorey for public safety</li> <li>3. Install nest boxes away from the road to add to habitat resources in the reserve and small signs to identify different eucalypt species</li> </ol>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed free.</li> <li>• Nest boxes installed.<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• Signs installed.</li> </ul>

<sup>5</sup> In many locations nest boxes are not appropriate as overly abundant species tend to monopolise them. In this location nest boxes for possums and microbats are appropriate. Boxes should be monitored and removed if outcomes are poor.

<sup>6</sup> In this location nest boxes for microbats, possums, kookaburras and small parrots are appropriate.

Vegetation zones	Objectives	Actions	Priority	Performance measures
	4. Include interpretative signage to improve community understanding of different species			
Casuarina Grove (vegetation zone)	1. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds 2. Retain open understorey	1. Undertake weed control on a regular basis and retain open understorey for public safety	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed free.</li> </ul>
Indigenous Species Walk (2 areas)	1. Maintain and improve vegetated corridor connections with key fauna habitat areas 2. Expand plantings to create safe core area for fauna 3. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds 4. Increase ground layer complexity, diversify species planting and add supplementary planting consistent with plants in other walks in the park 5. Introduce elements to improve habitat.	1. Manage these areas as a vegetated connectivity corridor between key fauna habitat areas on the northern and southern boundaries. 2. Undertake weed control on a regular basis 3. Supplementary planting to increase availability of deep shade, increase ground layer complexity and increase species diversity 4. Use similar plants to those in the rainforest walk, grasslands walk or flowering gum walk 5. Addition of habitat elements including Habitat resources including logs and rocks, nest boxes etc 6. Expand the planted area to create a safe core area in the corridor for fauna and target this to suit small birds and arboreal mammals, including microbats	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed free.</li> <li>• Plants installed and maintained.</li> <li>• Habitat elements installed.</li> <li>• Increased diversity of fauna.</li> </ul>

Vegetation zones	Objectives	Actions	Priority	Performance measures
Native Sensory Garden (vegetation zone)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds</li> <li>2. Increase ground layer complexity, diversify species planting and add supplementary planting</li> <li>3. Include plants that stimulate the senses</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake weed control on a regular basis</li> <li>2. Supplementary planting to increase availability of deep shade, increase ground layer complexity and increase species diversity</li> <li>3. Use plants that stimulate the senses, including aromatics such as Prostanthera, Westringia, Zieria species</li> </ol>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed free.</li> <li>• Plants installed and maintained.</li> <li>• Habitat elements installed.</li> </ul>
Grasslands Walk (vegetation zone)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds</li> <li>2. Increase ground layer complexity, diversify species planting and add supplementary planting</li> <li>3. Introduce elements to improve habitat.</li> <li>4. Include interpretative and cultural elements to improve understanding of Aboriginal local habitat including plant species and information signage</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake weed control on a regular basis</li> <li>2. Supplementary planting to increase availability of deep shade, increase ground layer complexity</li> <li>3. Increase species diversity, use grasslands species found in the Sydney area</li> <li>4. Addition of habitat elements including hollow logs and piles of woody debris, rock piles for basking and refuge, artificial hollows and nest boxes.</li> <li>5. Addition of cultural elements including animal sculptures. Include plant species that were used by local Aborigines for daily living, such as medicinal plants, plants for making tools or carry bags, etc. Include information signage.</li> </ol>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed free.</li> <li>• Plants installed and maintained.</li> <li>• Habitat elements installed.</li> <li>• Increased diversity of fauna.</li> </ul>
Fig Walk (vegetation zone)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement weed controls and reduce weeds</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake weed control on a regular basis.</li> <li>2. Supplementary planting to increase availability of deep shade, increase ground</li> </ol>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed free.</li> </ul>

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Vegetation zones	Objectives	Actions	Priority	Performance measures
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase ground layer complexity, diversify species planting and add supplementary planting</li> <li>Provide food sources for fauna groups.</li> <li>Introduce elements to improve habitat.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>layer complexity, increase species diversity, use local indigenous species that provide food resources for a particular fauna group, eg small birds</li> <li>Addition of habitat elements including hollow logs and piles of woody debris, rock piles for basking and refuge, water feature and artificial hollows and nest boxes</li> </ol>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plants installed and maintained.</li> <li>Habitat elements installed.</li> <li>Increased diversity of fauna.</li> </ul>
Remnant Turpentine	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect and reduce impact on remnant trees</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect remnant trees from high usage areas adjoining – consider fencing to prevent compaction of soils in the structural root zone</li> </ol>	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trees in good health, regular monitoring undertaken.</li> </ul>
Screening plantings #1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect this area with adjoining walks, gardens and plantings</li> <li>Increase ground layer complexity, diversify species planting and add supplementary planting</li> <li>Provide food sources for fauna groups.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend this area to meet with Native sensory garden and Rainforest walk; consolidate with additional planting along the western edge of playing field #3</li> <li>Supplementary planting to Increase availability of deep shade, increase groundlayer complexity</li> <li>Increase species diversity, use local indigenous species that provide food resources for a particular fauna group, eg small birds</li> </ol>	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weed free.</li> <li>Plants in good health and providing connectivity cover.</li> </ul>
Screening plantings #2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement weed controls and reduce weeds</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake weed control on a regular basis</li> </ol>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weed free.</li> </ul>

Vegetation zones	Objectives	Actions	Priority	Performance measures
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase ground layer complexity, diversify species planting and add supplementary planting</li> <li>Provide food sources for fauna groups.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supplementary planting to increase availability of deep shade, increase ground layer complexity and increase species diversity.</li> <li>Use local indigenous species that provide food resources for a particular fauna group, eg small birds</li> </ol>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plants in good health and providing comprehensive cover.</li> </ul>
Indigenous Species Walk (2 areas)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and improve vegetated connectivity corridors</li> <li>Implement weed controls and reduce weeds</li> <li>Increase ground layer complexity, diversify species planting and add supplementary planting</li> <li>Introduce elements to improve habitat.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage these areas as a vegetated connectivity corridor between key fauna habitat areas on the northern and southern boundaries.</li> <li>Undertake weed control on a regular basis</li> <li>Supplementary planting to increase availability of deep shade, increase ground layer complexity, increase species diversity, use similar plants to those in the rainforest walk, grasslands walk or flowering gum walk</li> <li>Addition of habitat elements including habitat resources including logs and rocks, nest boxes etc, expand the planted area to create a safe core area in the corridor for fauna and target this to suit small birds and arboreal mammals, including microbats.</li> </ol>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weed free.</li> <li>Plants installed and maintained.</li> <li>Habitat elements installed.</li> <li>Increased diversity of fauna.</li> </ul>
Native Sensory Garden	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement weed controls and reduce weeds</li> <li>Increase ground layer complexity, diversify species</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake weed control on a regular basis</li> <li>Supplementary planting to increase availability of deep shade, increase ground</li> </ol>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weed free.</li> <li>Plants installed and maintained.</li> </ul>

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Vegetation zones	Objectives	Actions	Priority	Performance measures
	planting and add supplementary planting	layer complexity and increase species diversity. 3. Use plants that stimulate the senses, including aromatics such as Prostanthera, Westringia, Zieria species		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat elements installed.</li> </ul>

### Plant Species for Supplementary Planting

Some general considerations for selecting plant species for different parts of the reserve include:

- Maintaining sight lines near roads and access points, especially to larger sporting facilities
- Maintaining good vegetation cover within fauna habitat areas
- Ensure that short lived species are regularly replaced if they do not establish local self-sustaining populations
- Liaising with adjoining landholders
- Control of weeds, including priority control species, environmental weeds and garden escape species

Plantings should be organised to create areas with structural diversity as well as species diversity. Include habitat elements except in areas where there are high levels of pedestrian or vehicular traffic, or high levels of light spill from playing fields. The following sketch provides an example of a diverse habitat created in association with a water feature.

Be sure to include as many of the following elements as possible:

- Old growth trees with hollows, or maturing trees that may form hollows in the future
- Nest boxes – target these for species appropriate to the reserve and likely to be present, and be sure to allow for regular maintenance
- Rocks and hollow logs for refuges for ground dwelling animals
- Grasses for food and cover as animals approach the water

- Several connected ponds or a single pond – either configuration with a recirculating pump system to reduce mosquito breeding. Position the ponds under trees to provide good shade and reduce evaporation in summer
- Dense shrubs around one side of the pond for small bird refuge habitat near the water
- At least one small patch of reeds in the water to allow for frog calling and breeding – choose target species and ensure their specific habitat requirements are present

DRAFT

## Appendix A – Environmental Site Surveys

### 1.1 Desktop Surveys

Searches of several databases were made to identify threatened species and Endangered Ecological Communities (EECs) that may potentially be found on the subject site. Databases were accessed on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020. These included:

- NSW Wildlife Atlas ([www.bionet.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.bionet.nsw.gov.au/)).
- EPBC Act database ([www.environment.gov.au/erin/ert/epbc/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/erin/ert/epbc/index.html)).

The park has a long history of land modification. In 1943 the area was almost entirely cleared and/or modified for uses other than native vegetation retention (Figure 32).



Figure 32 1943 aerial imagery for Strathfield Park and surrounds ([SIX Maps \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://SIX Maps (nsw.gov.au)))

### 1.2 Flora Field Surveys

#### 1.2.1 Methods

Strathfield Park was traversed using the Random Meander method for flora surveys (Cropper, 1993). Typically this involves inspecting each area of different vegetation, including around waterways, rocky areas, dense vegetation and sparse patches to compile a flora inventory for the site. For Strathfield Park this method was adapted to include investigating all of the vegetation patches in each section of the

park and recording flora species. Species identification and nomenclature were generally in line with PlantNet (<https://plantnet.rbg.gov.au/search/simple.htm>). Data on this site are derived from the printed Flora of New South Wales series, published by the UNSW Press, augmented with data from electronic sources maintained by the National Herbarium of New South Wales.

The website owners note that data have not been fully checked for consistency, and are not fully up-to-date. State and federal weed control requirements were obtained from NSW WeedWise (<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/WeedBiosecurity?AreaId=3>), maintained by DPE. Regional weed control requirements are additional, and have been developed for each region by Local Land Services in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

### 1.2.2 Results

Field surveys were conducted within the subject site on 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Weather was warm and sunny during surveys following recent heavy rain. A total of 48 species of native flora were recorded on the subject site (Table 3). No threatened species or populations were recorded during the current study.

**Table 18 Native flora species recorded in Strathfield Park in September 2020**

Species Name	Common Name	Plant Form
<i>Acacia fimbriata</i>	Fringed Wattle	shrub
<i>Acmena smithii</i>	Lilly Pilly	tree
<i>Alocasia brisbanensis</i>	Cunjevoi	groundcover
<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>	Red Ash	tree
<i>Angophora floribunda</i>	Rough-barked Apple	tree
<i>Austrostipa ramosissima</i>	Stout Bamboo Grass	grass
<i>Austrostipa verticillata</i>	Slender Bamboo Grass	grass
<i>Backhousia myrtifolia</i>	Grey Myrtle	large shrub
<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>	Illawarra Flame Tree	tree
<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>	Crimson Bottlebrush	shrub
<i>Casuarina glauca</i>	Swamp Oak	tree
<i>Cayratia clematidea</i>	Native Grape	vine
<i>Cissus antarctica</i>	Kangaroo Vine	vine
<i>Cordyline petiolaris</i>	Broad-leaved Palm Lily	shrub
<i>Cordyline stricta</i>	Narrow-leaved Palm Lily	shrub
<i>Corymbia maculata</i>	Spotted Gum	tree
<i>Dianella caerulea var. producta</i>	Blue Flax Lily	forb
<i>Dodonaea triquetra</i>	Large-leaf Hop-bush	shrub
<i>Doryanthes excelsa</i>	Gymea Lily	shrub
<i>Einadia nutans</i>	Climbing Saltbush	groundcover
<i>Elaeocarpus reticulatus</i>	Blueberry Ash	large shrub
<i>Eucalyptus amplifolia</i>	Cabbage Gum	tree
<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i>	Narrow-leaved Ironbark	tree
<i>Eucalyptus eugenioides</i>	Thin-leaved Stringybark	tree

Species Name	Common Name	Plant Form
<i>Eucalyptus punctata</i>	Grey Gum	tree
<i>Eucalyptus resinifera</i> subsp. <i>resinifera</i>	Red Mahogany	tree
<i>Eucalyptus saligna</i>	Sydney Blue Gum	tree
<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>	Forest Red Gum	tree
<i>Ficus coronata</i>	Sandpaper Fig	large shrub
<i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i>	Cheese Tree	tree
<i>Grevillea speciosa</i>	Red Spider Flower	shrub
<i>Kunzea ambigua</i>	Tick Bush	shrub
<i>Leptospermum polyanthum</i>	Slender Tea-tree	shrub
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny Mat-rush	groundcover
<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	Many-flowered Mat-rush	groundcover
<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	Broad-leaved Paperbark	tree
<i>Melaleuca styphelioides</i>	Prickly Paperbark	large shrub
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	White Cedar	tree
<i>Oplismenus aemulus</i>	Basket Grass	grass
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Sweet Pittosporum	large shrub
<i>Poa labillardieri</i>	Poa Tussock Grass	grass
<i>Podocarpus elatus</i>	Plum Pine	large shrub
<i>Pomaderris ferruginea</i> subsp. <i>ferruginea</i>	Rusty Pomaderris	shrub
<i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i>	Turpentine	tree
<i>Syzygium australe</i>	Brush Cherry	large shrub
<i>Tristaniaopsis laurina</i>	Water Gum	tree
<i>Xylomelum pyriforme</i>	Woody Pear	large shrub
<i>Xanthorrhoea glauca</i>	Grass Tree	shrub

A total of 25 species of introduced flora were recorded on the subject site in September 2020 (Table 2). The Biosecurity Act 2015 lists priority control weeds for the Greater Sydney LLS region. All weeds listed under this Act have a General Biosecurity Duty as follows:

*All plants are regulated with a **general biosecurity duty** to prevent, eliminate or minimise any biosecurity risk they may pose. Any person who deals with any plant, who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk, has a duty to ensure the risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable.*

**Table 19 Introduced flora species recorded in Strathfield Park in September 2020**

Species Name	Common Name	Priority
<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>	Madeira Vine	Prohibition on dealings
<i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i>	Hoop Pine (FN NSW)	
<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i>	Asparagus Fern	Prohibition on dealings
<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	Camphor Laurel	environment, human health, agriculture
<i>Dietes bicolor</i>	Butterfly Iris	
<i>Ehrharta erecta</i>	Ehrharta, Panic Veldt Grass	

Species Name	Common Name	Priority
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Loquat	
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge	
<i>Ficus microcarpa hillii</i>	Hills Weeping Fig (SQld)	
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Silky Oak	
<i>Grevillea sp (cultivar)</i>	Spider Flower	
<i>Hedychium gardnerianum</i>	Ginger Lily	
<i>Lavandula sp</i>	Lavender	
<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Small-leaved Privet	environment, human health
<i>Liriope sp</i>	Monkey Grass	
<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Brush Box	
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Heavenly Bamboo	
<i>Ochna serrulata</i>	Mickey Mouse Bush	environment
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary Island Date Palm	environment
<i>Schinus areira</i>	Peppercorn Tree	
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Blackberry Nightshade	
<i>Stenocarpus sinuatus</i>	Firewheel Tree (FNC/QLD)	
<i>Strelitzia Nicolai</i>	Bird of Paradise Tree	
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion	
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chinese Elm	environment

There were two national or state level priority control weeds recorded on the subject site. Their control requirements are as follows:

- Asparagus Fern/Ground Asparagus (*Asparagus aethiopicus*): **Prohibition on dealings** - Must not be imported into the State or sold.
- Madeira Vine (*Anredera cordifolia*): **Prohibition on dealings** - Must not be imported into the State or sold

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* provides powers to Local Control Authorities to take action in relation to regional priority control weeds in particular circumstances, for example where a weed threatens a high value asset and prevention, elimination or reduction of the risk is feasible and reasonable.

Regional priority control weeds on this site are known to affect environmental assets and human health, and would be expected to be controlled within the subject site during any works that affect vegetation. The following five species of weeds are listed in the Greater Sydney region as weeds of regional concern:

- Camphor Laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*)
- Small-leaved Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)
- Mickey Mouse Bush (*Ochna serrulata*)
- Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*)
- Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*)

## 2.1 Fauna Survey

### 2.1.1 Methods

The site was visited four times in the Spring of 2020 with the Park traversed and fauna species present noted. Spotlighting was undertaken on two nights. Opportunities to deploy remote equipment discreetly were limited so bat detectors were left overnight or used during spotlighting transects (4 sampling nights in total).

### 2.1.2 Results

The following table provides data from the 2020 survey and other sources. BioNet records were obtained for the 1995-2020 period however all records in BioNet are from 2014-2020 and drawn from WIRES records of rescued injured fauna. Ambrose Ecological Services Pty Ltd conducted a vertebrate fauna study in 2008-9 for Council and these results were not in BioNet so are tabled separately below. There were no ebird records for the site.

*Table 20 Fauna records- various sources*

Common name	Species name	Applied Ecology 2020	Birdlife data	BioNet	Ambrose surveys 2008
<b>Birds</b>					
Australasian Figbird	<i>Sphecotheres vieilloti</i>				x
Australian Magpie	<i>Cracticus tibicen</i>	x	x		x
Australian Raven	<i>Corvus coronoides</i>	x	x		
Australian White Ibis	<i>Threskiornis molucca</i>				x
Australian Wood Duck	<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>			x	
Channel-billed Cuckoo	<i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i>	x			
Common Myna	<i>Sturnus tristis</i>	x	x		
Crested Pigeon	<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>	x			x
Eastern Koel	<i>Eudynamys orientalis</i>		x		x
Eastern Rosella	<i>Platycercus eximius</i>				x
Galah	<i>Eolophus roseicapillus</i>	x	x		
Grey Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>		x		x
Laughing Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>		x		x
Little Corella	<i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>	x			
Little Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera chrysoptera</i>		x		
Magpie-lark	<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>		x		
Pacific Black Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>			x	
Pied Currawong	<i>Strepera graculina</i>	x	x		
Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>	x	x		x

Common name	Species name	Applied Ecology 2020	Birdlife data	BioNet	Ambrose surveys 2008
Red-rumped Parrot	<i>Psephotus haematonotus</i>				x
Red Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>				x
Noisy Miner	<i>Manorina melanocephala</i>	x	x	x	
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>	x	x		
Tawny Frogmouth	<i>Podargus strigoides</i>	x		x	
Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>		x		
<b>Mammals</b>					
Common Brushtail Possum	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>	x			x
Common Ringtail Possum	<i>Pseudocheirus peregrinus</i>			x	x
Gould's Wattled Bat	<i>Chalinolobus gouldii</i>	x			x
Grey-headed Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	x		x	
White-striped Freetail Bat	<i>Tadarida australis</i>				
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>				x
Black Rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>				x
<b>Herpetofauna</b>					
Eastern Blue-tongue Lizard	<i>Tiliqua scincoides</i>			x	
Elegant Snake-eyed Skink	<i>Cryptoblepharus pulcher</i>				x
Dark-flecked garden sun skink (Garden skink)	<i>Lampropholis delicata</i>	x			
Pale-flecked garden sun skink (Grass skink)	<i>Lampropholis guichenoti</i>				x
Peron's Tree Frog	<i>Litoria peronii</i>	x			

### 3.1 Threatened Species and Protected Matters

#### 3.1.1 Threatened Species Searches

A search of Bionet - NSW Wildlife Atlas was undertaken for records within a 10km<sup>2</sup> cell centred on the subject site. A total of 48 threatened species including 37 threatened fauna species and 11 threatened flora species have been recorded in this area (Table 21).

**Table 21 Bionet threatened fauna and flora records within a 10km<sup>2</sup> cell centred on the subject site**

Class	Scientific Name	Common Name	NSW Status	Comm. Status	Records
Amphibia	<i>Litoria aurea</i>	Green and Golden Bell Frog	E1,P	V	12907
Aves	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail	P	V,C,J,K	18
Aves	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern	E1,P	E	6
Aves	<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>	Black Bittern	V,P		3
Aves	<i>Circus assimilis</i>	Spotted Harrier	V,P		4
Aves	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	V,P		274
Aves	<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	Little Eagle	V,P		5
Aves	<i>Pandion cristatus</i>	Eastern Osprey	V,P,3		3
Aves	<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe	E1,P	E	3
Aves	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot	P	E,C,J,K	13
Aves	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper	E1,P	CE,C,J,K	243
Aves	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Great Knot	V,P	CE,C,J,K	1
Aves	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	Broad-billed Sandpiper	V,P	C,J,K	1
Aves	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black-tailed Godwit	V,P	C,J,K	1
Aves	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern Curlew	P	CE,C,J,K	10
Aves	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	Terek Sandpiper	V,P	C,J,K	1
Aves	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Little Tern	E1,P	C,J,K	3
Aves	<i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>	Little Lorikeet	V,P		3
Aves	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	E1,P,3	CE	1
Aves	<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	Turquoise Parrot	V,P,3		2
Aves	<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful Owl	V,P,3		28
Aves	<i>Tyto longimembris</i>	Eastern Grass Owl	V,P,3		1
Aves	<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater	E4A,P	CE	2
Aves	<i>Epthianura albifrons</i>	White-fronted Chat	V,P		208
Aves	<i>Epthianura albifrons</i>	White-fronted Chat population in the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Area	E2,V,P		208

Class	Scientific Name	Common Name	NSW Status	Comm. Status	Records
Aves	<i>Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus</i>	Dusky Woodswallow	V,P		8
Aves	<i>Petroica boodang</i>	Scarlet Robin	V,P		3
Aves	<i>Petroica phoenicea</i>	Flame Robin	V,P		1
Mammalia	<i>Perameles nasuta</i>	Long-nosed Bandicoot population in inner western Sydney	E2,P		1
Mammalia	<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	Koala	V,P	V	2
Mammalia	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox	V,P	V	494
Mammalia	<i>Saccolaimus flaviventris</i>	Yellow-bellied Sheathtail-bat	V,P		5
Mammalia	<i>Micronomus norfolkensis</i>	Eastern Coastal Free-tailed Bat	V,P		4
Mammalia	<i>Myotis macropus</i>	Southern Myotis	V,P		29
Mammalia	<i>Scoteanax rueppellii</i>	Greater Broad-nosed Bat	V,P		1
Mammalia	<i>Miniopterus australis</i>	Little Bent-winged Bat	V,P		1
Mammalia	<i>Miniopterus orianae oceanensis</i>	Large Bent-winged Bat	V,P		71
Flora	<i>Wahlenbergia multicaulis</i>	Tadgell's Bluebell in the local government areas of Auburn, Bankstown, Baulkham Hills, Canterbury, Hornsby, Parramatta and Strathfield	E2		104
Flora	<i>Wilsonia backhousei</i>	Narrow-leaved Wilsonia	V		97
Flora	<i>Epacris purpurascens</i> var. <i>purpurascens</i>		V		18
Flora	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>		V		1
Flora	<i>Acacia pubescens</i>	Downy Wattle	V	V	516
Flora	<i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i>	Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint	V	V	1
Flora	<i>Eucalyptus scoparia</i>	Wallangarra White Gum	E1	V	1
Flora	<i>Syzygium paniculatum</i>	Magenta Lilly Pilly	E1	V	3
Flora	<i>Grevillea beadleana</i>	Beadle's Grevillea	E1,3	E	1
Flora	<i>Pomaderris prunifolia</i>	P. prunifolia in the Parramatta, Auburn, Strathfield and Bankstown Local Government Areas	E2		13
Flora	<i>Zannichellia palustris</i>		E1		5

In reality, there were very few threatened species records in the vicinity of Strathfield Park (Figure 33) and there is little opportunity for non-volant species to navigate the urban matrix to the park from other areas. Records within 500 metres of the park consisted of 8 records of Grey-headed Flying Foxes, recorded between 2000 and 5/1/2021.



Figure 33 Threatened species sightings recorded within 500 metres of Strathfield Park on any date (BioNet)

### 3.1.2 Protected Matters Searches

The EPBC Act lists environmental assets that are protected at a federal level. The Protected Matters databases summarise the matters of national environmental significance that may occur in, or may relate to, the area nominated.

#### Summary of Protected Matters databases

The following Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) were reported for a 2km buffer of the study area (Table 22).

Table 22. Summary of Protected Matters searches

Protected Matters	Present at or near the Study Site
World Heritage Properties	None
National Heritage Places	None
Wetlands of International Significance (RAMSAR Sites)	None
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	None
Commonwealth Marine Areas	None

Protected Matters	Present at or near the Study Site
Threatened Ecological Communities	6
Threatened Species	38
Migratory Species	17

### *Threatened Ecological Communities*

The following Threatened Ecological Communities were reported for a 2km buffer of the study area (Table 23).

**Table 23 Threatened Ecological Communities listed in the protected matters search within a 2km buffer of the study site**

Threatened Ecological Communities	Status	Type of Presence	Present on site?
Castlereagh Scribbly Gum and Agnes Banks Woodlands of the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Endangered	Community may occur within area	no
Coastal Swamp Oak ( <i>Casuarina glauca</i> ) Forest of New South Wales and South East Queensland ecological community	Endangered	Community may occur within area	no
Coastal Upland Swamps in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Endangered	Community may occur within area	no
Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest of the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Critically Endangered	Community may occur within area	no
Shale Sandstone Transition Forest of the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Critically Endangered	Community may occur within area	no
Western Sydney Dry Rainforest and Moist Woodland on Shale	Critically Endangered	Community may occur within area	no

### *Threatened fauna species*

The following threatened fauna species were reported for a 2km buffer of the study area between 1995 and 2020 (Table 24).

**Table 24 Threatened fauna species listed in the protected matters search within a 2km buffer of the study site**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	Type of Presence	Bionet Records
<b>Birds</b>				
<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater	Critically Endangered	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area	0
<i>Botaurus poeciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	0
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	Type of Presence	Bionet Records
<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	0
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	0
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	0
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern Curlew	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0
<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	0
<i>Sternula nereis nereis</i>	Australian Fairy Tern	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0
<i>Thinornis cucullatus cucullatus</i>	Hooded Plover (eastern), Eastern Hooded Plover	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0
<b>Fish</b>				
<i>Macquaria australasica</i>	Macquarie Perch	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0
<b>Frogs</b>				
<i>Heleioporus australiacus</i>	Giant Burrowing Frog	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0
<i>Litoria aurea</i>	Green and Golden Bell Frog	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	8
<b>Mammals</b>				
<i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i>	Large-eared Pied Bat	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	0
<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i>	Spotted-tailed Quoll	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	0
<i>Isodon obesulus obesulus</i>	Southern Brown Bandicoot	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0
<i>Petauroides volans</i>	Greater Glider	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	0
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (Qld, NSW and ACT)	Koala (combined populations)	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox	Vulnerable	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area	31

### 3.1.4 Threatened flora species

The following threatened flora species were reported for a 2km buffer of the study area (Table 25).

**Table 25 Threatened flora species listed in the protected matters search within a 2km buffer of the study site**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	Type of Presence	Bionet Records
<i>Acacia bynoeana</i>	Bynoe's Wattle, Tiny Wattle	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0
<i>Acacia pubescens</i>	Downy Wattle, Hairy Stemmed Wattle	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	55
<i>Allocasuarina glareicola</i>		Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0
<i>Caladenia tessellata</i>	Thick-lipped Spider-orchid, Daddy Long-legs	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	0
<i>Cryptostylis hunteriana</i>	Leafless Tongue-orchid	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	0
<i>Darwinia biflora</i>		Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0
<i>Eucalyptus camfieldii</i>	Camfield's Stringybark	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0
<i>Genoplesium baueri</i>	Yellow Gnat-orchid	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	0
<i>Melaleuca deanei</i>	Deane's Paperbark	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0
<i>Persicaria elatior</i>	Tall Knotweed	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0
<i>Persoonia hirsuta</i>	Hairy geebung	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0
<i>Pimelea curviflora</i> var. <i>curviflora</i>		Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0
<i>Pimelea spicata</i>	Spiked Rice-flower	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0
<i>Pterostylis Saxicola</i>	Sydney Plains Greenhood	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0
<i>Syzygium paniculatum</i>	Magenta Lilly Pilly	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	0
<i>Thesium australe</i>	Austral Toadflax	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0

### 3.1.5 Migratory species

A number of faunal groups, including migratory terrestrial birds, are identified as having potential presence within a 2km radius of the study site. These were assessed for likely presence (Table 26).

**Table 26 Terrestrial migratory species protected under EP&BC Act within 2km of Strathfield Park**

Species Name	Common Name	Type of Presence	Bionet Records
<i>Cuculus optatus</i>	Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfields Cuckoo	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	0
<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	Black-faced Monarch	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	0
<i>Monarcha trivirgatus</i>	Spectacled Monarch	Species or species habitat may occur within area	0
<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	0
<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>	Satin Flycatcher	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	0
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	Rufous Fantail	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	0

## Appendix B – Community Consultation

### Strathfield Park Plan of Management and Master Plan Community Consultation September 2020

Strathfield Council is preparing new plans for managing Strathfield Park and is interested in your views and ideas. This consultation will take less than 5 minutes to complete. All personal data collected will be kept confidential. Reporting on results from this consultation will not identify individuals.

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#### 1. How often do you visit Strathfield Park?

- ☐ At least once a week
- ☐ At least once a month
- ☐ Couple of times each year
- ☐ Once a year
- ☐ Every couple of years
- ☐ Never

---

#### 2. What is your connection to Strathfield Park? Please choose all that apply

- ☐ I am a local resident living in the Strathfield Council area
- ☐ I am a local business owner
- ☐ I am a visitor from outside the local area
- ☐ I am a student at a school in the Strathfield area
- ☐ I play sport at the park
- ☐ I am a member of an organisation that uses the park
- ☐ I work in the Strathfield area
- ☐ Other (please specify)

#### 3. What activities do you undertake at Strathfield Park?

- ☐ Walking, jogging or running
- ☐ Personal exercise/leisure eg yoga, tai chi
- ☐ Visiting children's playgrounds
- ☐ Playing formal sport eg soccer, cricket etc
- ☐ Playing self-organised ball games
- ☐ Use netball/basketball courts
- ☐ Gatherings in open spaces for picnics, BBQs
- ☐ Attending events
- ☐ Walking the dog
- ☐ Relaxing in open spaces

Other activities?

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#### 4. What aspects or features of Strathfield Park are important to you?

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Draft Strathfield Park Plan of Management (March 2023)

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**5. In your opinion, what are the top 3 priorities for Strathfield Park (mark no more than 3 boxes)**

- ☐ Providing sportsfields and courts  
☐ Trees, gardens and landscaping  
☐ Providing safe and accessible pathways  
☐ Lighting throughout the park  
☐ Preservation of open green space  
☐ Amenities such as public toilets, drinking water fountains, BBQs, tables and seating  
☐ Providing space for non-sport activities  
☐ Children's playgrounds  
☐ Parking  
☐ Holding community events

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**6. What is your view about adding these facilities into Strathfield Park?**

	Highly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat disagree	Highly disagree
Café	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor Gym	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor Gym	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional netball courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional basketball courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify)

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**7. Can you suggest any improvements that should be made to the park?**

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**8. What activities should be allowed in the park?**

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**9. In your view, are there activities that should not be allowed in the park, and why?**

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**10. Are there any other issues that Council should address in developing new plans for the park?**

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**11. What is your age group?**

- ☐ Under 18  
☐ 18-29  
☐ 30-39  
☐ 40-49  
☐ 50-59  
☐ 60 or older  
☐ Don't want to say

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**12. Please provide your contact details**

Name

Email address

Phone number

Home address

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**13. Do you wish to enter the draw to win one of three \$50 shopping vouchers?**

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

**Please return completed surveys to:**

Strathfield Park Consultation, Strathfield Council, PO Box 120, Strathfield NSW 2135

Should you have questions regarding this project, please contact Cathy Jones, Executive Manager,  
Corporate Strategy and Performance, email: [cathy.jones@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cathy.jones@strathfield.nsw.gov.au) or 9748 9937

GMU2                      EVENT CALENDAR 2023/2024

AUTHOR:                Ayla Karabulut, Manager, Communications and Events

APPROVER:            Michael Mamo, General Manager

## RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopt the 2023/2024 Events Calendar
2. Resolves to keep the Strathfield ANZAC Day Memorial Service at Davey Square Reserve
3. Pause and review the 2023 Strathfield Spring Festival based on community expectations.
4. Host an alternative event at Homebush in September 2023.

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

Outline the breakdown of events to be hosted by Strathfield Council within the 2023/2024 financial year.

## REPORT

After conducting a workshop on Tuesday 6 June 2023 with Mayor Pensabene, Deputy Mayor Cai and Councillor Datta, and feedback provided by Councillors on 20 and 27 June 2023, it is proposed that the following events are hosted (or in the case of Lunar New Year supported) during the 23/24 financial year:

Event	Date	Venue
FIFA Women's World Cup	20 Jul – 20 Aug 23	Strathfield Square
New Homebush Event	16 Sep 23	Homebush Village
Movies in the Park	8 screenings Oct 23 – Mar 24	Strathfield Park
Town Hall 100 Year Celebration	5 – 9 Oct 23	Town Hall
Community Christmas Party	24 Nov 23	Town Hall
Christmas Carols	2 Dec 23	Strathfield Park
Australia Day	26 Jan 24	Strathfield Square
Lunar New Year <i>Externally run event Council supports</i>	Feb 24	Homebush West
International Women's Day	8 Mar 24	Town Hall
ANZAC Day	25 Apr 24	Davey Square Reserve
Strathfield Festival	2 – 4 May 24	Strathfield Square

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Proposed Expenditure for the 2023/24 event program is \$895,900, with this funding being included as part of the adopted 2023/2024 Budget. Any variations to budget will be reported back to Council as part of the quarterly budget reviews.

#### ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

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CCSI                      REVIEW OF COUNCILLORS EXPENSES AND FACILITIES POLICY

AUTHOR:                Warwick Lawrence, Manager Governance and Risk

APPROVER:            Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council :

1. Note the report.
2. Adopt the Draft Policy with the recommended amendments to the Councillors Expenses and Facilities Policy as outlined in this report.
3. Place the Draft Policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
4. Report back to Council for adoption of the draft policy following the consideration of any submissions received during the consultation period. If no submissions the Policy be considered adopted.
5. Note that should Councillors be provided with a printer, hardcopy printing of all information provided to them electronically (ie Business papers, minutes etc) will be the responsibility of each Councillor.
6. Note and acknowledge the requirements of clause 4.3 in the policy.

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To respond to Council's decision calling for a report on a proposal to amend Clause 2.2.47 of the Councillors Expenses and Facilities Policy ("the Policy") to adjust the definition relating to Home Office Expenses. To further review and amend the Policy to clarify what facilities are provided and what expenses Councillors are entitled to claim.

**REPORT**

At the ordinary meeting of Council held on the 6 June 2023 the following Notice of Motion from Councillor Datta was adopted –

*That the General Manager provide a report outlining the following:*

*The adjustment of clause 2.2.47, Home office expenses, so that each Councillor may be reimbursed for costs associated with the maintenance of a home office, up to \$1,500 per year (as it is currently), with an adjustment to the definition of home office to include, printers, book shelf and home office chair, or similar items that are genuinely required for setting up and maintaining a home office for Council and Councillor related work.*

Council's current policy does not provide for the provision of printers, book shelves or office chairs or similar however provides for the "maintenance of a home office, such as minor items of consumable stationery and printer ink cartridges."

Section 252 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires Councils to adopt a policy for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and other Councillors. The policy outlines the expenses that can be reimbursed and the facilities that can be provided to Mayors and Councillors and reimbursement of expenses can only be made in accordance with this policy.

Council's policy was prepared utilising the "Best Practice" template provided by the Office of Local Government and the wording that is in Council's policy is exactly as provided by the Office of Local Government, which I understand the majority of Council's have used.

Section 1.1 of the Council 's policy (Policy summary) provides inter alia – *"It ensures accountability and transparency and seeks to align Councillor expenses and facilities with community expectations. Councillors must not obtain private or political benefit from the expense or facility provided under this policy"*.

In other words, whatever expense or facility provided for under this policy must only be used to allow a Councillor to undertake their civic responsibilities and must not be used for any private purpose. For example, should the policy provide for the provision of a printer then the printer may only be used to print information relating to a Councillors duty and not for any unrelated private use.

In comparison with neighbouring Council's and another council of similar size (Metropolitan – Small) Council's policy is considered quite generous in relation to what is provided especially in relation to the provision of home office expenses with the following extracts of policies from Burwood, City of Canada Bay and Hunters Hill Councils provided below for comparison.

- Burwood - Each councillor may be reimbursed up to \$500 per year for costs associated with the maintenance of a home office, such as minor items of consumable stationery, letterhead, greeting cards for council events, and toner cartridges.
- Canada Bay - Each councillor will be provided with stationery and printer ink cartridges up to a value of \$500 for costs associated with maintenance of a home office.
- Hunters Hill - Each councillor may be reimbursed up to \$400 per year for costs associated with the maintenance of a home office, such as minor items of consumable stationery and printer ink cartridges.

In consideration of the proposed amendment, it should be noted that Council provides access to office facilities in a Councillor common room in the "Cottage". Laptop/tablet devices are provided to Councillors due to their portability and ease of use in almost any location.

Should Council be mindful of accepting the amendments as proposed, Councillors need to be aware that the current policy (Clause 4.3) also provides detail relating to the return or retention of any facility provided to a Councillor during their term of office.

***Clause 4.3 – Return or Retention of Facilities***

- 4.3.6 *All unexpended facilities or equipment supplied under this policy are to be relinquished immediately upon a Councillor or mayor ceasing to hold office or at the cessation of their civic duties.*
- 4.3.7 *Should a Councillor desire to keep any equipment allocated by Council, then this policy enables the Councillor to make application to the General Manager to purchase any such equipment. The General Manager will determine an agreed fair market price or written down value for the item of equipment.*
- 4.3.8 *The prices for all equipment purchased by Councillors will be recorded in Council's annual report.*

Apart from the reporting requirements in Clause 4.3.8, all Councillors expenses are recorded and reported to Council, made available on Council's webpage, and included in the Council's Annual Report to make the public aware of what individual expenses and facilities are provided to each Councillor.

Each expense identified in the policy sets monetary limits in accordance with the OLG direction. Once the limit for each expense is reached the policy also provides that *"additional costs incurred by a Councillor in excess of these limits are considered a personal expense that is the responsibility of the Councillor."*

Though it is considered that the current policy is appropriate due to it being more generous than neighbouring Councils of similar size, that Council provides an office facility in the "Cottage" and the wording adopted is that provided by the OLG as a Best Practice Template should Council be of a mind to accept an amendment to the policy to include the provision of printers, chairs, desks, bookshelves and "similar", it would be preferred that Council be more specific in identifying the exact furnishings it would like provided rather than leaving it open to interpretation as to "similar".

With this in mind the proposed amendment to the policy in relation to Home Office Expenses (Clause 2.2.47) will read as follows-

2.2.47 *"Each Councillor may be reimbursed up to \$1500 per financial year for costs associated with the maintenance of a home office for the following items only :-*

- *Desk*
- *Ergonomic office chair*
- *Stationery, such as printer ink cartridges, pens, A4 paper, erasers, paper clips etc*

Should printers be provided to Councillors there would be an expectation that Councillors would be responsible for printing agendas, minutes and reports for Council meetings, briefings and workshops and any other documents provided electronically.

### **Further Review of the Policy**

Whilst reviewing the Policy in relation to clause 2.2.47 it was noted that other sections within the policy, and in particular the table summarising the expenses and facilities in Clause 1, required some amendments to more clearly define each expense and/or facility provided to the Mayor and Councillors.

Attached to this report is a Draft policy with track changes which is recommended for adoption by Council.

A summary of the proposed amendments are as follows:

Clause 1 – Table summary of expenses and facilities

- In the frequency column an amendment was required to clarify that the maximum amount claimable was for a “financial” year and not a calendar year.
- The column relating to ICT expenses and Clause 2.2.32 have been amended by providing separate headings for “ICT Devices” (\$3000 per term) and “ICT Expenses” (\$1500 per financial year) with clarification of the items provided under each expense.
- Superannuation Contribution- amended to provide the current percentage payable to Councillors of 11%.
- The last three (3) items, Reserved parking, Furnish office and Motor Vehicle are all expenses specifically provided for the Mayor. Council does not provide reserved parking for Councillors as physically there is no space available to provide such parking. The policy has been amended to reference that each of these facilities are made available to the Mayor only with further clarification that the furnished office for the Mayor is provided onsite at Council (65 Homebush Road, Strathfield).

The proposed amendments to the policy are considered substantial and as such will require Council to place the Draft Policy on public exhibition for 28 days and to allow submissions to be received up to 43 days.

At the end of the exhibition period the Draft Policy will be reported back to Council to allow consideration of submissions received and the adoption of the Draft Policy.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

As the amendments proposed do not alter the monetary limits adopted for each expense there will be no financial implications to Council.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy


# ATTACHMENT 1

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

DRAFT POLICY  
COUNCILLORS  
EXPENSES AND  
FACILITIES POLICY

XXXX 2023



	COUNCILLOR FACILITIES AND EXPENSES POLICY		
RESPONSIBILITY	Corporate Services		
DATE ADOPTED	7 August 2018	MINUTE	178/18
REVISED	XXXX 2023	REVIEW	XXXX
RECORD NO.	22/19050		
ASSOCIATED POLICIES	Strathfield Council Code of Conduct		
ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Local Government Act 1993, Sections 252 and 253</i></li> <li>• <i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Clauses 217 and 403</i></li> </ul>		
ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Guidelines for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for Mayors and Councillors in NSW, 2009</i></li> <li>• <i>Local Government Circular 09-36 Guidelines for Payment of Expenses and Facilities</i></li> <li>• <i>Local Government Circular 05-08 legal assistance for Councillors and Council Employees.</i></li> <li>• <i>Local Government Circular 17-17 Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy Better Practice Template</i></li> </ul>		

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Policy Summary

This policy enables the reasonable and appropriate reimbursement of expenses and provision of facilities to Councillors to help them undertake their civic duties.

It ensures accountability and transparency, and seeks to align Councillor expenses and facilities with community expectations. Councillors must not obtain private or political benefit from any expense or facility provided under this policy.

The policy has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (the Regulation), and complies with the Office of Local Government's Guidelines for the payment of expenses and provision of facilities to Mayors and Councillors in NSW.

The term General Manager where referenced in this document refers to the statutory General Manager under section 334 of *Local Government Act 1993*.

The policy sets out the maximum amounts Council will pay for specific expenses and facilities. Expenses not explicitly addressed in this policy will not be paid or reimbursed.

pl

The main expenses and facilities are summarised in the table below. All monetary amounts are exclusive of GST.

Expense or facility	Maximum amount	Frequency
Travel expenses including general, interstate, overseas and long distance intrastate travel expenses	\$2,000 per Councillor \$3,000 for the Mayor	Per financial year
Accommodation and meals	As per the NSW Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Reviewed Award 2009, adjusted annually	Per meal/night
Professional development	\$2,000 per Councillor	Per financial year
Conferences and seminars	\$4,000 total for all Councillors	Per financial year
Information and Communications Technology		
ICT Devices	\$3,000 per Councillor	Per Council term
ICT Expenses	\$1,500 per Councillor	Per financial year
Communication expenses	\$220 per Councillor	Per month
International roaming services (on Council overseas trips approved under this Policy)	\$50 per Councillor	Per day
Carer expenses	\$2,000 per Councillor	Per financial year
Home office expenses	\$1,500 per Councillor	Per financial year
Business cards	500 per Councillor 1,000 for the mayor	Per financial year Per financial year
Access to facilities in a Councillor common room	Provided to all Councillors	Not relevant
Superannuation Contribution	11% as at 1 July 2023 rising half a percent each year until 1 July 2025 when it reaches 12%	Monthly
Reserved parking space at Council offices	Provided to Mayor	Not relevant
Furnished office on Council premises	Provided to the Mayor	Not relevant
Motor Vehicle	Provided to the Mayor	Not relevant

Additional costs incurred by a Councillor in excess of these limits are considered a personal expense that is the responsibility of the Councillor.

Councillors must provide claims for reimbursement within three (3) months of an expense being incurred. Claims made after this time cannot be approved.

Detailed reports on the provision of expenses and facilities to Councillors will be publicly

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tabled at a Council meeting every six (6) months and published in full on Council's website. These reports will include expenditure summarised by individual Councillor and as a total for all Councillors.

## 1.2 Title and Commencement

This policy is titled *Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy* and was adopted on *XXXX 2023* by approval of the Council. The following amendments have been made:

Date	Version	Authority
25 July 2018	Strathfield Policy Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy – draft for consultation	
7 August 2018	Council adopted Draft Policy for consultation	Resolution 178/18
9 August to 6 September 2018	Policy Exhibition – no submissions received	PN180908
19 September 2018	Policy Effective	
23 September 2020	Policy review	
June 2021	Policy review	CEO / Mayor
5 April 2022	Clauses 3.2.6 and 4.1.5 added to Policy. Removal of term CEO and refer back to General Manager title. Added \$1,500 per Councillor per year to ICT as per resolution 5 April 2022.	
13 April to 11 May 2022	Public Exhibition period for Draft (v6)	
6 September 2022	Removal of part clause 2.26 regarding funding for Sister City visits	Resolution 213/22
XXXX 2023	Updated to provide clearer understanding of what is claimable	

## 1.3 Background and Purpose of Policy

The provision of expenses and facilities enables Councillors to fulfil their civic duties as the elected representatives of Strathfield Council.

The community is entitled to know the extent of expenses paid to Councillors, as well as the facilities provided.

The purpose of this policy is to clearly state the facilities and support that are available to Councillors to assist them in fulfilling their civic duties.

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Council staff are empowered to question or refuse a request for payment from a Councillor when it does not accord with this policy.

Expenses and facilities provided by this policy are in addition to fees paid to Councillors. The minimum and maximum fees a Council may pay each Councillor are set by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal as per Section 241 of the Act and reviewed annually. Council must adopt its annual fees within this set range.

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Policy**

The objectives of the policy are to:

- enable the reasonable and appropriate reimbursement of expenses incurred by Councillors while undertaking their civic duties
- enable facilities of a reasonable and appropriate standard to be provided to Councillors to support them in undertaking their civic duties
- ensure accountability and transparency in reimbursement of expenses and provision of facilities to Councillors
- ensure facilities and expenses provided to Councillors meet community expectations
- support a diversity of representation
- fulfil the Council's statutory responsibilities.

#### **1.5 Policy Principles**

Council commits to the following principles:

- Proper conduct: Councillors and staff acting lawfully and honestly, exercising care and diligence in carrying out their functions
- Reasonable expenses: providing for Councillors to be reimbursed for expenses reasonably incurred as part of their role as Councillor
- Participation and access: enabling people from diverse backgrounds, underrepresented groups, those in carer roles and those with special needs to serve as a Councillor
- Equity: there must be equitable access to expenses and facilities for all Councillors
- Appropriate use of resources: providing clear direction on the appropriate use of Council resources in accordance with legal requirements and community expectations
- Accountability and transparency: clearly stating and reporting on the expenses and facilities provided to Councillors

#### **1.6 Private or Political Benefit**

- 1.6.1 Councillors must not obtain private or political benefit from any expense or facility provided under this policy.
- 1.6.2 Private use of Council equipment and facilities by Councillors may occur from time to time. For example, telephoning home to advise that a Council meeting will run later than expected.

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- 1.6.3 Such incidental private use does not require a compensatory payment back to Council. Councillors should avoid obtaining any greater private benefit from Council than an incidental benefit. Where there are unavoidable circumstances and more substantial private use of Council facilities does occur, Councillors must reimburse the Council.
- 1.6.4 Campaigns for re-election are considered to be a political benefit. The following are examples of what is considered to be a political interest during a re-election campaign:
- production of election material
  - use of Council resources and equipment for campaigning
  - use of official Council letterhead, publications, websites or services for political benefit
  - fundraising activities of political parties or individuals, including political fundraising events.

## 1.7 Definitions

The following definitions apply throughout this policy.

Term	Definition
Accompanying person	Means a spouse, partner or de facto or other person who has a close personal relationship with or provides carer support to a Councillor
Appropriate refreshments	Means food and beverages, excluding alcohol, provided by Council to support Councillors undertaking official business
Act	Means the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> (NSW)
Clause	Unless stated otherwise, a reference to a clause is a reference to a clause of this policy
Code of Conduct	Means the Code of Conduct adopted by Council or the Model Code if none is adopted
Councillor	Means a person elected or appointed to civic office as a member of the governing body of Council who is not suspended, including the mayor
General Manager	Means the General Manager of Council and includes their delegate or authorised representative
Incidental personal use	Means use that is infrequent and brief and use that does not breach this policy or the Code of Conduct
Long distance intrastate travel	Means travel to other parts of NSW of more than three hours duration by private vehicle
Maximum limit	Means the maximum limit for an expense or facility provided in the text and summarised in Appendix 1
NSW	New South Wales

Term	Definition
Official business	Means functions that the mayor or Councillors are required or invited to attend to fulfil their legislated role and responsibilities for Council or result in a direct benefit for Council and/or for the local government area, and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>meetings of Council and committees of the whole</li> <li>meetings of committees facilitated by Council</li> <li>civic receptions hosted or sponsored by Council</li> <li>meetings, functions, workshops and other events to which attendance by a Councillor has been requested or approved by Council</li> </ul>
Professional development	Means a seminar, conference, training course or other development opportunity relevant to the role of a Councillor or the mayor
Regulation	Means the <i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2021</i> (NSW)
Year	Means the financial year, that is the 12 month period commencing on 1 July each year

## 2.0 Expenses

### 2.1 General Expenses

All expenses provided under this policy will be for a purpose specific to the functions of holding civic office. Allowances for general expenses are not permitted under this policy.

Expenses not explicitly addressed in this policy will not be paid or reimbursed.

### 2.2 Specific Expenses

General travel arrangements and expenses

2.2.1 All travel by Councillors should be undertaken using the most direct route and the most practicable and economical mode of transport.

2.2.2 Each Councillor may be reimbursed up to a total of \$2,000 per year, and the mayor may be reimbursed up to a total of \$3,000 per year, for travel expenses, including interstate, overseas and long distance intrastate travel, incurred while undertaking official business or professional development or attending approved conferences and seminars within NSW. This includes reimbursement:

- for public transport fares
- for the use of a private vehicle or hire car
- for parking costs for Council and other meetings
- for tolls
- by Cabcharge card or equivalent

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- for documented ride-share programs, such as Uber, where tax invoices can be issued.

2.2.3 Allowances for the use of a private vehicle will be reimbursed by kilometre at the rate contained in the Local Government (State) Award.

2.2.4 Councillors seeking to be reimbursed for use of a private vehicle must keep a log book recording the date, distance and purpose of travel being claimed. Copies of the relevant log book contents must be provided with the claim.

Interstate, overseas and long distance intrastate travel expenses

2.2.5 In accordance with Section 1.6, Council will scrutinise the value and need for Councillors to undertake overseas travel. Councils should avoid interstate, overseas and long distance intrastate trips unless direct and tangible benefits can be established for the Council and the local community. This includes travel to sister and friendship cities.

2.2.6 Councillors seeking approval for any interstate and long distance intrastate travel must submit a case to, and obtain the approval of, the General Manager prior to travel.

2.2.7 Councillors seeking approval for any overseas travel must submit a case to, and obtain the approval of, a full Council meeting prior to travel.

2.2.8 The case should include:

- objectives to be achieved in travel, including an explanation of how the travel aligns with current Council priorities and business, the community benefits which will accrue as a result, and its relevance to the exercise of the Councillor's civic duties
- who is to take part in the travel
- duration and itinerary of travel
- a detailed budget including a statement of any amounts expected to be reimbursed by the participant/s.

2.2.9 After returning from overseas Councillors should provide a detailed report back to Council on the aspects of the trip relevant to Council business and/or the local community.

2.2.10 Any Council-funded airfares will be funded to economy level only.

2.2.11 Bookings for approved air travel are to be made through the General Manager's office.

2.2.12 For air travel that is reimbursed as Council business, Councillors will not accrue points from the airline's frequent flyer program. This is considered a private benefit.

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Travel expenses not paid by Council

- 2.2.13 Council will not pay any traffic or parking fines or administrative charges for road toll accounts.

Accommodation and meals

- 2.2.14 In circumstances where it would introduce undue risk for a Councillor to travel to or from official business in the late evening or early morning, reimbursement of costs for accommodation and meals on the night before or after the meeting may be approved by the General Manager. This includes where a meeting finishes later than 9.00pm or starts earlier than 7.00am and the Councillor lives more than 50 kilometres from the meeting location.
- 2.2.15 Council will reimburse costs for accommodation and meals while Councillors are undertaking prior approved travel or professional development outside the Sydney Metropolitan Area. Council will not pay for accommodation within the Sydney Metropolitan Area.
- 2.2.16 Delegates will be accommodated in the hotel where the conference, seminar or training session is being held or the nearest hotel to the conference, seminar or training session of a similar session.
- 2.2.17 The daily limits for accommodation and meal expenses within Australia are to be consistent with those set out in Part B Monetary Rates of the NSW Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Reviewed Award 2009, as adjusted annually.
- 2.2.18 The daily limits for accommodation and meal expenses outside Australia are to be determined in advance by the General Manager, being mindful of Clause 6.19 [2.2.19 or 2.2.31].
- 2.2.19 Councillors will not be reimbursed for alcoholic beverages.

Refreshments for Council related meetings

- 2.2.20 Appropriate refreshments will be available for Council meetings, Council committee meetings, Councillor briefings, approved meetings and engagements, and official Council functions as approved by the General Manager. No alcohol will be provided at any Council function apart from when external dignitaries are invited.
- 2.2.21 As an indicative guide for the standard of refreshments to be provided at Council related meetings, the General Manager must be mindful of Part B Monetary Rates of the NSW Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Reviewed Award 2009, as adjusted annually.

#### Professional development

- 2.2.22 Council will set aside \$2,000 per Councillor annually in its budget to facilitate professional development of Councillors through programs, training, education courses and membership of professional bodies.
- 2.2.23 In the first year of a new Council term, Council will provide a comprehensive induction program for all Councillors which considers any guidelines issued by the Office of Local Government (OLG). The cost of the induction program will be in addition to the ongoing professional development funding.
- 2.2.24 Annual membership of professional bodies will only be covered where the membership is relevant to the exercise of the Councillor's civic duties, the Councillor actively participates in the body and the cost of membership is likely to be fully offset by savings from attending events as a member.
- 2.2.25 Approval for professional development activities is subject to a prior written request to the General Manager outlining the:
- details of the proposed professional development
  - relevance to Council priorities and business
  - relevance to the exercise of the Councillor's civic duties.
- 2.2.26 In assessing a Councillor request for a professional development activity, the General Manager must consider the factors set out in Clause 6.27 [2.2.27], as well as the cost of the professional development in relation to the Councillor's remaining budget.

#### Conferences and seminars

- 2.2.27 Council is committed to ensuring its Councillors are up to date with contemporary issues facing Council and the community, and local government in NSW.
- 2.2.28 Council will set aside a total amount of \$4,000 annually in its budget to facilitate Councillor attendance at conferences and seminars. This allocation is for all Councillors. The General Manager will ensure that access to expenses relating to conferences and seminars is distributed equitably.
- 2.2.29 Approval to attend a conference or seminar is subject to a written request to the General Manager. In assessing a Councillor request, the General Manager must consider factors including the:
- relevance of the topics and presenters to current Council priorities and business and the exercise of the Councillor's civic duties
  - cost of the conference or seminar in relation to the total remaining budget.
- 2.2.30 Council will meet the reasonable cost of registration fees, transportation and accommodation associated with attendance at conferences approved by the General

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Manager. Council will also meet the reasonable cost of meals when they are not included in the conference fees. Reimbursement for accommodation and meals not included in the conference fees will be subject to Clauses 6.18-6.21 [2.2.18-21].

- 2.2.31 Council will not meet registration fees for a partner accompanying a delegate on conferences, training sessions or seminars. The Councillor, including any expenses incurred in an accompanying person's program, will meet all expenses.

#### Information and communications technology

##### ICT Devices

- 2.2.32 Council will provide Councillors with appropriate ICT devices and services up to a limit of \$3,000 for each Councillor, at the commencement of each term. This may include tablets, mobile phones and a notebook / laptop (including appropriate software). The determination as to what equipment will be provided will be made by the General Manager based upon Council's general ICT program and identifiable business needs. Council will replace or update equipment where required and as appropriate.

##### ICT Expenses

- In addition to the above allocation, Council will allocate \$1,500 per year per Councillor for ICT expenses to assist them in their civic responsibilities. This includes the purchase of a printer. Councillors claiming printers will be responsible for printing all Council documents required for their duty.
- 2.2.33 Council may from time to time provide Councillors with upgraded equipment of new facilities where doing so will result in efficiencies and aligns with Council's general ICT program.
- 2.2.34 Council will reimburse to the limit of \$220 per month for Council related communication expenses such as phone, data or internet charges for Councillors (including Mayor and Deputy Mayor).
- 2.2.35 Reimbursements will be made only for communications devices and services used for Councillors to undertake their civic duties, such as:
- receiving and reading Council business papers
  - relevant phone calls and correspondence
  - diary and appointment management.
- 2.2.36 To claim reimbursement, the Councillor must:
- make his/her contact details available to the public to ensure that he/she is accessible to the residents and ratepayers of Strathfield Local Government Area
  - identify the calls and uses associated with his/her duties as Councillor and meet the cost of any private usage (eg calls not relating to official functions of Council)
  - reimburse Council for any charges in excess of \$220 per month (including GST)

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within 30 days of request.

- ensure claims for reimbursement are accompanied by sufficient documentation (eg copy of account or charges etc) to clearly support the claim for reimbursement.
- claims for calls on non-Council allocated phones or internet connections must provide documentation which clearly indicates the costs which are Council-related eg phone bill in the name of the Councillor.

2.2.37 Councillors may seek reimbursement for applications on their mobile electronic communication device that are directly related to their duties as a Councillor, within the maximum limit.

2.2.38 International roaming on Council provided communication devices will be disabled by default. To enable roaming services, a Councillor must make a written request to Council.

If an overseas trip is approved in accordance with this policy for Councillors, use of any available free wireless internet services is encouraged. Council will cover the cost of the provision of international roaming services and Council business related calls to a limit of \$50 per day. Councillors will be required to identify business and personal calls and reimburse Council for any personal use.

If a Councillor travels overseas on personal business and takes their Council provided communications devices with them, then the Councillor must reimburse Council for all international roaming charges, internet access and call costs.

2.2.39 Councillors may purchase their own SIM card to place in their Council provided communications devices for the time they are away and cover all costs associated with or incurred on this personal SIM card during their travel.

2.2.40 All equipment provided to Councillors by Council shall remain in the possession of the Councillor during their term of office, and shall remain the property of Council and be returned in good operational order and condition upon ceasing to be an elected member of Strathfield Council.

#### Special requirement and carer expenses

2.2.41 Council encourages wide participation and interest in civic office. It will seek to ensure Council premises and associated facilities are accessible, including provision for sight or hearing impaired Councillors and those with other disabilities.

2.2.42 Transportation provisions outlined in this policy will also assist Councillors who may be unable to drive a vehicle.

2.2.43 In addition to the provisions above, the General Manager may authorise the provision of reasonable additional facilities and expenses in order to allow a Councillor with a

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disability to perform their civic duties.

- 2.2.44 Councillors who are the principal carer of a child or other elderly, disabled and/or sick immediate family member will be entitled to reimbursement of carer's expenses up to a maximum of \$2,000 per Councillor, per annum for attendance at official business, plus reasonable travel from the principal place of residence.
- 2.2.45 Child care expenses may be claimed for children up to and including the age of 16 years where the carer is not a relative.
- 2.2.46 In the event of caring for an adult person, Councillors will need to provide suitable evidence to the General Manager that reimbursement is applicable. This may take the form of advice from a medical practitioner.

#### Home office expenses

2.2.47 Each Councillor may be reimbursed up to \$1,500 per financial year for costs associated with the maintenance of a home office for the following items only:

- Desk
- Ergonomic office chair
- Stationery such as printer ink cartridges, pens, A4 paper, erasers, paper clips etc.

### 2.3 Insurances

- 2.3.1 In accordance with Section 382 of the *Local Government Act*, Council is insured against public liability and professional indemnity claims. Councillors are included as a named insured on this Policy.
- 2.3.2 Insurance protection is only provided if a claim arises out of or in connection with the Councillor's performance of his or her civic duties, or exercise of his or her functions as a Councillor. All insurances are subject to any limitations or conditions set out in the policies of insurance.
- 2.3.3 Council shall pay the insurance policy excess in respect of any claim accepted by Council's insurers, whether defended or not.
- 2.3.4 Appropriate travel insurances will be provided for any Councillors travelling on approved interstate and overseas travel on Council business.

### 2.4 Legal Assistance

- 2.4.1 Council may, if requested, indemnify or reimburse the reasonable legal expenses of:
- a Councillor defending an action arising from the performance in good faith of a function under the *Local Government Act* provided that the outcome of the legal proceedings is favourable to the Councillor

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- a Councillor defending an action in defamation, provided the statements complained of were made in good faith in the course of exercising a function under the Act and the outcome of the legal proceedings is favourable to the Councillor
- a Councillor for proceedings before an appropriate investigative or review body, provided the subject of the proceedings arises from the performance in good faith of a function under the Act and the matter has proceeded past any initial assessment phase to a formal investigation or review and the investigative or review body makes a finding substantially favourable to the Councillor.

2.4.2 In the case of a code of conduct complaint made against a Councillor, legal costs will only be made available where the matter has been referred by the General Manager to a conduct reviewer and the conduct reviewer has commenced a formal investigation of the matter and makes a finding substantially favourable to the Councillor.

2.4.3 Legal expenses incurred in relation to proceedings arising out of the performance by a Councillor of his or her functions under the Act are distinguished from expenses incurred in relation to proceedings arising merely from something that a Councillor has done during his or her term in office. For example, expenses arising from an investigation as to whether a Councillor acted corruptly would not be covered by this section.

2.4.4 Council will not meet the legal costs:

- of legal proceedings initiated by a Councillor under any circumstances
- of a Councillor seeking advice in respect of possible defamation, or in seeking a non-litigious remedy for possible defamation
- for legal proceedings that do not involve a Councillor performing their role as a Councillor.

2.4.5 Reimbursement of expenses for reasonable legal expenses must have Council approval by way of a resolution at a Council meeting prior to costs being incurred.

### **3.0 Facilities**

#### **3.1 General Facilities for all Councillors**

##### **Facilities**

3.1.1 Council will provide the following facilities to Councillors to assist them to effectively discharge their civic duties:

- a Councillor common room appropriately furnished including a printer, pigeon holes and appropriate refreshments (excluding alcohol)
- Parking for Councillors is available in the Council staff parking area at Council's office after 6pm and at times when Council and Committee meetings or official events are scheduled.
- personal protective equipment for use during site visits
- a name badge which may be worn at official functions, indicating that the wearer

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holds the office of a Councillor and/or mayor or deputy mayor.

- 3.1.2 Councillors may book meeting rooms for official business in a specified Council building at no cost. Rooms may be booked through the Office Manager, Office of the General Manager and Mayor. Use of Council Chambers is restricted to Civic occasions only (hosted by the Mayor or the Mayor's representative), or as otherwise authorised by the General Manager.
- 3.1.3 The provision of facilities will be of a standard deemed by the General Manager as appropriate for the purpose.

#### Stationery

- 3.1.4 Council will provide the following stationery to Councillors each year:
- Electronic letterhead, to be used only for correspondence associated with civic duties
  - 500 Councillor business cards replenish yearly in accordance with Council's corporate standards. The content of business cards must not contain political statements or advertising.
  - Council will pay for postage of official correspondence provided that all mail is directed through Council's mailing system and a copy of correspondence is maintained on relevant Council records.
- 3.1.5 As per Section 1.6, postage shall only be provided to support a Councillor's civic duties.

#### Administrative support

- 3.1.6 Council will provide administrative support to Councillors to assist them with their civic duties only. Administrative support may be provided by staff in the mayor's office or by a member of Council's administrative staff as arranged by the General Manager or their delegate.
- 3.1.7 As per Section 1.6, Council staff are expected to assist Councillors with civic duties only, and not assist with matters of personal or political interest, including campaigning.

### 3.2 Additional Facilities for the Mayor

- 3.2.1 Use of ceremonial clothing such as the Mayoral robes and Mayor Chains for official, civic or ceremonial use.
- 3.2.2 Council will provide the mayor with a furnished office incorporating a computer configured to Council's standard operating environment, telephone and meeting space. The above key remains the property of the Council and must be returned to Council upon the person ceasing to hold office.

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- 3.2.3 1,000 mayor business cards replenish yearly in accordance with Council's corporate standards. The content of business cards must not contain political statements or advertising.
- 3.2.4 In performing his or her civic duties, the mayor will be assisted by a small number of staff providing administrative and secretarial support, as determined by the General Manager, will not exceed one full time equivalents.
- 3.2.5 As per Section 1.6, staff in the Mayor and General Manager's Office are expected to work on official business only, and not for matters of personal or political interest, including campaigning.
- 3.2.6 Council will allocate a fully maintained vehicle from Council's motor vehicle fleet for use of the Mayor for official business. The vehicle type and model may change from time to time as vehicles are changed over in accordance with Council's motor vehicle policies and procedures. The estimated maximum operating cost of a fully maintained vehicle (including insurance, registration and fuel) is \$10,000 (including GST).

The vehicle is for the use of the Mayor attending official business of the Council, which includes driving the vehicle to the Mayor's home or place of work. In the event that the vehicle is used for private purposes, reimbursement of costs associated with private use will be the responsibility of the Mayor (refer to Private Use of Facilities clause).

The upper cost of Council's fleet vehicles is limited by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) luxury car determination.

The Mayor and authorised Council staff members are entitled to drive the Mayoral vehicle.

Council will meet the cost of parking fees and road tolls for the Mayoral vehicle associated with business use of the vehicle. However, the driver of the vehicle is personally responsible for all traffic or parking fines incurred while travelling in private or Council vehicles on Council business.

The Mayoral vehicle will be allocated a dedicated parking space at Council's offices.

#### **4.0 Processes**

##### **4.1 Approval, Payment and Reimbursement Arrangements**

- 4.1.1 Expenses should only be incurred by Councillors in accordance with the provisions of this policy.
- 4.1.2 Approval for incurring expenses, or for the reimbursement of such expenses, should be obtained before the expense is incurred.

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4.1.3 Up to the maximum limits specified in this policy, approval for the following may be sought after the expense is incurred:

- local travel relating to the conduct of official business
- carer costs

4.1.4 Final approval for payments made under this policy will be granted by the General Manager or their delegate.

4.1.5 All Councillors are to be paid superannuation contribution payments as per section 254B of the *Local Government Act 1993* from 1 July 2022. The contribution is on top of Councillor annual fees. Councillors who wish to opt out receiving payments must do so by requesting in writing.

#### Direct payment

4.1.6 Council may approve and directly pay expenses. Requests for direct payment must be submitted to the Executive Manager Corporate Services & Administration for assessment against this policy using the prescribed form, with sufficient information and time to allow for the claim to be assessed and processed.

#### Reimbursement

4.1.7 All claims for reimbursement of expenses incurred must be made no later than three weeks after the expense was incurred. Each claim must be made on the prescribed form, supported by appropriate receipts and/or tax invoices and be submitted to the Executive Manager Corporate Services & Administration. Reimbursement of travelling expenses shall state the following:

- Time and place of departure
- Time and place of arrival
- Distance travelled
- Fares and parking fees paid, attaching receipts where possible
- Number of days and hours occupied in travelling to and from the conference/seminar/training courses and attending Council meetings or on the authorised business of Council
- Total amount of claim.

#### Advance payment

4.1.8 Council may pay a cash advance for Councillors attending approved conferences, seminars or professional development. Requests for advance payment must be submitted to the Executive Manager Corporate Services & Administration for assessment against this policy using the prescribed form with sufficient information and time to allow for the claim to be assessed and processed.

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- 4.1.9 Councillors must fully reconcile all expenses against the cost of the advance within one month of incurring the cost and/or returning home. This includes providing to Council:
- a full reconciliation of all expenses including appropriate receipts and/or tax invoices
  - reimbursement of any amount of the advance payment not spent in attending to official business or professional development.

#### Notification

- 4.1.10 If a claim is approved, Council will make payment directly or reimburse the Councillor through accounts payable.
- 4.1.11 If a claim is refused, Council will inform the Councillor in writing that the claim has been refused and the reason for the refusal.

#### Reimbursement to Council

- 4.1.12 If Council has incurred an expense on behalf of a Councillor that exceeds a maximum limit, exceeds reasonable incidental private use or is not provided for in this policy:
- Council will invoice the Councillor for the expense
  - the Councillor will reimburse Council for that expense within 14 days of the invoice date.
- 4.1.13 If the Councillor cannot reimburse Council within 14 days of the invoice date, they are to submit a written explanation to the General Manager. The General Manager may elect to deduct the amount from the Councillor's allowance.

#### Timeframe for reimbursement

- 4.1.14 Unless otherwise specified in this policy, Councillors must provide all claims for reimbursement within one month of an expense being incurred. Claims made after this time cannot be approved.

## 4.2 Disputes

- 4.2.6 If a Councillor disputes a determination under this policy, the Councillor should discuss the matter with the General Manager.
- 4.2.7 If the Councillor and the General Manager cannot resolve the dispute, the Councillor may submit a notice of motion to a Council meeting seeking to have the dispute resolved.

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**4.3 Return or Retention of Facilities**

- 4.3.6 All unexpended facilities or equipment supplied under this policy are to be relinquished immediately upon a Councillor or mayor ceasing to hold office or at the cessation of their civic duties.
- 4.3.7 Should a Councillor desire to keep any equipment allocated by Council, then this policy enables the Councillor to make application to the General Manager to purchase any such equipment. The General Manager will determine an agreed fair market price or written down value for the item of equipment.
- 4.3.8 The prices for all equipment purchased by Councillors will be recorded in Council's annual report.

**4.4 Publication**

- 4.4.6 This policy will be published on Council's website.

**4.5 Reporting**

- 4.5.6 Council will report on the provision of expenses and facilities to Councillors as required in the Act and Regulations.
- 4.5.7 Detailed reports on the provision of expenses and facilities to Councillors will be publicly tabled at a Council meeting every six months and published in full on Council's website.

These reports will include expenditure summarised by individual Councillor and as a total for all Councillors.

**4.6 Auditing**

- 4.6.6 The operation of this policy, including claims made under the policy, will be included in Council's audit program and an audit undertaken at least every two years.

**4.7 Breaches**

- 4.7.6 Suspected breaches of this policy are to be reported to the General Manager.
- 4.7.7 Alleged breaches of this policy shall be dealt with by following the processes outlined for breaches of the Code of Conduct, as detailed in the Code and in the Procedures for the Administration of the Code.

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CCS2 INVESTMENT REPORT - MAY 2023

AUTHOR: Deo Narayan, Coordinator Finance Operations

APPROVER: Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

RECOMMENDATION

That the record of cash investments as at 31 May 2023 be received and noted.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To submit Council's record of cash investments as at 31 May 2023 pursuant to Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

Investment Allocation & Performance

Investment Portfolio as at 31 May 2023

Call Accounts	Allocation (%)	Amount (\$)
Term Deposits	80	43,000,000
Cash At Bank and At Call Investment	20	10,695,559
<b>Total Investments</b>		<b>53,695,559</b>

\* Investment Portfolio details are listed in the attachment.

As at the end of May 2023, the portfolio was mainly directed to fixed term deposits (80%). The remaining portfolio is directed to various cash accounts (20%) for current liquidity needs.

Council's performance for the month ending 31 May 2023 is summarised as follows:

Performance

Council's performance for the month ending May 2023 is summarised as follows:

Performance (Actual)	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year
Official Cash Rate	0.32%	0.92%	1.70%	2.63%	2.70%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	0.29%	0.89%	1.65%	2.58%	2.64%
Council's T/D Portfolio <sup>^</sup>	0.22%	0.63%	1.22%	1.76%	1.94%
<b>Outperformance</b>	<b>-0.07%</b>	<b>-0.25%</b>	<b>-0.43%</b>	<b>-0.82%</b>	<b>-0.69%</b>

<sup>^</sup>Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings. Overall returns would be lower if cash was included.

Performance (Annualised)	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year
Official Cash Rate	3.85%	3.68%	3.43%	2.87%	2.70%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	3.53%	3.56%	3.34%	2.82%	2.64%
Council's T/D Portfolio <sup>^</sup>	2.65%	2.53%	2.46%	1.92%	1.94%
<b>Outperformance</b>	<b>-0.88%</b>	<b>-1.03%</b>	<b>-0.88%</b>	<b>-0.90%</b>	<b>-0.69%</b>

<sup>^</sup>Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings. Overall returns would be lower if cash was included.

For the month of May, the total investment portfolio (excluding cash) provided a return of +0.22% (actual) or +2.65% p.a. (annualised), underperforming the benchmark AusBond Bank Bill Index return of +0.29% (actual) or +3.53% p.a. (annualised). This relative underperformance is due to the aggressive rate hikes undertaken by the RBA when Council continues to hold several long-term TDs at lower interest rates. This underperformance has reduced over recent months as Council has been able to re-invest TDs at higher interest rates but will continue in the short-term.

Council's deposit portfolio was yielding 2.84% p.a. (up 19bp from the previous month), with a weighted average duration of 384 days (~13 months).

Council has earned interest revenue totalling \$1,050,204 as at 31 May 2023, being 96% of the revised full year projected budget (\$1,098,600).

Below is a table showing the restrictions placed on the cash and investments held:

<b>Investments Represented by</b>	<b>31 May 2023 (\$)</b>
<b>Externally Restricted Reserves</b>	
Domestic Waste Management	3,196,235
Unexpended Grants	8,966,679
Developer Contributions	17,523,651
Stormwater Management	690,936
<b>Total Externally Restricted Reserves</b>	<b>30,377,501</b>
<b>Internally Restricted Reserves</b>	
Plant Replacement	1,129,614
Employee Leave Entitlement	1,285,159
Deposits/Retentions and Bonds	13,416,010
Adshel (Bus Shelters)	270,000
Technology	133,665
Carry Forwards	37,621
Future Major Expenditure	2,052,570
Parkscape Improvements	29,000
Risk Management	195,362
Election	130,194
Hudson Park Driving Range	69,000
<b>Total Internally Restricted Reserves</b>	<b>18,748,195</b>
<b>Total Restricted Reserves</b>	<b>49,125,696</b>
Unrestricted	4,569,863
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>53,695,559</b>

\* Unrestricted funds, whilst not subject to a restriction for a specific purpose, are fully committed via Council's adopted Operational Plan.

### **Certification – Responsible Accounting Officer**

The Chief Financial 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 Performance - May 2023

# ATTACHMENT 1



# Investment Report

01/05/2023 to 31/05/2023



## Portfolio Valuation as at 31/05/2023

Issuer	Rating	Type	Alloc	Interest	Purchase	Maturity	Rate	Capital Value	Accrued	Accrued MTD
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	18/08/2022	07/06/2023	3.8300	3,000,000.00	90,346.03	9,758.63
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	23/07/2021	24/07/2023	0.6500	1,000,000.00	5,538.36	552.05
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	18/08/2022	23/08/2023	4.0100	1,000,000.00	31,530.68	3,405.75
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	02/09/2022	06/09/2023	4.2200	2,000,000.00	62,895.34	7,168.22
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	27/10/2021	26/10/2023	0.9600	4,000,000.00	3,682.19	3,261.37
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	02/09/2022	08/11/2023	4.2500	2,000,000.00	63,342.47	7,219.18
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	09/12/2021	13/12/2023	1.4300	2,000,000.00	13,633.97	2,429.04
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/09/2022	10/01/2024	4.3000	2,000,000.00	61,260.27	7,304.11
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	07/02/2022	07/02/2024	1.7200	2,000,000.00	10,744.11	2,921.64
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	GENERAL	Annual	08/03/2022	07/03/2024	1.9500	1,000,000.00	4,541.10	1,656.16
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	27/10/2022	02/04/2024	4.6400	2,000,000.00	55,171.51	7,881.64
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	18/05/2021	20/05/2024	0.7500	1,000,000.00	287.67	287.67
BOQ	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	30/11/2022	05/06/2024	4.5600	2,000,000.00	45,724.93	7,745.75
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	07/12/2022	05/06/2024	4.5300	1,000,000.00	21,843.29	3,847.40
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	07/02/2023	10/07/2024	4.6400	1,000,000.00	14,492.05	3,940.82
BOQ	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	08/03/2023	08/08/2024	4.9000	1,000,000.00	11,410.96	4,161.64
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	18/05/2023	04/09/2024	4.8000	2,000,000.00	3,682.19	3,682.19
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	27/10/2021	30/10/2024	1.3500	5,000,000.00	6,472.60	5,732.88



Issuer	Rating	Type	Alloc	Interest	Purchase	Maturity	Rate	Capital Value	Accrued	Accrued MTD
BOQ	BBB+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	08/03/2023	04/12/2024	4.9300	2,000,000.00	22,961.64	8,374.25
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	18/05/2021	19/05/2025	1.0000	1,000,000.00	383.56	383.56
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	27/10/2021	29/10/2025	1.5900	2,000,000.00	3,049.32	2,700.82
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	18/05/2021	15/05/2026	1.3000	1,000,000.00	498.63	498.63
Westpac	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Quarterly	27/10/2021	28/10/2026	1.8200	2,000,000.00	3,490.41	3,091.51
Macquarie Bank	A+	CASH	GENERAL	Monthly	31/05/2023	31/05/2023	3.8500	3,138,898.70	9,588.44	9,588.44
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	GENERAL	Monthly	31/05/2023	31/05/2023	3.6000	1,290,902.02	1,945.44	1,945.44
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	GENERAL	Monthly	31/05/2023	31/05/2023	3.9000	6,265,758.48	12,818.04	12,818.04
<b>TOTALS</b>								<b>53,695,559.20</b>	<b>561,335.20</b>	<b>122,356.84</b>



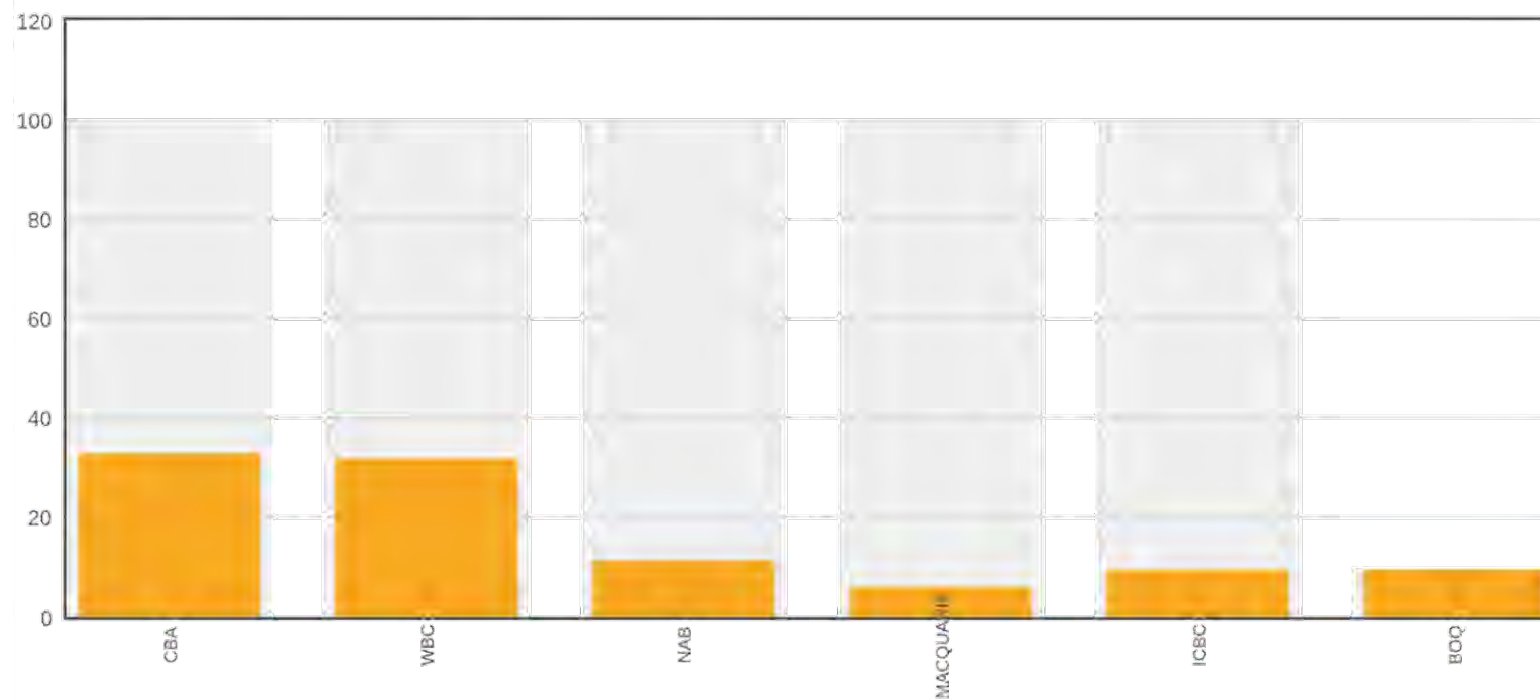
## Counterparty Compliance as at 31/05/2023

### Long Term Investments

Compliant	Bank Group	Term	Rating	Invested	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Limit (\$)	Available
✓	Commonwealth Bank	Long	AA-	17,556,660.50	32.70	100.00	-	36,138,898.70
✓	Westpac	Long	AA-	17,000,000.00	31.66	100.00	-	36,695,559.20
✓	NAB	Long	AA-	6,000,000.00	11.17	100.00	-	47,695,559.20
✓	Macquarie Bank	Long	A+	3,138,898.70	5.85	100.00	-	50,556,660.50
✓	ICBC Sydney Branch	Long	A	5,000,000.00	9.31	100.00	-	48,695,559.20
✓	BOQ	Long	BBB+	5,000,000.00	9.31	10.00	-	369,555.92
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>53,695,559.20</b>	<b>100.00</b>			



### Counterparty Compliance - Long Term Investments





## Credit Quality Compliance as at 31/05/2023

### Long Term Investments

Compliant	Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Available
	AA	40,556,660.50	75.53	100.00	13,138,898.70
	A	8,138,898.70	15.16	100.00	45,556,660.50
	BBB	5,000,000.00	9.31	35.00	13,793,445.72
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>53,695,559.20</b>	<b>100.00</b>		

### Credit Quality Compliance - Long Term Investments

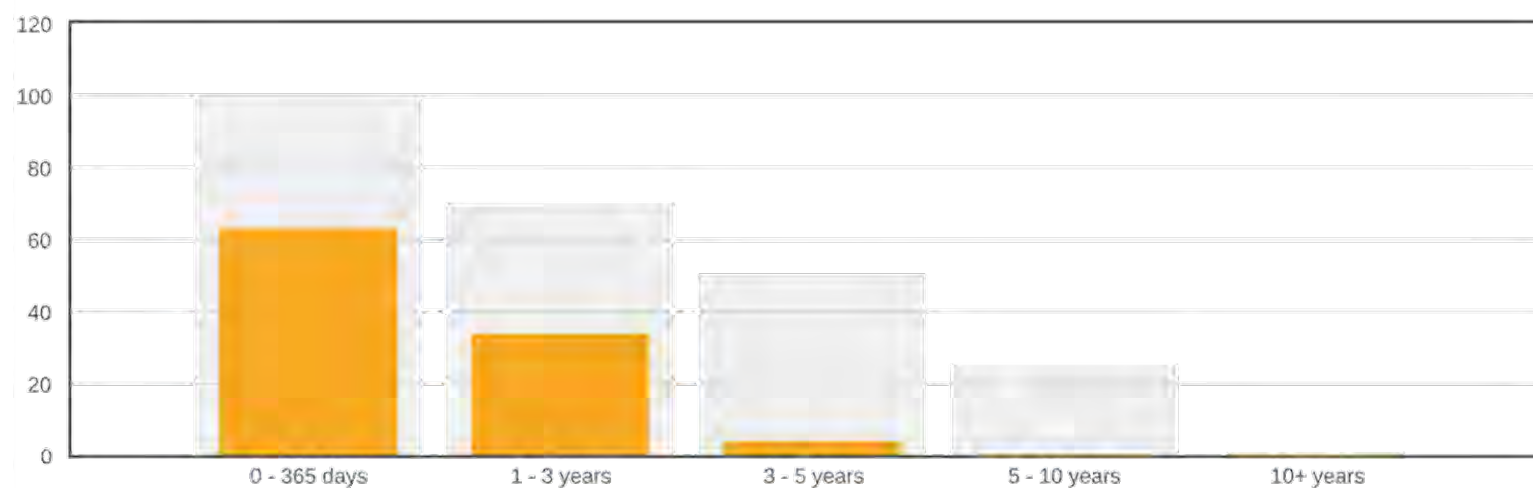




## Maturity Compliance as at 31/05/2023

Compliant	Term	Invested	Invested (%)	Min Limit (%)	Max Limit (%)	Available
✓	0 - 365 days	33,695,559.20	62.75	0.00	100.00	20,000,000.00
✓	1 - 3 years	18,000,000.00	33.52	0.00	70.00	19,586,891.44
✓	3 - 5 years	2,000,000.00	3.73	0.00	50.00	24,847,779.60
✓	5 - 10 years	-	0.00	0.00	25.00	13,423,889.80
✓	10+ years	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>53,695,559.20</b>	<b>100.00</b>			

## Maturity Compliance





## Portfolio Comparison

From: 30/04/2023 To: 31/05/2023

Issuer	Rating	Type	Rate	Purchase	Maturity	Interest	30/04/2023	31/05/2023	Difference
NAB	AA-	TD	0.6000	18/05/2021	18/05/2023	Annual	2,000,000.00	-	-2,000,000.00
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	TD	3.8300	18/08/2022	07/06/2023	At Maturity	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	-
NAB	AA-	TD	0.6500	23/07/2021	24/07/2023	Annual	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	TD	4.0100	18/08/2022	23/08/2023	At Maturity	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	TD	4.2200	02/09/2022	06/09/2023	At Maturity	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	TD	0.9600	27/10/2021	26/10/2023	Quarterly	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	-
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	TD	4.2500	02/09/2022	08/11/2023	At Maturity	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	1.4300	09/12/2021	13/12/2023	Annual	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	TD	4.3000	14/09/2022	10/01/2024	At Maturity	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	1.7200	07/02/2022	07/02/2024	Annual	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
ICBC Sydney Branch	A	TD	1.9500	08/03/2022	07/03/2024	Annual	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	TD	4.6400	27/10/2022	02/04/2024	At Maturity	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
NAB	AA-	TD	0.7500	18/05/2021	20/05/2024	Annual	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-
BOQ	BBB+	TD	4.5600	30/11/2022	05/06/2024	At Maturity	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	TD	4.5300	07/12/2022	05/06/2024	At Maturity	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	TD	4.6400	07/02/2023	10/07/2024	At Maturity	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-
BOQ	BBB+	TD	4.9000	08/03/2023	08/08/2024	At Maturity	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-



Issuer	Rating	Type	Rate	Purchase	Maturity	Interest	30/04/2023	31/05/2023	Difference
NAB	AA-	TD	4.8000	18/05/2023	04/09/2024	At Maturity	-	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00
Westpac	AA-	TD	1.3500	27/10/2021	30/10/2024	Quarterly	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	-
BOQ	BBB+	TD	4.9300	08/03/2023	04/12/2024	At Maturity	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
NAB	AA-	TD	1.0000	18/05/2021	19/05/2025	Annual	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	TD	1.5900	27/10/2021	29/10/2025	Quarterly	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
NAB	AA-	TD	1.3000	18/05/2021	15/05/2026	Annual	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	-
Westpac	AA-	TD	1.8200	27/10/2021	28/10/2026	Quarterly	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	-
Macquarie Bank	A+	CASH	3.6000	30/04/2023	30/04/2023	Monthly	3,128,641.24	3,138,898.70	10,257.46
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	3.3500	30/04/2023	30/04/2023	Monthly	660,310.10	1,290,902.02	630,591.92
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	CASH	3.6000	30/04/2023	30/04/2023	Monthly	4,105,758.48	6,265,758.48	2,160,000.00
<b>TOTALS</b>							<b>50,894,709.82</b>	<b>53,695,559.20</b>	<b>2,800,849.38</b>



## Trades in Period

From: 01/05/2023 To: 31/05/2023

### New Trades

Issuer	Rating	Type	Alloc	Interest	Purchase	Maturity	Rate	Value	Ref
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	18/05/2023	04/09/2024	4.8000	2,000,000.00	
TOTALS								2,000,000.00	



## Sell Trades

Issuer	Rating	Type	Alloc	Interest	Purchase	Maturity	Sell	Yield/Margin	Face Value	Gross Value	Capital Value	Ref
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No entries for this item

**Matured Trades**

Issuer	Rating	Type	Alloc	Interest	Purchase	Maturity	Rate	Value	Ref
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	18/05/2021	18/05/2023	0.6000	2,000,000.00	
TOTALS								2,000,000.00	



## Interest Received in Period

From: 01/05/2023 To: 31/05/2023

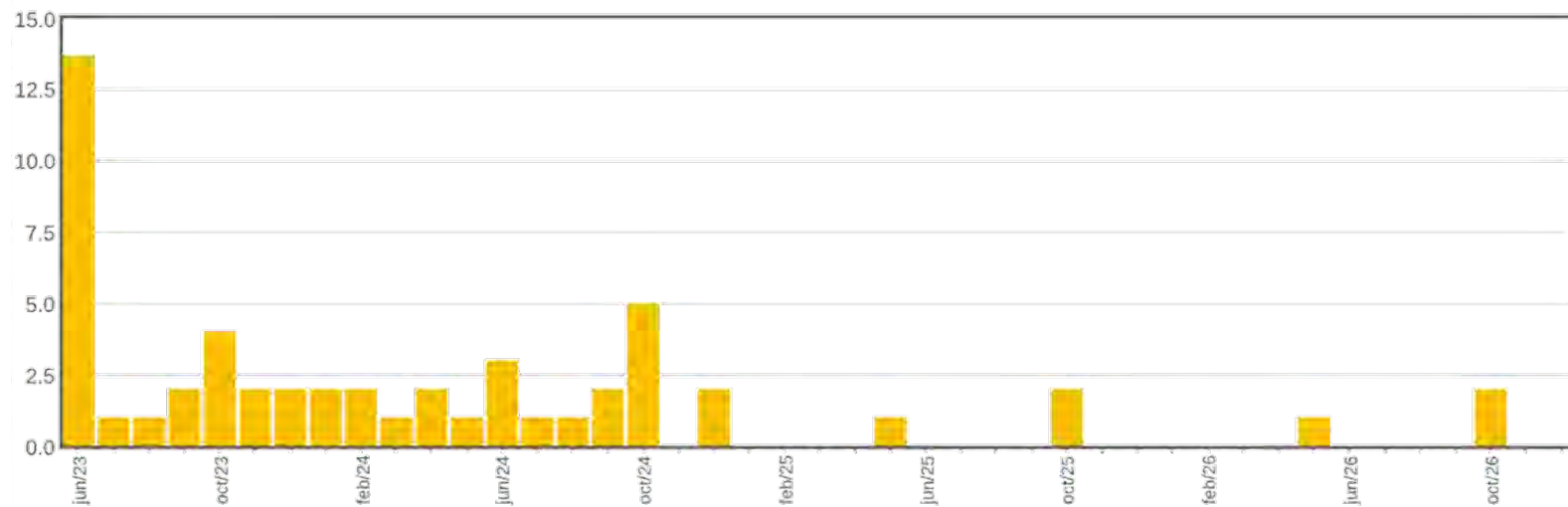
### Periodic Interest

Issuer	Rating	Type	Alloc	Frequency	Value	Purchase	Maturity	Coupon Date	Type	Rate	Received
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	2,000,000.00	18/05/2021	18/05/2023	18/05/2023	Maturity	0.6000	12,000.00
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	1,000,000.00	18/05/2021	20/05/2024	18/05/2023	Periodic	0.7500	7,500.00
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	1,000,000.00	18/05/2021	19/05/2025	18/05/2023	Periodic	1.0000	10,000.00
NAB	AA-	TD	GENERAL	Annual	1,000,000.00	18/05/2021	15/05/2026	18/05/2023	Periodic	1.3000	13,000.00
<b>TOTALS</b>					<b>5,000,000.00</b>						<b>42,500.00</b>



## Maturity Cashflow as at 31/05/2023

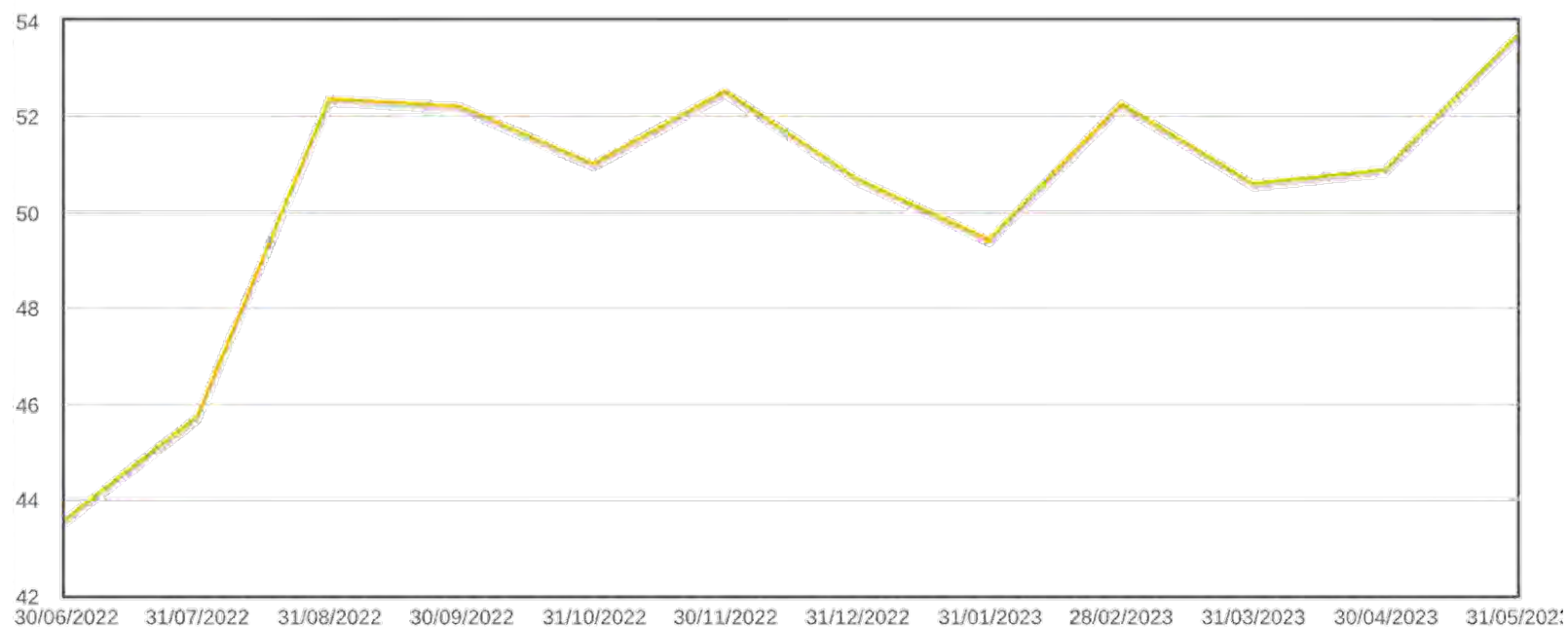
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2023	-	-	-	-	-	13,695,559	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	4,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	25,695,559.20
2024	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	1,000,000	3,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	5,000,000	-	2,000,000	22,000,000.00
2025	-	-	-	-	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	2,000,000	-	-	3,000,000.00
2026	-	-	-	-	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	2,000,000	-	-	3,000,000.00
<b>TOTALS</b>													<b>53,695,559.20</b>





## Historical Portfolio Balances (in MM) as at 31/05/2023

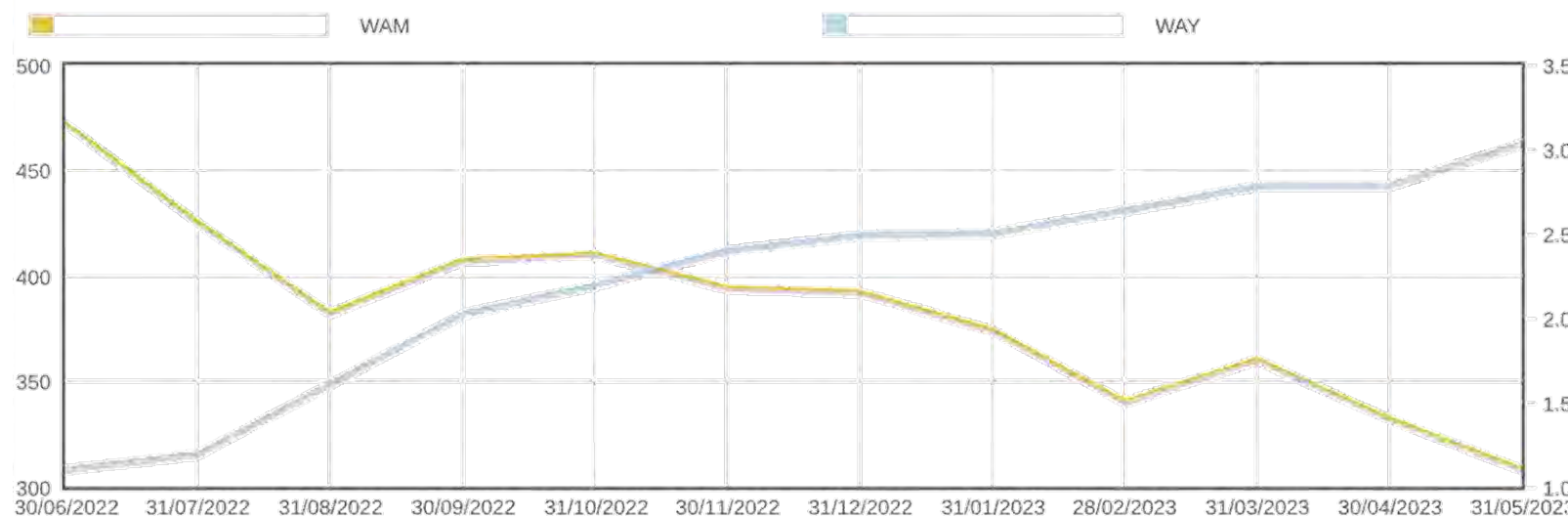
30/06/2022	31/07/2022	31/08/2022	30/09/2022	31/10/2022	30/11/2022	31/12/2022	31/01/2023	28/02/2023	31/03/2023	30/04/2023	31/05/2023
43.59	45.73	52.37	52.21	51.01	52.53	50.70	49.43	52.27	50.60	50.89	53.70





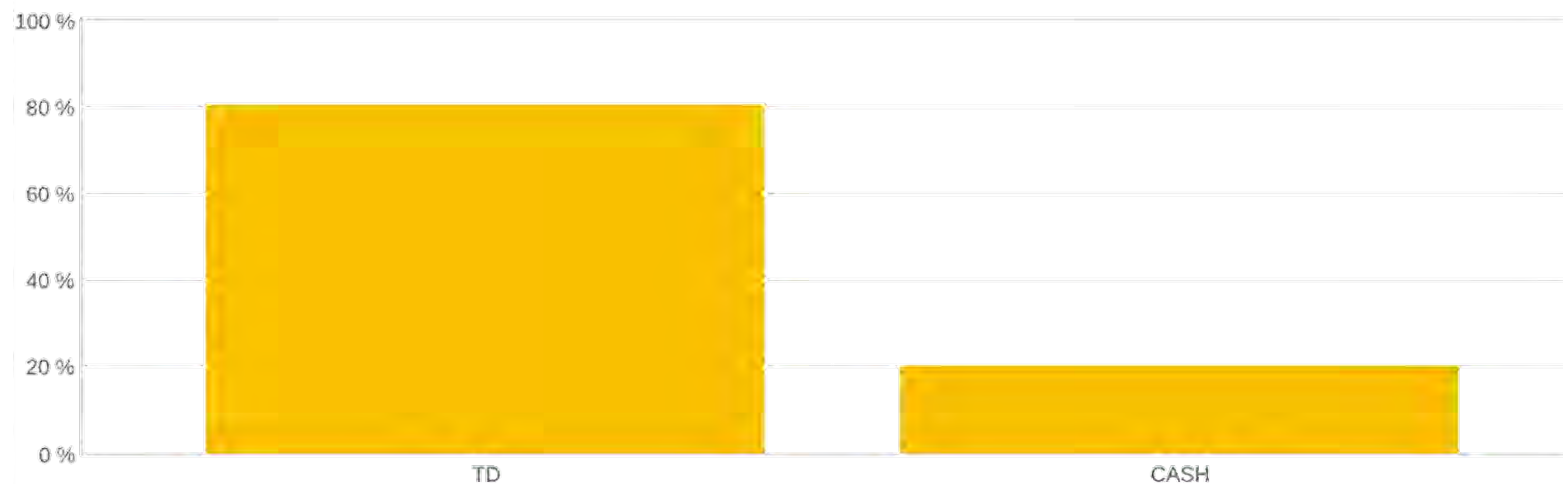
## Historical Ratios as at 31/05/2023

	30/06/2022	31/07/2022	31/08/2022	30/09/2022	31/10/2022	30/11/2022	31/12/2022	31/01/2023	28/02/2023	31/03/2023	30/04/2023	31/05/2023
WAM	473	426	383	408	411	395	393	375	341	361	333	3
WAY	1.1138	1.2028	1.6188	2.0339	2.2046	2.4097	2.5028	2.5136	2.6480	2.7914	2.7937	3.04



**Asset Class** as at 31/05/2023

Code	Number of Trades	Invested	Invested (%)
TD	23	43,000,000.00	80.08
CASH	6	10,695,559.20	19.92
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>53,695,559.20</b>	<b>100.0</b>



CCS3 COUNCILLOR WORKSHOP 20 JUNE 2023  
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 20 June 2023 and follow up action required.

## REPORT

### Attendees

Councillors Pensabene, Blackmore, Cai, Datta, Hall, Maheswaran and Reddy.

### Apologies

Councillor Cai (lateness). Councillor Maheswaran left the meeting during discussion of item *PEI Planning Roadmap* and only attended the meeting for item *CCS1 Draft Delivery Program 2022-2026, Operational Plan 2023-2024 and Fees and Charges 2023-2024 – Community Consultation Outcomes*.

### Declarations of Interest

Councillor Cai declared a Non-Pecuniary/Significant conflict of interest in item *GMU1 – Sydney Markets* and managed the conflict of interest by leaving the Workshop during discussion of this item.

The following items were discussed at the Councillor Workshop held on 20 June 2023:

Item Reference	Title	Summary	Follow Up Action
GMU1	Sydney Markets	Confidential – Councillors were provided a briefing on confidential matter regarding the Sydney Markets	Briefing noted
GMU2	Legal Update – Proceedings Regarding 27 Boden Avenue, Strathfield	Confidential – Councillors were provided an update on proceedings regarding 27 Boden Avenue, Strathfield	Update noted
GMU3	Aussie Skips Update	Confidential – Councillors were provided an update on proceedings with Aussie Skips	Update noted
GMU4	Events Calendar 2023/2024	The proposed schedule of events for 2023/2024 were presented to Councillors with details, benefits each	To go to Ordinary Council Meeting 4 July 2023

		event bring to the community and cost implications included	
CCS1	Draft Delivery Program 2022-2026, Operational Plan 2023-2024, Budget 2023-2024 and Fees and Charges 2023-2024 - Community Consultation Outcomes	Council officers and Mr Greg Smith of Morrison Low addressed Councillors. Findings from community consultation and the one Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) submission received were discussed. The reasons for final adjustments to Council's Delivery Program 2022-2026, Operational Plan 2023-2024, Budget 2023-2024 and Fees and Charges 2023-2024 were explained including but not limited to the emergency service levy, forthcoming events and amendments to fees and charges indexed by the consumer price index. The process to date and how/why Council has reached this position was explored, as well as the impact on residential and business ratepayers.	To go to the Extraordinary Council Meeting 27 June 2023
CCS2	Strathfield Park Plan of Management - Crown Lands June 2023	Feedback received from the exhibition of the Crown Land Plan of Management for Strathfield Park was presented to Councillors. There are no proposed changes to the use of land at Strathfield Park	To go to Ordinary Council Meeting 4 July 2023
CCS3	Small Grants Guidelines Draft	The new Small Grants Guidelines were presented to Councillors and feedback invited. Most significant change to process for applying for a small grant will be that funding of \$5,000 will be available each quarter for applicants to access via a competitive process. Eligibility criteria and process for applying included in the Guidelines	Guidelines to be approved by the General Manager
CCS4	Councillors Expenses and Facilities Policy	The Best Practice Template issued by the Office of Local Government (OLG), thresholds and definitions were discussed with Councillors and examples of neighbouring/similar sized Councils presented	To go to Ordinary Council Meeting 4 July 2023
PE1	Planning Roadmap	A presentation on Strategic Land Use Planning by Council officers was delivered to Councillors. The legislative framework and existing Guidelines,	Two future Councillor Workshops to be held on: 1. Existing Land-Use and Constraints Mapping.

		Statements and Plans were considered	Strategic Land-use Discussion 2. Strathfield Planning Roadmap for the Next 2 Years
EO1	Extension of Trading Hours - Hudson Park Driving Range	A Review of Environmental Factors had been undertaken as a result of a resolution to extend operational hours at the Hudson Park Driving Range. Councillors were provided the findings of this review and feedback following community consultation	To go to Ordinary Council Meeting 4 July 2023
EO2	Options to Increase Parking Revenue	Improvements to Council's existing parking meters, enforcement options and locations to focus on were explored by with Councillors	A Draft Parking Strategy to be presented to a future Councillor Workshop
EO3	Establishment of State and Federal Government Agencies Working Committee for Arthur/Centenary Drive and Marlborough Road	Reports to Council and correspondence to/from Transport for NSW and State/Federal Governments to date portrayed to Councillors. The challenges of creating working parties without commitment of all necessary stakeholders explained. Council has and will continue to engage with stakeholders on this subject matter	To go to Ordinary Council Meeting 4 July 2023
EO4	Draft Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy	Council officers presented feedback from sports ground users following the exhibition of the draft Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy. Feedback has been considered and policy will be presented to the next Council Meeting for adoption	To go to Ordinary Council Meeting 4 July 2023
EO5	Paving at Homebush Village Shops – Confidential - For Councillors Information Only	Confidential – Councillors were provided a briefing on the paving at Homebush Village and maintenance work to be completed by end July 2023 to meet relevant Australian Standards	Briefing noted

#### Mayor's Update

- The Mayor welcomed and introduced new staff members Warwick Lawrence, Manager Governance and Risk and Rodney Sanjivi, Manager, Financial Service and Chief Financial Officer
- The Mayor thanked outgoing Chief Financial Officer – Don Johnston for all his hard work
- A summary of the 2023 National General Assembly of Local Government held between 13 June 2023 and 16 June 2023 at the National Convention Centre, Canberra was presented by the Mayor. The event hosted by the Australian Local Government Association covered many areas affecting the local government sector including but not limited to energy impacts, building targets and the Uluru Statement

from the Heart and Proposed Referendum

**General Manager's Update**

- Advised Councillors of the successful tenderer for the Town Hall internal works.
- The Local Government State Award 2023 is expected to be finalised by 27 June 2023. A summary of some of the changes were presented to Councillors
- Repairs to the Hudson Park Driving Range nets are now complete and site is operational
- The Strathfield Connector Bus weekend service will cease by the end of June 2023
- The next Australian Citizenship Ceremony will be held on Thursday 23 February 2023 at 3pm in the Homebush West Community Centre
- The School Principles Forum will be held on 22 June 2023 at 10am to discuss road safety with schools in the Local Government Area

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report

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**CCS4**                      **CURRENT STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS**  
**AUTHOR:**              David McQuade, Senior Governance Officer  
**APPROVER:**          Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

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**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To report on the current status of Council resolutions.

**REPORT**

Attached is a summary of the outstanding and acquitted Council resolutions.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Outstanding and Acquitted Council Resolutions

# ATTACHMENT 1

**Outstanding Council Resolution Actions**

Meeting Date	Subject	Comments
6 June 2023	Indian Independence Day	Activities to be held in August 2023
6 June 2023	Mayoral Minute 18/23 – Targeted Waste Education and Awareness Program	To go to August 2023 Council Meeting
6 June 2023	Mayoral Minute 17/23 – Leading a Reform Agenda on Waste	To be presented to Council Meeting in late 2023
6 June 2023	Developing Homebush West Shopping Centre	To be presented to Council Meeting in late 2023
6 June 2023	Establishing a Review Panel for Rejected Applications under Part O of the Strathfield Development Control Plan 2005	Matter is ongoing
4 April 2023	Victor Chang School Science Awards 2023	Victor Chang Science Awards to take place 7 August 2023 at 5pm, Ironbark Room, Strathfield Library and innovation Hub
4 April 2023	Leases and Licences - Land and Property Strategy	Council staff will schedule meetings with SOCCS and HOOSH to discuss the process for negotiating the new Leases
4 April 2023	North Homebush (Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy) Affordable Housing Contributions Scheme and Infrastructure Needs Study	Infrastructure Needs Study has been progressed
7 March 2023	Draft Plans of Management (POM) for Crown Lands - Strathfield Park and Bressington Park	Bressington Park Plan of Management adopted. Strathfield Park Plan of Management to be presented to Council Meeting 4 July 2023
7 March 2023	Options to Increase Parking Revenue	To be presented to Council Meeting in late 2023
7 February 2023	Proposed change to Public Space Legacy Program Grant Milestone	Consultant to prepare a Strathfield Medium Density Housing Strategy to be appointed by 30 June 2023

Meeting Date	Subject	Comments
7 February 2023	Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy	Update presented to Councillor Workshop 21 March 2023
6 December 2022	Mayoral Minute 27/22 - Resilient Sydney Mayoral Summit on Affordable Housing	In progress
1 November 2022	Community Garden in Strathfield South	Matter to be considered as part of the Recreation and Open Space Study
1 November 2022	Hudson Park Driving Range Issues	To go to Council Meeting 4 July 2023
1 November 2022	Shade Covers Over Playgrounds	Open Space and Recreation Strategy in progress
1 November 2022	Ismay Reserve Deed of Agreement	Council met with NSW Transport 22 May 2023 and discussions are ongoing
1 November 2022	Planning Proposal to Rezone Land at Homebush	Council in negotiations with Transport for NSW
4 October 2022	DCP Environmental Changes	DCP Part P in to be live soon
6 September 2022	Homebush West Shopfront	Letters sent to Rotary Club of Strathfield and Flemington Chamber of Commerce
7 June 2022	Council Requests and Services Application	Platform ready to be launched. Final testing ongoing

**Acquitted Council Resolutions**

Meeting Date	Subject	Comments
6 June 2023	2023 FIFA Women's World Cup Site	Included in 2023/2024 schedule of events and adopted in 2023/2024 Budget
6 June 2023	Mayoral Minute 19/23 - Damaging Increase in Emergency Services Levy Costs	Letters sent
6 June 2023	Poker Machines in Strathfield Town Centre - the Social and Economic Harm to Strathfield Residents	Letters sent
6 June 2023	Small Grant Application - Homebush West Public School P&C	Application approved by Council and processed
6 June 2023	Small Grant Application - Marian Court	Application approved by Council and processed
6 June 2023	Small Grant Application - Ms Victoria MacFarlane	Application approved by Council and processed
6 June 2023	Small Grant Report - Rotary Club of Strathfield	Application approved by Council and processed
2 May 2023	Draft Delivery Program 2022-2026, Draft Operational Plan 2023-2024, Draft Budget 2023-2024 and Draft Fees and Charges 2023-2024	Adopted at Extraordinary Council Meeting 27 June 2023
2 May 2023	Paving at Homebush Village Shops	Presented to Councillor Workshop 20 June 2023
2 May 2023	State and Federal Government Agencies Working Committee - Arthur Street and Homebush Bay Drive in Homebush West	Presented to Councillor Workshop 20 June 2023
2 May 2023	State and Federal Government Agencies Working Committee - Marlborough Road	Presented to Councillor Workshop 20 June 2023
2 May 2023	Draft Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy	Presented to Councillor Workshop 20 June 2023 and will be presented to Council Meeting 4 July 2023
2 May 2023	Strathfield Council Draft Submission to State Significant Development (SSD-39005127) – Alterations and Additions to Meriden Senior School – April 2023	Submissions provided to Department of Planning and Environment. No further action required

Meeting Date	Subject	Comments
2 May 2023	Small Grants Application - Priscilla Baydoun	Application successful and grant issued. Complete
2 May 2023	Community Garden Rear of Bates Street Community Centre	Complete
2 May 2023	Hudson Park Cafe - Expressions Of Interest	General Manager to progress
2 May 2023	Cooks River and Strathfield Golf Club Open Space Proposal	Letters sent to State Member and Federal Minister
4 April 2023	Pedestrian Crossings at Homebush West Public School	Presented to Councillor Workshop April 2023
4 April 2023	Mayoral Minute 15-23 - Maintenance on State Rail Infrastructure	Letter sent to Transport for NSW
4 April 2023	Library Strategy 2023-2028	Policy adopted
4 April 2023	Coronation Parade War Memorial	Letters sent and alternative options presented to Councillors
4 April 2023	Strathfield Local Government Election 2024 - Constitutional Referendum for Popularly Elected Mayor	Delegated to General Manager. Venues organized for information sessions
28 February 2023	Proposed Special Rate Variation and Rating Structure Changes	Approved by IPART and adopted by Council 27 June 2023
28 February 2023	Strathfield Connector Bus Review Report	Complete
7 February 2023	Hudson Park Driving Range Sign	Resolution superseded by resolution 151/23
7 June 2022	Garbage Collection Lead Times and Illegal Dumping	Council provide service in-house. Outcome of six month trial presented to Councillors

CCS5                      TENDERS ADVERTISED AND AWARDED JUNE 2023

AUTHOR:                Ravi Zala, Procurement and Tendering Officer

APPROVER:            Kristy Watts, Director Corporate and Community

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## RECOMMENDATION

That Council tenders advertised and awarded in June 2023 be received and noted.

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report details Council tenders advertised and awarded in June 2023.

## REPORT

### Tenders awarded in June 2023

Date Awarded	Tender Description	Successful Tenderer
23/06/2023	Strathfield Council Town Hall Works	Sullivans Constructions

### Tenders advertised in June 2023

Date Advertised	Date Closing/Closed	Tender Description	Status
07/06/2023	21/06/2023	Management of Strathfield Council's Affordable Housing Portfolio	Under evaluation

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

## ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

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PEI                      STRATHFIELD AFFORDABLE HOUSING TENANCY POLICY - POST EXHIBITION

AUTHOR:             Joseph Gillies, Senior Planner

APPROVER:         Clare Harley, Director Planning and Environment

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## RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Affordable Housing Tenancy Policy.

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Council on the outcomes of the public exhibition of the draft Affordable Housing Tenancy Policy (the Policy).

## REPORT

Council prepared the draft Policy to establish a governance framework for the management of Council owned affordable housing dwellings. Currently, Council does not have any affordable housing dwellings, however eight dwellings are to be dedicated at 15-17 Columbia Lane as part of a mixed-use development approved under DA2019.143.

The Draft Policy sets out the arrangements for tenancy management including:

- Tenants must live in Strathfield at the time of application and for the last three years; or
- Have lived/worked in Strathfield for at least five of the last ten years,
- Must be in housing need,
- May be households who have the potential to transition to home ownership in the medium term,
- May be social housing tenants who are seeking another choice in housing.

Council endorsed the public exhibition of the draft Policy at the 7 March Council Meeting and the policy was placed on public exhibition for 28 days beginning from Monday 13 March 2023. No submissions were received and no changes to the Policy are recommended.

Upon adoption by Council, the Policy will apply to tenancy management within Council owned affordable housing properties.

Council staff are currently seeking the services of a Community Housing Provider (CHP) to manage the eight units expected for dedication to Council at 15-17 Columbia Lane. The subject Policy is an essential requirement for management of these units and the CHP.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The management fees for a Community Housing Provider will be paid from affordable housing rental income.

An Affordable Housing Restricted Reserve will need to be established so that rental income will be held in a Restricted Reserve to be used to pay CHP management fees, ongoing maintenance and strata costs and

future acquisition of Affordable Housing. A Council resolution to establish the Reserve will be sought at a future Council meeting.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Affordable Housing Tenancy Policy

# ATTACHMENT 1



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E [council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au) | [www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au](http://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au) | ABN 52 719 940 263

# DRAFT

## DRAFT AFFORDABLE HOUSING TENANCY POLICY

March 2023

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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

The objective of this policy is to provide a framework for the management of Strathfield Council's (Council) Affordable Housing properties including establishing arrangements for the management of the properties by Community Housing Providers and criteria for the tenancing and allocation of the properties.

### 1.2 Definitions

#### **Affordable Housing**

Affordable Housing is housing that is appropriate for the needs of very low income households, low income households and moderate income households and priced so that these households are also able to meet other basic living costs, such as food, clothing, transport, medical care and education.

#### **Council**

Strathfield Council

#### **Community Housing Provider**

Community Housing Providers (CHP) are not-for profit organisations that build or manage housing for eligible people who are unable to access appropriate housing in the private market. The community housing sector is a regulated environment in NSW.

#### **Housing Manager**

Housing Manager is the person(s) employed or contracted by the appointed Community Housing Provider to manage Council's affordable housing dwellings on a day to day basis.

#### **Planning Agreement**

A Planning Agreement is a planning tool that allows planning authorities such as local councils and developers to work together to deliver innovative infrastructure outcomes alongside development proposals. A Planning Agreement could include provision of or monetary contributions for Affordable Housing.

### 1.3 Policy Statement

Strathfield Council is committed to facilitating diverse housing options for the Strathfield community in part through the provision of affordable housing for very low to moderate income households in suitable locations.

This policy is designed to give these households a greater level of housing certainty for a period of up to 3 years, allowing for improved private rental or homeownership prospects at the end of that period.

It is also the intention of the Policy to:

- To promote the future capacity of Council to subsidise allocation of a portion of Council's housing portfolio to households on low incomes.
- Making provision for the full cost of the Policy, including day to day property and planned cyclical maintenance, tenancy management, administration fees and major upgrading works to be covered by rent revenue collected by the Housing Manager; and

- Returning any surplus income generated by the Policy to Council's affordable housing account for future upgrading, new capital works, acquisition or leasing of additional housing stock or related purposes.

#### 1.4 Scope of Policy

This Policy applies to properties within Council's Affordable Housing portfolio. These properties are owned or leased by Council and managed on its behalf by a registered Community Housing Provider appointed by Council.

## 2 Need for Affordable Housing

### 2.1 What is Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is housing that is appropriate for the needs of a range of very low to moderate income households and priced so that these households are also able to meet other basic living costs, such as food, clothing, transport, medical care and education. As a rule of thumb, housing is usually considered affordable if it costs less than 30% of gross household income.

Very low, low and moderate income households are defined as:

- a very low income household earns less than 50% of the median household income for Sydney.
- a low income household earns between 50% and 80% of the median household income for Sydney.
- a moderate income household earns between 80% and 120% of the median household income for Sydney.

The median household income for the Sydney Statistical Division is as reported by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

### 2.2 Difference between Affordable and Social Housing

While affordable housing has many goals that are similar to social housing, there are also some key differences, including:

- Affordable Housing is open to a broader range of household incomes than social housing, so households can earn higher levels of income and still be eligible;
- Households do not have to be eligible for Social Housing to apply for affordable housing, though Social Housing eligible households may also be eligible for affordable housing;
- Allocations policy for Affordable Housing is different to Social Housing and may prioritise different target groups;
- Community Housing Providers may invite eligible households on the NSW Housing Register to apply for Affordable Housing properties. However, this does not constitute an offer of Social Housing and the household can refuse this invitation, or an offer of an Affordable Housing tenancy, without penalty to their status on the Register;
- If a household on the NSW Housing Register accepts a tenancy in an Affordable Housing property, they will be regarded as suitably housed and removed from the Register; and
- Rents for Affordable Housing are calculated differently to Social Housing and there are different tenancy arrangements.

### 2.3 Why Affordable Housing is Needed

Affordable housing has a vital role to play in developing sustainable and diverse local communities. Providing housing that is affordable and appropriate to the needs of the local community will also ensure a strong and stable labour force and sustain local businesses.

Rental stress and mortgage stress are apt measurements of the need for affordable housing. Strathfield Local Government Area experiences above average mortgage and rental stress when compared to the wider Sydney Metropolitan area and this is set to increase in the future.

Many households on moderate or lower incomes cannot afford to rent in Strathfield without experiencing housing stress or being forced into sub-standard housing in order to secure affordable rents. The consequences of poor rental and home purchase affordability are substantial with obvious examples being:

- Residents are forced into sub-standard housing.
- Local residents with established ties being driven further away from the area in search of more affordable housing. This is known to undermine social bonds and diversity in the local community.
- The viability of local services and business is undermined by community sector and lower paid employees having to relocate further afield in order to find more affordable housing options.

Strathfield Council is progressing various measures to address the need for affordable housing in the Local Government Area and sustain a culturally vibrant and socio-economically diverse local community.

### 2.4 How Council Acquires its Rental Dwelling Stock

Council obtains its affordable housing rental stock via the following means:

- Developers who have entered into a Planning Agreement with Council. A portion of the development is set aside for affordable housing and transferred to Council's ownership,
- As part of a Planning Agreement, Council may also receive cash contributions used for the purpose of acquiring affordable housing elsewhere,
- As a result of an Affordable Housing Contributions Scheme,
- A condition of consent may stipulate that units are to be transferred to Council following construction; and
- Acquisition of properties with surplus income generated from rent from other affordable housing stock.

## 3 Tenancy Management

### 3.1 Eligibility Criteria

A successful applicant needs to provide documentary evidence as per the Eligibility Criteria under Part 7 of the NSW Affordable Housing Ministerial Guidelines 2022-23.

In addition, applicants must have lived in the Strathfield Local Government Area at the time of application and have lived in the LGA for at least three years prior, or if living in another LGA at the

time of application that they have lived and/or worked in the Strathfield LGA for at least five years in the previous ten years.

Applicants must be in housing need and unable to resolve this need in the medium to long term without assistance. Factors demonstrating need may include currently living in unaffordable and/or unsuitable housing or needing to relocate for employment or family reasons.

This Policy recognises that, on occasion, additional eligibility criteria may be applied to some affordable housing properties. Any additional eligibility criteria must be included in the eligibility policy, including a brief statement of why there is a variation in criteria for some properties.

### 3.2 Income

The maximum income limits for eligibility into properties covered by this Policy are set out in Tables 2 and 3 of the Appendix of the NSW Affordable Housing Ministerial Guidelines. There is no minimum income eligibility limit.

Assessable income is defined in the NSW Communities and Justice Community Housing Rent Policy. Income limits are reviewed annually to reflect consumer price index (CPI) adjustments to social security pensions and benefits or movements in average weekly earnings as applicable and updates are published in the Ministerial Guidelines annually.

### 3.3 Allocations

Vacancies in the Strathfield Council Affordable Housing stock are advertised by the Housing Manager. Advertisements clearly stipulate eligibility criteria including tenure. Applicants who fulfil the criteria become eligible applicants. Eligible applicants, whose household size matches the property size available, are short listed. If necessary, a ballot is drawn from these short-listed applicants.

Eligible applicants are advised of vacancies in the Program that are appropriate to their needs for a period of twelve (12) months following their original application.

Affordable Housing is allocated to a mix of very low, low and moderate income households. However, to ensure a broad tenancy mix, as a guide a target of up to one third of the portfolio is allocated to very low and low income households. To assist in allocating across income bands, the maximum income limits defining each band for different household configurations are set out in Table 3 of the Appendix of the NSW Affordable Housing Ministerial Guidelines.

On occasion, Council may target allocations to a specific population group such as in a housing development for aged households. Where possible, Council will try to achieve the target mix of income bands when allocating within this population. When making an allocation, Council's Community Housing Provider will aim to balance the needs of households in housing stress with the requirement to generate sufficient income to meet finance and other operating costs.

Preference is to be given to the following groups:

- households in housing stress whose housing needs cannot be met in the short to medium term; or
- households with the potential to transition into home ownership in the medium term; or

- social housing applicants and tenants, including those exiting social housing, seeking another choice of housing which may be more suited to their needs.

## 4 Setting and Reviewing Rent

Affordable Housing is let at a discount to market rent which takes account of household income and capacity to pay. The rent for each property does not exceed more than 75% of Strathfield LGA's weekly median rents for a comparable property at the time of commencement. This means that if the median rent is estimated at \$500 per week, then the tenant will pay \$375 per week.

An additional rent reduction of up to 10% from the median is provided to meet the target for allocation of up to one third of the portfolio to very low and low income households in the program.

Regardless of approach, rent setting aims to ensure affordable outcomes. Households on very low and low incomes should not pay more than 25-30% of their gross income in rent.

Greater flexibility in pricing may be applied to moderate income households but, in all cases, the relevant circumstances of the applicant household and their capacity to pay will be guiding principles. Rent payment is required fortnightly in advance.

Where a tenant falls into arrears with their rent payments, they are given a reminder and an opportunity to negotiate with the housing manager a program of repayments. A bond equivalent to two (2) weeks rent is payable by the tenant upon lease commencement or otherwise as agreed between the tenant and the Housing Manager.

Rents may be reviewed annually and adjusted in line with market trends, subject to rent levels meeting affordability requirements set out above. The process for implementing rent increases and all other leasing arrangements will be undertaken by the Housing Manager in accordance with the NSW Residential Tenancies Act 2010.

## 5 Ongoing Eligibility

### 5.1 Tenure

Tenants may participate in the Program for up to three (3) years and consideration may be given for an extension of up to a further two (2) years on the Program, providing a reasonable level of housing certainty, as well as an opportunity to enhance their capacity to enter the private rental market or home ownership by the end of the Program.

Leases will be renewed on a twelve (12) monthly basis. This will provide an opportunity for the Housing Manager to assess annually ongoing eligibility for tenants to remain in the Program.

The Housing Manager will be required to clearly communicate the time period and the objectives to prospective tenants before a Tenancy Agreement is signed.

### 5.2 Eligibility Assessments

To remain in Affordable Housing, households must continue to meet all criteria outlined in section 3 of this Policy, except income. That is, households still need to meet general eligibility criteria, demonstrate an ongoing housing need and not have assets which could reasonably be expected to meet their housing need.

The exception is income, where existing tenants are permitted to earn up to 25% above the maximum eligibility income for moderate income before they become ineligible.

Ongoing eligibility maximum income limits for tenants of affordable housing are updated annually and detailed in Tables included in the Appendix to the NSW Affordable Housing Ministerial Guidelines.

## 6 Rights and Obligations

The rights and obligations of Council and the tenants in the Strathfield Affordable Housing Program will be consistent with the NSW Residential Tenancies Act 2010.

Council or the Housing Manager will conduct an inspection of the premises annually.

## 7 Asset Management

The Affordable Housing dwellings owned by Council will be classified as 'operational' for the purposes of allowing Council to conduct ongoing consolidation of its affordable housing stock.

The Affordable Housing portfolio will be reviewed every five (5) years to determine whether dwellings should be disposed of and replaced or retained and further funds provided for their maintenance or renewal.

The review will consider:

- Timeframes for asset renewals such as painting and replacing floor coverings and other planned maintenance
- Tenancy terms
- Changes in market trends and values.

Consideration will also be given to the results of the Program to date and the type and size of dwellings considered most suitable to deliver the objectives of the program. Towards the end of the five (5) year leasing period or when a unit becomes vacant, Council and the Housing Manager will undertake a condition assessment and make any necessary internal repairs, prior to re-letting.

This strategy aims to minimise Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal obligations and costs as the dwellings age.

Retained earnings from the operation of the Strathfield Affordable Housing Program will be reinvested in adding to affordable housing supply, asset maintenance and management. Retained earnings are funds that are in excess of all operational costs and provision for contingent risks.

## 8 Document Control

### 8.1 Review

This Policy is reviewed at least every four years and when relevant legislation and guidelines change or if Council adopts an Affordable Housing Strategy or Affordable Housing Contributions Plan that may impact on this policy.

Reviews are to consider changes to key principles and housing markets in the affordable housing space. Minor editorial amendments to this Policy and those resulting from changes to legislation and

Commonwealth and State Government guidelines, may be approved by the Director Planning & Environment.

#### 8.2 Related Document

- NSW Affordable Housing Ministerial Guidelines
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021
- Residential Tenancies Act (NSW) 2010
- Community Housing Rent Policy – NSW Government

#### 8.3 Version History

This document is the initial adopted/approved version of the Policy.

Version	Release Date	Author	Reason for Change
1	XX/XX/2023	Senior Planner	New document

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EO1                      PAVING AT HOMEBUSH VILLAGE SHOPS  
AUTHOR:              Cathy Edwards-Davis, Director Engineering & Operations  
APPROVER:          Michael Mamo, General Manager

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## RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and noted.

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

At the Council Meeting on 2 May 2023, it was resolved:

*"120/23*

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

*Moved by:*

*That a report be prepared for Council in relation to the paving at Homebush Village Shops.*

*The report include, but not limited to:*

- *Cost of the recent paving and associated works*
- *Procurement Process that was followed*
- *The costs associated with any works completed to improve the performance of the pavers after the installation*
- *Asset information about the future maintenance and life cycle of these works."*

## REPORT

On the 27 January 2021, Council advertised a Tender for the Supply and Lay [of] Segmental Paving at Rochester Street, Homebush (Tender 01/2021). This was a public open Tender, which was advertised on the Tenderlink website and Council's website. The Tender was open for a period of 29 days and closed on 25 February 2021.

The Tender was awarded by the then General Manager on the 9 March 2021. The *Local Government Act 1993* and Regulations outline a strict procurement process for Tenders. A copy of the Tender Panel Report, which outlines the procurement process in greater detail, is contained within the Confidential attachments. The cost of the works was \$652,217.50.

### Paver Installation

The materials chosen were Austral London Bowral Blue and Silver Sand pavers. It is noted that staff resolved not to seal the pavers once laid.

It is understood that there was no testing of the pavers for slip resistance at the conclusion of works.

### Paver Maintenance

In late 2022, Council staff undertook maintenance involving high pressure cleaning and shot blasting in a trial area.

In the trial areas subject to shot blasting, Council engaged Safe Environments to undertake a slip resistance assessment of the pavers. The testing was undertaken with reference to AS 4586-2013 Slip resistance classification of new pedestrian surface materials and AS 4663-2013 Slip resistance measurement for existing pedestrian surfaces. The testing demonstrated that the pavers met the criteria for P5 pavements, which is the highest slip resistance category.

The report does note the friction/ slip resistance “may be unexpectedly high on some surfaces because, after installation, the presence of contaminants and surfaces wear and/ or polishing can significantly alter some results.”

Current Council staff are reviewing how the high pressure cleaning maintenance service is undertaken in the future. It is intended to undertake shot blasting and to seal all areas of paving in July/ August 2023.

### **Procurement Process**

Current Council staff are in the process of reviewing Council's procurement processes and contract management framework. Staff intend to make the following improvements:

- Update and review Council's Procurement Policy
- Train staff on the procurement legislation and Council's Procurement Policy
- A new Strategic Fleet and Procurement Coordinator will be appointed to provide improved procurement oversight, including sitting on all Tender Panels
- A new Contract Management Framework will be developed, including a template Tender Panel Evaluation Report and Conflict of Interest Declaration Form.
- For larger projects, Council will establish a Tender Review Committee and/ or appoint an external Project Probity Advisor
- Council has undertaken a review of the staff structure and developed a new team of capital works project managers, to ensure that the staff in this team have specialised skills, including strong procurement and contract management understanding.
- Regular Project Control Group meetings are held, including a review of project budgets, procurement, variations and project milestones.

### **Asset Renewal Costs**

The pavers at this location have a useful life of approximately 20 years. The straight-line depreciation for this asset is approximately \$33,000 per annum.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Tender Panel Evaluation Report - Supply and Lay Segmental Paving at Rochester Street, Homebush (Tender 01/2021) - ***CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT - for the information of Councillors - Circulated in Attachments document***
2. Tender Evaluation Process - ***CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT - for the information of Councillors - Circulated in Attachments document***

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EO2 HUDSON PARK GOLF DRIVING RANGE - EXTENSION OF HOURS

AUTHOR: Cathy Edwards-Davis, Director Engineering & Operations

APPROVER: Michael Mamo, General Manager

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## RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council undertake a six month trial extension of the hours of operation at Hudson Park golf driving range to include the hours of Monday to Sunday 6.30am to 1am.
2. That staff undertake a review of the trial and report back to Council after the six months.

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Council on the proposal to extend the hours of operation at the Hudson Park golf driving range.

## REPORT

At the Council Meeting on the 1 November 2022, it was resolved:

*"223/22*

*RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Pensabene)*

*That Strathfield Council:*

- *Extend the hours of operation of the Hudson Park Driving Range*
- *That any development requirements be lodged in the earliest possible time frame and consultation be conducted as per the development requirements*
- *That the approved trading hours be changed to Monday to Sunday 6.30am - 1am*
- *That any permanent adjustment to actual operating hours be brought to Council*
- *That a report be brought to a future council meeting reviewing the efficiency of the current operating system with a view to increase turnover, increase self-serve capacity, reduce hogging of bays and increase other revenue streams."*

Part 5 Environmental assessment of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) deals with activities that do not require consent under Part 4 of the EP&A Act, and where an approval is required from a determining authority. These are often infrastructure proposals approved by local councils or State agencies. Part 5 provides for the environmental impact assessment (EIA) obligations of determining authorities to carry out, or approval of others carrying out activities.

Although development consent under Part 4 may not be required, the environmental impacts of the proposal still need to be assessed. Environment is defined in s.4 of the EP&A Act as including 'all aspects of the surroundings of humans, whether affecting any human as an individual or in his or her social groupings'.

When deciding whether to grant approval for an activity under Part 5, a determining authority is obliged under section 111 of the EP&A Act to examine all matters that affect or are likely to affect the environment because of the activity. The authority must take these into account 'to the fullest extent possible'.

Section 112 of the EP&A Act also requires the determining authority to determine whether an activity is likely to significantly affect the environment (including critical habitat) or threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats. If so, further EIA will be required to be prepared and considered by the determining authority.

Council engaged Land Eco Consulting to undertake a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the proposed extension of hours for the Hudson Park golf driving range. The consultant looked at dozens of potential impacts, including physical and chemical, community, natural resources, cultural heritage, biological, and matters of national environmental significance.

The consultant concluded from the REF the following:

The driving range, in its current state of operation affects the surrounding environment and community. Noise, light, air and dust pollution are all produced as a result of operation, thoroughfare and patronage. Existing light and noise pollution is likely to have an effect on nocturnal marsupial, bird and mammal species.

The two-hour extension of business hours at the driving range will result in a two-hour increase of noise, light, traffic and air pollution. When current operational hours and associated impacts are considered, the cumulative impact of the extension of hours is unlikely to cause a significant increase in the aforementioned impacts such that the environment or threatened species will experience cumulative adverse effects.

### **Community Engagement**

Land Eco Consulting sent 800 surveys out to surrounding residents by way of a letter. The consultant concluded from the community engagement process:

Overall risk of adverse environmental impact from the proposal is low.

Only eight (8) responses were returned from 800 surveys delivered to the local community. This is a 1% response rate and is not considered significant or representative of the overall community.

When current operation, environmental factors and the low community response rate are considered, the extension of hours is of minimal impact. The council may choose to proceed with their proposal based on data from this report and the REF.

### **Determination**

Strathfield Council as the determining authority has examined and taken into account to the fullest extent possible all matters affecting or likely to affect the environment and the factors specified in clause 228 (1) and (2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 relating to the Hudson Park Driving

Range – Extension of Operational Hours and has decided the Activity can proceed. This determination was made by the Director Engineering & Operations on 1 June 2023 under delegation.

### **Resources**

It should be noted that at times it can be challenging to recruit sufficient staff to work at the golf driving range. Further, some anti-social behaviour has been experienced at the golf driving range later in the evenings. Running the facility for extended hours may exacerbate these challenges. It is recommended that this be monitored and considered as part of the trial period and review.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The golf driving range operates at a profit. Extended hours of operation are likely to increase revenue to Council.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

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EO3                      SPORTING GROUNDS ALLOCATION POLICY - PROPOSED FINAL POLICY

AUTHOR:              Cathy Edwards-Davis, Director Engineering & Operations

APPROVER:          Michael Mamo, General Manager

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**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy be adopted.
2. That the Policy be applied from the Summer 2023/24 season and onwards.
3. That the fees and charges for hire of the sporting grounds be reviewed for financial year 2024/25, particularly in relation to hire by commercial organisations.

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

At the Council Meeting on 2 May 2023, it was resolved:

*"125/23*

*RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Hall)*

1. *That Council place the draft Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy on public exhibition.*
2. *That Council advise all Clubs who currently use sporting grounds that the draft Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy is on public exhibition and hold a meeting with the Clubs to present the draft Policy.*
3. *That the scoring for Item B on page 286 for the community based not for profit category be changed from 5 to 10."*

This report is to update the Council on the submissions received in response to the community engagement on the draft Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy and to recommend the proposed Final Policy for adoption.

**REPORT**

The proposed final Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy is attached to the report. The key objectives of the Policy are as follows:

- To provide a transparent, equitable and consistent methodology for the seasonal allocation of sporting grounds and facilities to sports clubs, sports associations, schools and tertiary education providers within the Strathfield Council area.
- To provide a diverse range of opportunities for participation in sport, recreation and physical activity for Strathfield residents.
- To provide access to sporting grounds and facilities which contribute to a healthy Strathfield and promote participation in active sport, physical activity and social connectedness.

- To ensure the opportunity for participation of a broad mix of groups, including participation of girls; women; people from lower socio-economic backgrounds; people with disabilities; seniors and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The proposed final Policy outlines a selection process for the allocation of sporting grounds, particularly where there may be competing demands for the use of the grounds. The hierarchy of use for the sporting grounds is proposed as follows:

1. Community based sporting club training
2. Community based sporting club games
3. Council events and events formally endorsed by Council
4. Strathfield public schools competitive sporting programs and physical education classes
5. Community based organisations
6. Tertiary education providers
7. Strathfield private schools competitive sporting programs and physical education classes
8. Commercial organisations

Where there are conflicting requests for sporting grounds, if they cannot be resolved by Council staff, the following weighted criteria are proposed to be utilised to allocate the grounds:

	Criteria	Principles
A	Historical Use of Facilities	Council will recognise applicants with a strong history at particular facilities. Council recognises that active sporting grounds are in high demand and priority access will be given to Strathfield residents. Priority will be given to clubs which have the majority of members based in the Strathfield.
B	Community Based	Sporting grounds are a limited resource and must be used to provide maximum overall benefit to the community. Council recognises that sporting clubs provide community building benefits.
C	Membership/ Team Numbers	Sporting clubs and associations are instrumental in increasing positive social, cultural and economic benefits and developing community leaders. Participation levels are therefore a factor in the level of benefit to the community. If an applicant has declining membership/ teams, their hours of access may be decreased, they be relocated to an alternative venue more suited to the applicant's level of usage or a secondary allocation may be given to another applicant to maximise use;
D	Tenancy Record	Council recognises the social and cultural important of an applicant having a good relationship with Council, other park users and the local community. A history of compliance with all terms and conditions of hire is essential. Consideration will be given to factors such as only utilising the grounds during allocated hours, maintaining allocated sporting grounds and facilities in a clean and tidy manner, and no substantiated complaints from nearby residents.
E	Access & Equity	Ensuring the opportunity for participation of a broad mix of groups. Council will allocate ground to support sporting applicants which have programs to increase

Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy - Proposed Final Policy (Cont'd)

	Criteria	Principles
		participation of girls; women; people from lower socio-economic backgrounds; people with disabilities; seniors and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
F	Support for Access & Equity	Demonstrated long term support by applicants for increased participation of girls; women; people from lower socio economic backgrounds; people with disabilities; seniors and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
G	Leadership Diversity	Council will support sporting applicants which demonstrate increasing numbers of women; people from lower socio-economic backgrounds; people with disabilities; seniors and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in positions coaching, leading, instructing, decision makers, officials and administrators at all levels.
H	Diversity of Sports	Council will allocate grounds to encourage a diversity of sporting codes. Where a new and emerging sport can demonstrate that they have a plan for the ongoing success of the applicant for a number of years, Council will endeavour to accommodate their needs. For emerging applicants, the allocation of sporting grounds will not be based solely on applicant membership numbers.
I	Traditional Seasonal Allocations	Sporting grounds are a limited resource. Preference will be given to the traditional seasonal allocations.
J	History of Financial Responsibility	Sporting grounds are a limited resource and the costs are subsidised by Council. Priority will be given to fiscally responsible applicants.
K	Applicant Development	Ensuring applicants have good policies and practices in place including risk management, child protection and anti-bullying to ensure a safe environment for all participants. Facility management, succession planning and organisation management structure documentation is also well regarded.
L	Organisation Governance	Council supports applicants that maintain good governance and create an inclusive, viable and sustainable organisation. This includes sound financial management, policies and practices in place that cover risk management, complaints handling, participant safety and address discrimination, violence and racism to ensure a safe environment for all participants. Hirers must be members of Good Sports. Also well regarded is a Hirers approach to facility management, succession planning and having a Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO).
M	Child Safe Clubs	SSOs provide policy, framework and resources to create and maintain clubs that safeguard children and young people. Council expects that applicants are aware, have adopted and maintain Child Safe Standards. Child Safety applies to senior clubs who have minors play in their teams and competition.

	Criteria	Principles
N	Traffic and Parking Impacts	Traffic and parking impacts must be minimised for the amenity of the surrounding community.

The Policy also outlines an appeal process should an applicant still be unhappy with their proposed allocation.

### **Community Engagement**

The draft Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy was placed on public exhibition from 5 May 2023 to 2 June 2023. An information session was held on the 22 May 2023, which all clubs and organisations that utilise the grounds were invited to attend. 19 people attended this meeting.

Feedback was provided at the information session and Council received eight written submissions in response to the public exhibition of the draft Policy. The key comments and questions raised in the submissions are as follows:

Club/ Organisation Comment	Council staff response
What is the definition of community (with reference to community based sporting clubs)?	Community based sporting clubs are not-for-profit clubs. They are able to demonstrate strong ties to the local community e.g., ties to other community groups, local schools, local charities, etc.
Do we need a Monday sporting ground rest period?	Council needs to manage the number of hours that the sporting grounds are used each week, to ensure the grounds are safe and can be maintained through each season.
In the Hierarchy of Use where do football academies fall?	Coaching clinics for local community based sporting clubs will generally be accommodated where possible. Coaching clinics for groups based outside of the Strathfield area will generally not be supported.  It should be noted that all sporting grounds will be rested (not used) for a minimum of two weeks between the seasons. Generally, this will be in the last week of March and the first week of September. The Summer Season must finish by the third Sunday in March. This may change annually if longer rest periods are required for maintenance needs.
In Tenure & Capital Contributions (Section 4.11), consideration should be	Agree. This has been added to the proposed final Policy.

Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy - Proposed Final Policy (Cont'd)

Club/ Organisation Comment	Council staff response
given to community based contributions that the clubs/ organisations can provide (e.g., Nutrition seminars).	
In relation to new or upgraded sporting grounds (section 4.12), does the EOI apply to all hours on the sporting ground (through the week) or just additional hours?	<p>The draft Policy states:</p> <p>Council may take possession of new sporting grounds. Council may also upgrade sporting grounds such that the hours of use for those grounds is substantially increased (e.g., through new floodlighting or a synthetic surface).</p> <p>As outlined above, the allocation of sporting grounds will recognise the historical usage of the grounds. This historical usage does not extend to the new additional hours of use.</p> <p>Other than where a contribution has been made in accordance with Section 4.11 Tenure &amp; Capital Contributions, should Council obtain new or upgraded sporting grounds (where the hours of use is substantially increased), access to these new facilities will be via a public, open, advertised Expression of Interest. The Expression of Interest will be advertised in accordance with the Community Engagement Strategy. The criteria for allocation of the new or upgraded sporting grounds will be outlined in the advertisement.</p> <p>It is agreed that this section is ambiguous. The proposed final Policy has been amended to clarify that it is the entire allocation which is subject to the EOI.</p>
Do the hours of use apply to synthetic turf sporting grounds?	<p>It is recommended that the Hours of Use in the Policy be retained for natural turf fields. This is to ensure amenity for nearby residents and also to manage the number of hours that the sporting grounds are used each week, to ensure the grounds are safe and can be maintained through each season.</p> <p>In response to the comments received during the engagement process, it is recommended to extend the hours of use for Mason Park synthetic fields to 11pm weeknights and 8pm Saturday and Sunday. Mason Park has limited residential neighbours. This has been changed in the proposed final Policy.</p>
National Premiers League (NPL) football have substantially more	NPL is the second tier of football, below A-League. They are currently men only groups. The training groups can be community

Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy - Proposed Final Policy (Cont'd)

Club/ Organisation Comment	Council staff response
funding available and they should not be grouped in with the community clubs. There are increasingly “for profit” operators entering this market.	<p>based or commercial in nature. It is recommended they be considered in accordance with the Hierarchy of Users.</p> <p>It is noted that sporting grounds are a limited resource. Preference will be given to requests that fall within the traditional seasonal allocations (i.e. They do not cross between Winter Season Allocations and Summer Season Allocations and vice versa).</p>
Request to extend the hours of operation to 7.30pm on Saturdays and 6.30pm on Sundays.	<p>Council must balance the needs of the sporting community with residents who live near the sporting grounds and their amenity.</p> <p>Further, Council needs to manage the number of hours that the sporting grounds are used each week, to ensure the grounds are safe and can be maintained through each season.</p> <p>It is proposed to retain the hours of operation for the natural turf fields as outlined in the draft Policy, that is, 6pm on Saturdays and 5pm on Sundays.</p>
Concern with the sentence, “any storage will be approved on a seasonal basis. Council staff may direct hirers to remove any items stored at the end of the season”.	Storage for the various sporting clubs is an ongoing challenging issue. The various clubs tend to want more storage than Council generally has available. Further, over time the clubs tend to accumulate more equipment. Council staff must be able to direct the clubs to clear a storage area, if the space is needed for other clubs or other purposes.
Concern that nets <b>must</b> be removed at the end of training and games as per Australian Standards AS4866.1-2007.”	Nets can be misused by children and used as a ‘climbing frame’. Nets must be removed at all sporting grounds, including synthetics, to ensure safety.
<p>There is no explicit rationale for the “Hierarchy of Use” order. Obviously every group would prefer to be at the top of this list.</p> <p>Uncomfortable feeling that bias against independent schools based on misguided and out-dated assumptions about privilege and wealth.</p> <p>Recommend that the rationale be explicitly documented.</p>	<p>It is agreed that every group would prefer to be at the top of this list. At times, the demand for sporting grounds exceeds the number available and a prioritised list does have to be in place to guide Council staff on how to make future allocations.</p> <p>At the Council meeting on 4 April 2023, it was resolved (in part):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Council develop a Sports Fields Policy that gives consideration to local clubs as a priority.</li> </ol> <p>The Hierarchy of Use has been presented to the Councillors and it has been included in the draft Policy, which was placed on public exhibition.</p> <p>Council may resolve to change the Hierarchy, as they deem</p>

**Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy - Proposed Final Policy (Cont'd)**

Club/ Organisation Comment	Council staff response
	appropriate.
Hundreds of students who attend the private school are local Strathfield residents.	This is noted. Staff when reviewing future applications, will take this into account, in accordance with the weighted criteria.
The Policy should acknowledge previous history and capital contributions in the past.	<p>The proposed final Policy includes “Historical Use of Facilities” as one of the weighted criteria.</p> <p>Past capital contributions will not generally be considered as these would have previously been acknowledged by Council through extended tenure arrangements.</p>
<p>Clubs with existing Licences should be offered the first right of refusal to continue a Licence at the same ground.</p> <p>Seasonal allocations do not allow any degree of certainty.</p>	<p>Long term leases and licences will be considered in accordance with the section 4.11 Tenure &amp; Capital Contributions within the proposed final Policy.</p> <p>The proposed final Policy states, “Council accepts that hirers require reasonable assurance that they will continue to be allocated seasonal use of sporting grounds to plan and manage their strategic plans effectively. Where a hirer continues to demonstrate membership numbers, Council will not unreasonably refuse to provide an allocation, consistent with the previous season’s allocations...”</p>
Request to extend the school allocation hours to 5pm.	<p>School Allocations allows schools to use a Council sporting ground and/or facility during the day (between 7am – 3pm during school terms) at agreed times throughout the Summer or Winter season.</p> <p>Schools are offered a discounted rate for use of the grounds. They can use the grounds after 3pm. However, they will need to pay full fees.</p>
This is not a Strathfield Policy. It is similar to the Inner West Policy.	In drafting the Strathfield Policy, Strathfield Council staff have had the benefit of using the experience gained by the Inner West Council.
<p>The Policy has been written without consideration of all stakeholders.</p> <p>The Policy has not considered what Strathfield residents want and think.</p>	<p>This is a draft Policy, which was placed on public exhibition from 5 May 2023 to 2 June 2023. The draft Policy was promoted by direct email to Clubs and sporting organisations. It was also placed on Council’s website and promoted through Council’s social media.</p> <p>All stakeholders, including Strathfield residents, were invited to comment on the draft Policy.</p>

**Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy - Proposed Final Policy (Cont'd)**

<b>Club/ Organisation Comment</b>	<b>Council staff response</b>
	The proposed final Policy has been revised, taking into consideration comments made by stakeholders.
The Policy is biased against current users of grounds, particularly commercial organisations.	At times, the demand for sporting grounds exceeds the number available and a prioritised list, "Hierarchy of Users" does have to be in place to guide Council staff on how to make future allocations.
National Premier League teams will take the grounds from commercial organisations.	It is recommended that NPL be considered in accordance with the Hierarchy of Users.
Taking out all Mondays will make Strathfield residents unhealthier.	Council needs to manage the number of hours that the sporting grounds are used each week, to ensure the grounds are safe and can be maintained through each season.
If an organisation is requesting an increase in allocations, they should outline detailed reasons why.	Section 4.6 Selection Process of the proposed final Policy outlines the process for allocations. In summary, Council will attempt to accommodate all requests. Should Council receive competing requests, the Weighted Criteria will be utilised. This requires the clubs and sporting organisations to provide additional information to Council staff to consider when reviewing their competing requests.
The appeal process is unfair and unjust against commercials.	Council has clearly indicated that it wishes to give preference to local clubs.  At the Council meeting on 4 April 2023, it was resolved (in part): 1. That Council develop a Sports Fields Policy that gives consideration to local clubs as a priority.
Historical use of facilities should not be an assessment criteria.	Council accepts that hirers require reasonable assurance that they will continue to be allocated seasonal use of sporting grounds to plan and manage their strategic plans effectively. Where a hirer continues to demonstrate membership numbers, Council will not unreasonably refuse to provide an allocation, consistent with the previous season's allocations.
Community based in the weighted criteria needs to include commercials that are community based.	The Hierarchy of Users has commercial organisations prioritised last.
The break between seasons should be based on condition not on a blanket	Council needs to manage and maintain its sporting grounds, to ensure the grounds are safe and can be maintained through each

**Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy - Proposed Final Policy (Cont'd)**

<b>Club/ Organisation Comment</b>	<b>Council staff response</b>
block out.	season.
The allocation and appeal period should be extended (there is not sufficient time).	Council has limited staff resources to manage sporting ground allocations. Council will work positively with the clubs and sporting organisations. However, staff resources also have to be managed.
Council should provide an alternative ground or casual allocation if booking is cancelled due to rain.	If Council has an alternative sporting ground available, staff will give consideration to any allocation requests.
Council should provide a refund if a booking is cancelled due to rain.	Due to the administrative burden, Council will not provide refunds for wet weather and if pre-booked allocations are no longer required.
Stakeholders should be given a right of appeal to Councillors for the final decision.	The proposed final Policy currently states, "Elected Councillors will play no part in the allocations or appeal process."
Request clarification as to whether 4.11 Tenure & Capital Contributions applies to schools as well as sporting clubs and associations.	Yes, the intent is that this section could apply to any Hirer of the grounds. This has been updated in the proposed final Policy. The Policy lists the criteria which will be considered when determining whether to accept a capital contribution.
Request clarification as to whether School Allocations apply to weekdays only.	Yes, school allocations are weekdays during school terms. This has been updated in the proposed final Policy.
Clarification if the season changeover period can be different from ground to ground.	<p>Section 4.9 Sporting Ground Rest Periods outlines the time required for maintenance as follows:</p> <p>All sporting grounds will be rested (not used) for a minimum of two weeks between the seasons. Generally, this will be in the last week of March and the first week of September. The Summer Season must finish by the third Sunday in March. This may change annually if longer rest periods are required for maintenance needs.</p> <p>Council will advise Hirers at the start of the season, the week(s) that the sporting grounds will be not used.</p>
Clarification of how Council will advertise the commencement of the allocation process (Section 4.7).	Council staff will email all previous Hirers. Any new potential Applicants may reach out directly to staff.

The proposed final Policy, attached, has been updated to reflect the feedback and comments received above.

### **Gambling**

There has recently been press stories that some of the online gambling apps allow people to gamble on amateur and lower grade suburban games. Data scouts now attend amateur games. The recent articles raised concerns about the opportunity for match fixing with limited oversight of amateur games.

Council has recently resolved not to support other forms of gambling.

It is therefore recommended that a new section be added to the policy which states that clubs and sporting organisation will not be given allocations where they are actively permitting gambling to occur on their games and/ or if their association or sports governing body is earning income from this gambling.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Council charges for the use of its sporting grounds. The fees and charges are outlined on Council's website.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Final Proposed Sporting Ground Allocations Policy


# ATTACHMENT 1

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

# SPORTING GROUNDS ALLOCATION POLICY

XX 2023



	<b>Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy</b>		
<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	Manager Engineering		
<b>DATE ADOPTED</b>	xxx	<b>MINUTE</b>	
<b>REVISED</b>	NA	<b>REVIEW</b>	xxx
<b>CM10 No</b>	xxx		
<b>ASSOCIATED POLICIES</b>	Park Plans of Management		
<b>ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION</b>	Local Government Act 1993 Local Government (General) Regulation 2021		

## 1. Introduction

This Policy will contribute to a healthier Strathfield by encouraging active sports participation. The Policy establishes eligibility and the selection criteria for the seasonal allocation of sporting grounds.

### 1.1. Title and Commencement

This policy is called the Sporting Grounds Allocations Policy. This policy was adopted by Council resolution (x/23) after public exhibition from 5 May 2023 to 2 June 2023.

### 1.2. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to contribute to a healthier Strathfield by encouraging active sports participation. The Policy provides a transparent, equitable and consistent methodology for the seasonal allocation of sporting grounds and facilities

### 1.3. Coverage

The Policy applies to all sporting grounds within the Strathfield Local Government Area including natural turf and synthetic turf fields. This Policy applies to all hard surface courts which are booked.

This policy will apply to any new sporting grounds within the Strathfield. See 4.12 New or Upgraded Sporting Grounds for further information.

This policy applies to all sporting clubs, state sporting associations, schools, tertiary education providers and other organisations seeking an allocation to use Council sporting grounds and facilities.

#### 1.4. Limitations

This policy does not apply to those sporting grounds which are the subject of an existing long term (greater than one season) lease or licence or Deed of Agreement, whilst these existing instruments are in operation.

#### New Leases, Licences and Deeds of Agreements

Council is able to exclude the operation of this Policy for a specified sporting ground by entering into a new lease, licence or Deed of Agreement with a Hirer.

#### Events in Parks Policy and Guidelines

This policy does not apply to special and one-off events.

### 2. Objectives of the policy

The objectives of this Policy are as follows:

- To provide a transparent, equitable and consistent methodology for the seasonal allocation of sporting grounds and facilities to sports clubs, sports associations, schools and tertiary education providers within the Strathfield Council area.
- To provide a diverse range of opportunities for participation in sport, recreation and physical activity for Strathfield residents.
- To provide access to sporting grounds and facilities which contribute to a healthy Strathfield and promote participation in active sport, physical activity and social connectedness.
- To ensure the opportunity for participation of a broad mix of groups, including participation of girls; women; people from lower socio-economic backgrounds; people with disabilities; seniors and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- To ensure that Council managed sporting grounds and facilities are occupied by inclusive, viable and sustainable sporting clubs, state sporting associations, schools, tertiary education providers and other organisations.
- To ensure that access to sporting grounds by all users has regard to the sustainability and maintenance requirements associated with good sporting ground management.

### 3. Definitions

#### Allocation

For the purposes of this Policy, the term 'allocation' is an agreement between Council and a Hirer to use a Council sporting ground and/or facility. It is a short-term licence (with a term of less than one year). An allocation allows a Hirer non-exclusive use of a sports ground and/or facility at specific agreed times. Allocations can be annual, seasonal or casual in nature.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

**Applicant**

For the purposes of this Policy, the term 'Applicant' includes any sporting club, state sporting association, community group, school, tertiary organisation, commercial provider or any other group or organisation that make an application for a seasonal hire allocation.

**Casual Allocation**

For the purposes of this Policy, a 'casual allocation' is an allocation to a club, association, community group, school or commercial provider to use a sporting ground or facility on a single occasion for a pre- determined fee. Seasonal allocation requirements will be prioritised over casual allocations. Casual allocations are also subject to ground availability and condition.

**Facilities**

For the purposes of this Policy, the term 'facilities' includes the buildings adjacent to sporting grounds, including toilets, canteens, storerooms and change rooms.

**Hirer**

For the purposes of this Policy, the term 'Hirer' includes any sporting club, state sporting association, community group, school, tertiary organization, commercial provider or any other group or organisation that hires a sporting ground.

**In Season Allocation**

An In Season Allocation will be for the Summer or Winter Season as defined.

**Lease**

A Lease grants a tenant exclusive possession of a Council property and gives the tenant a proprietary interest in the Council Property which is binding on third parties. Leases will not generally be used for the tenure of sporting grounds.

**Licence**

Licences confer non-exclusive use of a licenced area for a specified period subject to payment of a licence fee. Multiple licences may be issued to multiple users of the same licenced area for different times. Licences can be for a one-off use (permit or hire agreement) or regular ongoing use throughout a season (seasonal hire).

**Pre-Season Allocation**

A Pre-Season Allocation is a restricted allocation (subject to availability) to a Hirer to use a Council sporting ground and/or facility at agreed times prior to the commencement of the competitive scheduled winter sporting season for the purpose of sports training and physical preparation for the winter season.

**Seasonal Allocation**

For the purposes of this Policy, a 'seasonal allocation' is an allocation to a Hirer to use a Council sporting ground and/or facility at agreed times throughout the Summer Season or Winter Season.

**School Allocation**

A School Allocation is an allocation to a school to use a Council sporting ground and/or facility during weekdays (between 7am – 3pm during school terms) at agreed times throughout the Summer or Winter season.

**Sporting Grounds and Facilities**

For the purposes of this Policy, 'Sporting Grounds and Facilities' are Council owned sporting infrastructure available for sporting use for training and game days.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

**State Sporting Association**

A pre-eminent governing body for a sport in NSW

**Substantial Increase**

A substantial increase in allocations is greater than ten hours or greater than 10% of the Hirer's current allocation in one year (whichever is the lesser) or greater than 20 hours or greater than 20% of the Hirer's current allocation over five years (whichever is the lesser).

**Summer Season Allocation**

A Summer Season Allocation is an allocation to a Hirer to use a Council sporting ground and/or facility at agreed times between the period of the third Tuesday in September to the last Sunday in March (subject to maintenance needs).\*

**Summer Sports (Traditional)**

The following are traditional summer sports: athletics, baseball, cricket, oz tag, touch football, ultimate frisbee and six aside soccer,

**Winter Season Allocation**

A Winter Season Allocation is an allocation to a Hirer to use a Council sporting ground and/or facility at agreed times between the period of the first Tuesday in April to the last Sunday in August (subject to maintenance needs). Training (only) may continue to the second Friday in September (subject to maintenance needs).\*

**Winter Sports (Traditional)**

The following are traditional winter sports: football (soccer), netball, rugby league, rugby union, hockey and Australian Rules football.

\* Council acknowledges that all sporting codes are subject to season overlap of the above season allocation dates. Winter sports may commence pre-season training and trial games in March if sports such as cricket and baseball do not need to use their allocated sporting ground for training or finals games through to the end of March. This can be negotiated with Council and the individual Hirers that share a ground in different seasons. Similarly, access to the grounds for special competitions (eg. Champion of Champions) will be negotiated on an as needs basis. All Hirers in both seasons are asked to advise Council if a ground can be handed back earlier for the seasonal sporting ground changeover (eg) goal posts out and cricket wicket preparation.

**4. Policy****4.1. Policy Statement**

The Strathfield Council recognises that access to open space for sporting and recreational use is of strategic importance to residents who live, work and play in the Strathfield Local Government Area. Access to sporting grounds, which provide for a diverse range of recreational opportunities, is important in contributing to a healthy Strathfield.

The Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy establishes the eligibility and selection criteria to be applied when allocating use of Council's sports grounds and facilities to sporting clubs, state sporting associations, schools, tertiary education providers and commercial providers within the Strathfield Council Local Government Area.

Council allocates sporting grounds on a seasonal and casual basis. Council will endeavor to accommodate Seasonal Allocations and Casual Allocations, within the number of sporting

...

grounds available, taking into consideration the long-term whole-of-life cost of the assets including depreciation and maintenance.

#### **4.2. Policy Principles**

This Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy has been developed in accordance with the following principles:

- Transparent
- Equitable
- Consistent

These principles were discussed with a number of Strathfield Hirers in the development of this Policy.

#### **4.3. Hierarchy of Use**

Council staff will use the following hierarchy to prioritise the allocation of sporting grounds:

1. Community based sporting club training
2. Community based sporting club games
3. Council events and events formally endorsed by Council
4. Strathfield public schools competitive sporting programs and physical education classes
5. Community based organisations
6. Tertiary education providers
7. Strathfield private schools competitive sporting programs and physical education classes
8. Commercial organisations

#### **4.4. Allocation Types**

Council offers the following types of allocations for the use of sporting grounds and their associated facilities, in no particular order:

- Winter Season Allocation
- Summer Season Allocation
- Preseason Allocation (subject to availability)
- Casual Allocation (subject to availability)
- School Allocation

#### **4.5. The Application**

An application to use Council's sporting ground or associated facilities, Applicants must contain the following information:

- A completed and accurate Allocation Application Form/s by the advertised closing date;
- Documented evidence that the majority of the membership of the Applicant resides within the Strathfield Council Local Government Area; and
- Confirmation that the Applicant has no outstanding debt with Council; and

- Provide a Certificate of Currency for public liability insurance of a minimum of \$20 million. The policy must indicate that Strathfield Council is noted as an Interested Party (Principal Indemnity Endorsement), and that the Business Activity shown on the Certificate of Currency must be appropriate and include functions such as organising and running a sporting event or sporting club or state sporting association; and
- Provide a copy of the Applicant's annual report, including the financial report; and
- Provide confirmation that club is adhering to the guidelines set by the relevant state sporting association sport, including adherence to risk management principles; and
- Provide a copy of the Applicant's documented plan to increase participation of girls and women, culturally and linguistically diverse and socially disadvantaged people; and
- Provide confirmation that the Applicant is not actively permitting gambling to occur on their games; and
- Provide confirmation that the Applicant, association and/ or sports governing body is not earning income or product integrity fees associated with gambling on their games.

#### 4.6. Selection Process

Once the information outline in section 4.5 The Application above is provided, Council will review allocation requests for sporting grounds sequentially as follows:

1. The hierarchy in 4.3 Hierarchy of Use will be implemented.
2. Where only one Applicant is requesting access to a suitable sporting ground, in general this will be made available to them, provided they meet the other requirements set out in this Policy.
3. Sporting grounds are a limited resource. Preference will be given to requests that fall within the traditional seasonal allocations (i.e. They do not cross between Winter Season Allocations and Summer Season Allocations and vice versa).
4. Council accepts that Hirers require reasonable assurance that they will continue to be allocated seasonal use of sporting grounds to plan and manage their strategic plans effectively. Where a Hirer continues to demonstrate membership numbers, Council will not unreasonably refuse to provide an allocation, consistent with the previous season's allocations. Where a Hirer has previously used Sporting Grounds and Facilities, and Council receives an application from a different provider, Council will follow the process outlined in points 6 to 8, below.
5. Hirers may request additional allocations. From year-to-year, Council will not generally approve an individual Hirer *substantially* increasing their allocation. The purpose of this condition is to help ensure diversity of sporting code access.
6. Council encourages Applicants to collaborate with each other. Should two or more Applicants put forward a proposed sharing arrangement of a sporting ground, Council will give this favourable consideration.

7. Council staff will attempt to resolve conflicting requests through mutual agreement between Applicants, and where this cannot be achieved, the relevant Council officer will make a determination in accordance with point 8 below.
8. Where Council cannot resolve the conflicting request through mutual agreement, when required, competing requests will be assessed against the weighted criteria outlined below, with the allocation given to the Applicant with the highest weighted criteria score. At this stage, Applicants will be requested to submit information which demonstrates their capacity to address the weighted criteria.

#### Weighted Criteria Score

	Criteria	Principles	Scoring	Assessment Guide
A	Historical Use of Facilities	Council will recognise Applicants with a strong history at particular facilities. Council recognises that active sporting grounds are in high demand and priority access will be given to Strathfield residents. Priority will be given to clubs which have the majority of members based in the Strathfield.	10	Historical ground (greater than 15 years) with continuous use by sporting club
			5	Strathfield based sporting club for more than ten years
			3	Strathfield based sporting club for less than ten years
			0	Applicant with no previous home within Strathfield
B	Community Based	Sporting grounds are a limited resource and must be used to provide maximum overall benefit to the community. Council recognises that sporting clubs provide community building benefits.	10	Not-for-profit sporting clubs with demonstrated strong ties to the local community (e.g. community groups, schools)
			3	Not-for-profit sporting clubs with no demonstrated links to the local community
			0	Commercial provider
			0	No information provided
C	Membership/ Team Numbers	Sporting clubs and associations are instrumental in increasing positive social, cultural and economic benefits and developing community leaders. Participation levels are therefore a factor in the level of benefit to the community. If an Applicant has declining membership/ teams, their hours of access may be decreased, they be relocated to an alternative venue more suited to the Applicant's level of usage or a secondary allocation may be given to	5	Applicant membership numbers/ teams are steady or increasing
			3	Applicant membership numbers/ teams have declined in the last year
			0	Applicant membership numbers/ teams have declined over the last three years
			0	No information provided

	Criteria	Principles	Scoring	Assessment Guide
		another Applicant to maximise use;		
D	Tenancy Record	Council recognises the social and cultural important of an Applicant having a good relationship with Council, other park users and the local community. A history of compliance with all terms and conditions of hire is essential. Consideration will be given to factors such as only utilising the grounds during allocated hours, maintaining allocated sporting grounds and facilities in a clean and tidy manner, and no substantiated complaints from nearby residents. Consideration will be given to past behaviour, including positive interactions with Council and other Hirers. Consideration will also be given to positive use of social media and other media.	5	Good records of stewardship of sporting grounds. No impact on neighboring residents. No breaches in the previous five years.
			3	Fair record of stewardship. No impact on neighboring residents within the previous two years. No breaches in the previous two years.
			0	Breach within the previous two years
E	Access & Equity	Ensuring the opportunity for participation of a broad mix of groups. Council will allocate ground to support sporting Applicants which have programs to increase participation of girls; women; people from lower socio-economic backgrounds; people with disabilities; seniors and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.	10	Three or more programs or support for people from a targeted group.
			5	Two programs or support for people from a targeted group.
			3	One program or support for people from a targeted group.
			0	Zero programs or support for people from a targeted group.
			0	No information provided
F	Support for Access & Equity	Demonstrated long term support by Applicants for increased participation of girls; women; people from lower socio economic backgrounds; people with disabilities; seniors and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.	5	Demonstrated increase in Applicant membership numbers from a targeted group.
			1	Steady Applicant membership numbers from a targeted group.
			0	Declining Applicant membership numbers from a targeted group.
			0	No information provided

	Criteria	Principles	Scoring	Assessment Guide
G	Leadership Diversity	Council will support sporting Applicants which demonstrate increasing numbers of women; people from lower socio-economic backgrounds; people with disabilities; seniors and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in positions coaching, leading, instructing, decision makers, officials and administrators at all levels.	5	Demonstrated increase in Applicant leadership diversity.
			1	Steady Applicant leadership diversity.
			0	Declining Applicant leadership diversity.
			0	No information provided
H	Diversity of Sports	Council will allocate grounds to encourage a diversity of sporting codes. Where a new and emerging sport can demonstrate that they have a plan for the ongoing success of the Applicant for a number of years, Council will endeavor to accommodate their needs. For emerging Applicants, the allocation of sporting grounds will not be based solely on Applicant membership numbers.	5	New or emerging sport, where the Applicant can demonstrate a plan for ongoing success
			1	New or emerging sport, where the Applicant cannot demonstrate a plan for ongoing success
I	Traditional Seasonal Allocations	Sporting grounds are a limited resource. Preference will be given to the traditional seasonal allocations.	5	Request for a summer season allocation by a summer sport OR request for a winter season allocation by a winter sport.
			0	Request for a summer season allocation by a winter sport OR request for a winter season allocation by a summer sport.
J	History of Financial Responsibility	Sporting grounds are a limited resource and the costs are subsidised by Council. Priority will be given to fiscally responsible Applicants.	5	No outstanding debt with Council in the previous five years.
			3	Outstanding debt with Council in the previous five years, which has now been repaid.
			No Allocation	Current outstanding debt with Council.
K	Applicant Development	Ensuring Applicants have good policies and practices in place including risk management, child protection and anti-bullying to ensure a safe environment for all	5	Applicants with documented policies and initiatives to support volunteers.
			3	Applicants with policies in development
			0	No documented policies or plans in place.

	Criteria	Principles	Scoring	Assessment Guide
		participants. Facility management, succession planning and organisation management structure documentation is also well regarded.	0	No information provided
L	Organisation Governance	Council supports Applicants that maintain good governance and create an inclusive, viable and sustainable organisation. This includes sound financial management, policies and practices in place that cover risk management, complaints handling, participant safety and address discrimination, violence and racism to ensure a safe environment for all participants. Hirers must be members of Good Sports. Also well regarded is a Hirers approach to facility management, succession planning and having a Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO).	5	Applicants with documented policies and initiatives to support volunteers.
			3	Applicants with policies in development
			0	No documented policies or plans in place.
			0	No information provided
M	Child Safe Clubs	SSOs provide policy, framework and resources to create and maintain clubs that safeguard children and young people. Council expects that Applicants are aware, have adopted and maintain Child Safe Standards. Child Safety applies to senior clubs who have minors play in their teams and competition.	5	Have fully complied with SSO or NSW Office of the Children's Guardian Child Safe Standards
			3	Currently implementing Child Safe practices based on SSO and NSW Guardian Child Safe Standards
			0	No documented policies or plans in place.
			0	No information provided
N	Traffic and Parking Impacts	Traffic and parking impacts must be minimised for the amenity of the surrounding community.	5	Applicants with documented policies to incorporate public and active transport in their organisation of activities.
			3	Applicants with policies in development.
			0	No documented policies or plans in place.
			0	No information provided

### **School and Tertiary Organisation Selection Criteria**

Council will review allocation requests for sporting grounds from school and tertiary organisations as follows:

- Priority will be given to Strathfield based schools and tertiary organisations within the as outlined in 4.3 Hierarchy of Use; and
- Priority will then be given to schools and tertiary organisations in accordance with the following hierarchy (in order):
  1. No available grounds within the school/ tertiary organisation
  2. Limited available grounds within the school/ tertiary organisation
  3. Substantial available grounds within the school/ tertiary organisation

### **4.7. Allocation Process & Determination**

The allocation process is undertaken as follows:

1. Staff will advertise for Expressions of Interest and distribute the Allocation Application Forms for the Summer Season by June and for the Winter Season by November, each year. Notwithstanding this, in all cases, it is the responsibility of the Hirer to ensure that application forms are requested and received.
2. A due date is set each season for applications. The due date will be stated on the application. Late applications will not be considered.
3. Council staff will assess the applications in accordance with 4.3 Hierarchy of Use, 4.5 The Application and 4.6 Selection Process. This process takes approximately two to three weeks.
4. Council staff will distribute the Draft allocations to the Hirers for comment for a period of seven days.
5. Council staff will distribute the Final allocations. Council staff will advise Hirers of any shut down or maintenance periods during the seasonal allocation (e.g. Easter) at the start of the season.
6. Any further requested changes to the allocation (e.g. as a result of increased / decreased registrations) will be accommodated subject to availability and consistency with the principles contained in this Policy.
7. Council will issue invoices for seasonal allocations one month after the commencement of the respective sporting season. Due to the administrative burden, Council will not provide refunds for wet weather and if pre-booked allocations are no longer required.
8. At the start of each season, the seasonal allocations, including the relevant Hirer, may be published on Council's website.
9. After draft allocations have been released an appeals process is available as outlined in Section 5 APPEAL PROCESS.

**Allocation Timetable Guide**

Stage	Expected period
Expression of Interest forms released and open to all	4 weeks
Applications assessed and draft allocations developed	2 weeks
Competing requests identified and solutions proposed	
Draft allocations released and Applicants given 1 week to accept draft or request change	1 week
Amendments to drafts made, if possible	1 week
Competing requests identified. Applicants invited to submit an Appeals Application Form	7 days from notification
Internal assessment of competing requests and recommendations determined	1 week
Final allocations released	1 week

Generally, the Summer Season allocation process will commence in June and be completed before the end of August and the Winter Season allocation process will commence in November and completed before the end of February.

**4.8. Out of Season Use**

Applicants are allocated grounds for the fixed summer or winter season only.

All Applicants are required to notify Council two weeks prior to the season completion advising if sporting grounds are not required for finals. Subject to maintenance requirements, Council may permit the Hirer in the following season to start training earlier.

Council may allow Hirers to use the sporting grounds for out of season use if there are grounds available.

All commercial operators or associations running competitions must make sure that their competitions run within the Winter and Summer Allocation Periods. There is no provision for these competitions to overlap seasons or be moved to alternative sporting ground in the interim.

**4.9. Sporting Ground Rest Periods**

Sporting grounds will be managed to maximise long term usage and minimise over-use. Council will restrict sporting ground use to maintain safe playing surface conditions and minimise maintenance.

All sporting grounds will be rested (not used) for a minimum of two weeks between the seasons. Generally this will be in the last week of March and the first week of September. The Summer Season must finish by the third Sunday in March. This may change annually if longer rest periods are required for maintenance needs.

Council will advise Hirers at the start of the season, the week(s) that the sporting grounds will be not used.

All sporting grounds will be rested on Mondays, with the exception of those grounds listed in the table below.

...

<b>Sporting Ground</b>	<b>Exemption to use on Monday (Reason)</b>
Synthetic turf sporting grounds at Cooke Park, Mason Park and Strathfield Park	Synthetic turf sporting grounds do not need to be rested.
Hard surface courts (eg. basketball, netball, tennis, multi-purpose)	Hard surface courts do not need to be rested.

#### **4.10. Fees and Charges**

The seasonal allocation of sporting grounds to Hirers is subject to the payment of the relevant fees and charges. These fees and charges are updated annually and are advertised on Council's website.

Council will not provide refunds for wet weather and if pre-booked allocations are no longer required.

#### **4.11. Tenure & Capital Contributions**

Council is committed to the provision and maintenance of a range of well-maintained and safe sporting grounds and facilities to encourage informal and organised recreation activities consistent with community needs.

Council will prepare a Parks and Sporting Ground Asset Management Plan which will provides a comprehensive plan to ensure the delivery of services Sporting Grounds and Facilities is provided in a financially sustainable manner. The asset management plan will detail information about infrastructure assets including actions required to provide an agreed level of service in the most cost-effective manner while outlining associated risks. The plan will define the services to be provided, how the services are provided and what funds are required to provide the services over a 20-year planning period.

#### **Long Term Leases and Licences**

Most parks are classified as community land. Section 46A(3) of the Local Government Act 1993 requires leases of community land greater than five years to be via public, open tender.

Application should contact Council if they require a lease or licence of Sporting Grounds and Facilities, to discuss this process.

#### **Capital Contributions**

Council has no expectation that a Hirer will make a capital contribution to the development of a facility. In general, allocations will continue to be managed on a seasonal basis as outlined in this policy.

Notwithstanding this, Council aims to recognise and encourage organisations who do contribute to the development or upgrade of a Council facility. In recognition of a capital contribution, Council may (at its absolute discretion) provide the following:

- Increased tenure
- Decreased hire fees.

The following will be considered when determining whether to accept a capital contribution:

- The Applicant seeking longer tenure must meet the following minimum criteria:

- The majority of their membership must reside within the Strathfield Council local government area
- Not-for-profit sporting clubs with demonstrated strong ties to the local community (e.g. community groups, schools)
- Applicant membership numbers are steady or increasing
- Good records of stewardship of sporting grounds. No breaches in the previous five years.
- Demonstrated programs to support increased participation of girls; women; people from lower socio-economic backgrounds; people with disabilities; seniors and/ or people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- No outstanding debt with Council in the previous five years;
- Any improvements must be consistent with any future Strathfield Recreation Needs Study and the relevant park Plan of Management.
- Any improvements must have the appropriate planning approvals.
- The capital improvements must coincide with and not adversely impact on the needs of the other sporting ground users and the wider community.
- In addition to the amount contributed to apply for extended tenure, the Applicant must contribute an equivalent amount to Council to be used by Council to upgrade or renew priority sporting ground assets as identified in the future Parks and Sporting Grounds Asset Management Plan.
- Council must be willing and financially able to take on the increased maintenance and depreciation associated with the capital upgrade.
- No assumption should be made that Council will make a co-contribution to the capital improvements. Council may (at its absolute discretion) choose to partner with an Applicant if the proposed works are already identified and funded in the Long Term Financial Plan and future Parks and Sporting Grounds Asset Management Plan.
- Throughout the period of tenure, the licence agreement will require ongoing participation levels to justify the allocation of the facility and the ongoing financial viability of the organisation.

Council retains the sole discretion as to whether to accept a capital contribution. Council must agree to the capital contributions being provided prior to any work on the contribution commencing.

Hirers contributing toward the capital upgrade of Council facilities do so on the understanding that the facility remains in Council ownership and that Council will specify and project manage all capital construction works.

The capital contribution made by the Applicant will be used as follows:

- 50% for the capital improvements nominated by the Applicant
- 50% for capital improvements nominated by Council to upgrade or renew priority sporting ground assets as identified in any future Parks and Sporting Grounds Asset Management Plan. These improvements may be located in another sporting ground.

### **Grant Funding Submissions**

If requested by the Hirer, Council can be the lead Applicant in grant funding submissions to State and Federal Governments and peak state sporting associations for infrastructure upgrades to Council grounds. Council staff will prepare the grant submission. Hirers will be required to assist in the provision of information to satisfy the grant funding application requirements.

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

Proposals must be agreed in principle with Council and be in accordance with the Plan of Management and any park masterplan.

### **Council Approval**

Any proposal to accept a capital contribution from a Hirer and offer increased tenure and/ or decreased hire fees will be reported to Council, who will make the final determination as to whether to accept the capital contribution.

### **Other Contributions**

Council may give consideration to other (non-capital) contributions provided by Hirers. For example, community-based contributions such as nutrition seminars.

### **4.12. New or Upgraded Sporting Grounds**

Council may take possession of new sporting grounds. Council may also upgrade sporting grounds such that the hours of use for those grounds is substantially increased (e.g. through new floodlighting or a synthetic surface).

Other than where a contribution has been made in accordance with Section 0 Tenure & Capital Contributions, should Council obtain new or upgraded sporting grounds (where the hours of use is substantially increased), access to these new facilities will be via a public, open, advertised Expression of Interest. The purpose of the Expression of Interest is to reset; and it will be used to allocate all hours on the sporting ground (through the week). The Expression of Interest will be advertised in accordance with the Community Engagement Strategy. The criteria for allocation of the new or upgraded sporting grounds will be outlined in the advertisement.

### **4.13. Damages and Breaches**

Any Hirer using a sporting ground or facility which is in breach of the Conditions of Hire (contained at Annexure 1 to this Policy) may be subject to the following:

- Exclusion from future allocations
- Monetary penalty.

### **Warnings**

Where it is alleged that a Hirer has breached the allocation conditions, the process below will be followed:

- On the first alleged breach, Council staff will investigate the breach and make an assessment on the damage caused, the likely cause of the damage and the likely cost to repair the damage. The Hirer will be notified in writing of the breach assessment.
- On the second alleged breach, Council staff will investigate the breach and make an assessment on the damage caused, the likely cause of the damage and the likely cost to repair the damage. If upheld, the Hirer will be provided with the breach assessment and a first written warning.
- On the third alleged breach, Council staff will investigate the breach and make an assessment on the damage caused, the likely cause of the damage and the likely

cost to repair the damage. If upheld, the Hirer will be provided with the breach assessment and a **final** written warning. At this point, at its absolute discretion, Council may cancel the Hirer's allocations for the season.

#### **Future Allocations**

Council will excluded an Applicant from future allocations for the following:

- If the Applicant has an outstanding debt with Council; OR
- If the damage caused by the Applicant impacts on the start of the season for the subsequent sporting ground Hirer; OR
- If the Applicant was issued a fine for breaches to the conditions of hire.

Council may consider excluding an Applicant from future allocations for the following:

- If the Applicant has been issued with one or more written warnings in the preceding season; OR
- If the damage caused by the Applicant impacts on the start of the season for the subsequent sporting ground Hirer.

#### **Monetary Penalties**

All damage to Council property, either deliberate or accidental must be reported to Council within one business day, outlining full details of the incident.

After the season, excepting usual seasonal wear and tear, the sporting ground and facilities must be returned to Council in the same condition as they were prior to the season. In the event that the Hirer does not hand back the site in the same condition, Council will clean and repair the sporting ground and facilities to the standard required by Council at the Hirer's cost.

During the season, Council will forward on any additional costs incurred by Council to the Hirer including:

- The cost of any additional monitoring activities for compliance with conditions of consent; and
- The cost to clean up waste from a park, sporting grounds or change/ amenity building; and
- The cost to repair unreasonable damage after use; and
- Use of canteens and kiosks.

An after-hours callout fee applies where council is required to attend the park to assist the Hirer with matters such as access. Fees will be on a cost recovery basis. A minimum of 4 hours of staff overtime will be payable.

#### **Maximise Use of the Sporting Grounds**

Council has an objective to promote participation in active sport, physical activity and social connectedness. Therefore, within the constraints imposed by Plans of Management and acceptable wear and tear on the grounds, Council wishes to maximise use of the Sporting Grounds.

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000

There is a limited number of sporting grounds and hours they can be accessed and a very high demand for access. Any increase in an Applicant's participation numbers cannot be matched by increased allocations. Council expects Hirers to maximise the use of the allocations they receive to best manage their player and team numbers.

Applicants cannot book grounds to reduce access to other Hirers, nor can Applicants underutilise their allocation.

Where it can be demonstrated that a Hirer has repeatedly booked a ground and not used the allocation, staff will investigate this. At its absolute discretion, Council's Director Engineering & Operations (or equivalent) may cancel the Hirer's future allocations for the season. Further, Council may consider excluding an Applicant from future season allocations.

## 5. APPEAL PROCESS

Applicants may only make an appeal if they have no outstanding debt with Council. Appeals may only be made by not-for-profit volunteer-based sporting clubs with the majority of registered participants reside within the Strathfield Local Government Area.

The appeal process applies after draft allocations have been issued and an Applicant's requested changes cannot be accommodated due to competing requests.

In an appeal request, the Manager Engineering (or equivalent) will review the submissions against the weighted selection criteria (outlined in 6.5). The Applicant with the highest score will receive greater preference for their request and Council staff will determine and release final allocations.

Should an Applicant be unsatisfied with the allocation a final appeal process can be requested. The process requires that:

- Applicants must notify Council in writing within 48 hours of receiving their final allocations they wish to appeal.
- The final appeal will be conducted by an Allocations Review Committee.
- There will be three members of the Allocations Review Committee – a representative of the Property/ Bookings team, the Director Engineering & Operations (or equivalent) and external representative from a State Sporting Organisation, Sports NSW or equivalent.
- The Committee will receive the Applicants original EOI Application Form and the Appeal.
  - The Committee's Terms of Reference will be to determine:
    - Was the Sporting Ground Allocation Policy applied
    - Was the Allocation Process followed
    - The results of the Weighted Criteria assessment
    - The final the seasonal allocations.
- The Allocations Review Committee will respond to the Applicant/s with the following:
  - The outcome of the appeal and any action taken
  - The reason/s for the decision.

Elected Councillors will play no part in the allocations or appeal process.

#### 6. Version Control

Date	Type	Minute
2/5/23	Version 1 - Draft for Public Exhibition	xx

**Annexure 1 – Conditions of Seasonal Hire**

By submitting a Sporting Grounds Allocation Application, Applicants and Hirers are agreeing to the Conditions of Season Hire outlined below.

**Written Approval**

Hirers may only use the sporting grounds when they have an agreed allocated booking. Council will provide written approval of allocations. This is to help ensure that the sporting grounds have adequate rest periods and to maintain the sporting grounds in the long term.

Where a Hirer is found to be playing on a sporting ground outside their allocated booking, they will be subject to the penalties outlined in 4.13 Damages and Breaches of the Sporting Grounds Allocations Policy.

**Subletting**

Hirers may not sublet or reallocate grounds and/ or facilities to other users on a casual or seasonal basis. All grounds allocations must be approved by Council and any breach may impact future bookings. This is primarily to manage risk and ensure public safety.

**Hours of Operation**

The standard hours of operation for sporting grounds within the Strathfield are as follows:

- Mondays - all sporting grounds are closed for rest and maintenance (with the only exceptions noted in 4.9 Sporting Ground Rest Periods)
- Tuesdays to Fridays 7.00 am – 9.30 pm
- Saturday 8.00 am – 6pm.
- Sunday 8.00 am – 5pm

The standard hours of operation for Mason Park synthetic sporting ground (only) are as follows:

- Mondays to Fridays 7.00 am – 11pm
- Saturday 8.00 am – 8pm.
- Sunday 8.00 am – 8pm

Any exception to the standard hours of operation must be approved by Council in writing.

**Games**

Games played on home grounds must be in accordance with the scheduled, home and away fixtures as determined by state sporting associations and any scheduled game must involve a home team, except where the club is hosting finals as scheduled by the state sporting association.

**Availability of Grounds Outside Allocations**

Sporting grounds and facilities are not available for use outside the approved times unless prior arrangements have been confirmed with Council. Where such use is permitted, the casual hire charges will apply.

Should any Hirer find it necessary to alter the times of ground usage during the season, arrangements should be made with Council prior to any changes being made.

### **Ground Closures**

Council reserves the right to close any sporting ground and/ or facility due to inclement weather, to protect the playing surface and other assets, due to safety concerns, to reduce risk to players and the public or to allow the completion of capital and maintenance works. This decision is not negotiable.

Council staff inspect the sporting grounds regularly, as part of ongoing maintenance. Hirers are also required to conduct pre-match ground assessments and address any hazards.

In the event of inclement weather conditions, Council will inspect each ground and determine its suitability for use.

Council will close grounds during inclement weather on weekdays to prevent playing surface deterioration, in preference to match play on weekends. Council may also close grounds during inclement weather on weekends if conditions are not suitable for use of the grounds.

Council will assess and notify users of sporting ground closures through the following means:

- Council website
- Wet weather line on 02 9748 9972
- Open and Closed signs at the sporting grounds (where available).

Council staff will update the ground closure notifications by 10am for the Schools and 3pm for the evening Hirers.

If during the season, the condition of the sporting ground deteriorates, Council may, at its absolute discretion reduce the hours or cancel the right of a Hirer to use a sporting ground for health and safety and/ or maintenance reasons.

Council will not be held responsible for relocating or finding alternative sporting grounds for the Hirers. Council will not be held responsible for any costs incurred by a Hirer relocating to an alternative venue due to ground closures.

No refunds will be provided for closures associated with inclement weather. It is noted that Council heavily subsidises the management and maintenance of access to sporting grounds for community access.

### **Other Users**

Outside of the agreed allocation hours to Hirers, Council retains the right to make the sporting grounds and facilities available to casual Hirers.

### **Member Behaviour**

The Hirer is responsible for the satisfactory conduct of all members and persons attending their training/ games/ utilising the sporting ground. The Hirer shall ensure that the amenity of property owners adjoining parks is not disturbed by excessive noise, offensive language, poor behaviour or any other activity likely to cause unreasonable disturbance.

### **Emergency Access**

Council will issue keys to seasonal sporting ground Hirers. Access to the venue must be maintained for emergency vehicles. Hirers, if onsite, are responsible for allowing access in the case of an emergency.

#### **Storage Allocation and Containers**

Hirers are not entitled to use storage space. If storage is available at the sporting ground, Council may at its absolute discretion provide Hirers with access to this space. Council will at its absolute discretion determine the design, placement and size of storage space made available to Hirers.

Any storage will be approved on a seasonal basis. Council staff may direct Hirers to remove any items stored at the end of the season.

No new shipping containers, used for storage, will be permitted within the Strathfield Local Government Area.

#### **Sporting Ground Damage**

When undertaking training, Hirers are encouraged to rotate their training/ drill areas within the sporting grounds to reduce wear and tear, e.g. By moving goal mouths. This minimises damage to the grounds and potential risk of injury to players. Council staff can work with the Hirers on potential options to facilitate this.

If the Hirer becomes aware of any damage to the grounds, particularly where it may impact on people's safety, the Hirer is responsible for reporting this promptly to Council. Where possible, the area should be isolated.

#### **Seasonal Changeover**

All Hirers are required to notify Council two weeks prior to the season completion advising if sporting grounds are not required for finals.

#### **Car Parking**

Car Parking is restricted to designated car parks only. At no times are cars allowed on parks or sporting grounds without the approval of Council. Hirers are responsible for the conduct of their members and visitors in this regard. It is the Hirer's responsibility to monitor and control car parking.

#### **Soccer Goals**

Soccer Nets are not to be secured to soccer goals using electrical tape (or any other tape) which is permanently affixed and/ or leaves a residue. The only approved method of affixing nets to goals is as per the goal manufacturer's instructions or by the use of Velcro.

Nets must be removed when not in use as per Australian Standards AS4866.1-2007. Moveable soccer goals are required to meet Australian standards and be appropriately stored when not in use.

#### **Floodlighting**

Council is responsible for the maintenance of all floodlighting on sporting grounds. Hirers will be provided with access to floodlighting at the commencement of the season once seasonal

.....

allocations are finalised. Training on sporting grounds must cease by 9.30pm with the floodlights automatically going off at 9:45pm (if not turned off earlier by the Hirer). Any faults associated with floodlight use are to be reported to Council.

### **Marking of Grounds**

Council is responsible for the marking of all sporting grounds. The Hirers may not linemark the grounds.

### **Cricket Covers**

Council is responsible for the maintenance and preparation of the wicket block and outfield. The ownership and management of cricket wicket covers lies with the respective cricket clubs or association. The home team is responsible for the covering, removal and storage of cricket covers where inclement weather is forecast. Cricket covers are to be stored appropriately and not left on turf areas where they may damage the turf surface.

### **Waste**

Council provides bins at each sporting ground. All Hirers are responsible for waste generated from their respective sporting activities. Hirers are responsible for ensuring that the sporting grounds are left in a clean state. At no time are Hirers permitted to store or stack waste next to bins. Hirers found to have stored waste next to bins will be charged for the removal and disposal of such waste by Council.

### **Advertising and Sponsorship**

No permanent advertising may be displayed at the sporting grounds. Seasonal Hirers may display advertising signage during their allocated sporting ground hours only. With the exception of fences, advertising may not be affixed to the facilities. Advertising is limited to temporary banner signage only. Advertising must not include alcohol, soft drink, fast food, firearms, pornography or tobacco sponsorship.

### **Smoking**

Smoking is prohibited on all Council sporting grounds. All Hirers are responsible for informing their members and educating sporting ground visitors that sporting grounds are smoke free.

In addition, smoking is not permitted in the following areas:

- Within any structures;
- Within 10 metres of children's play equipment in outdoor public places;
- Spectator areas at sports grounds or other recreational areas used for organised sporting events;
- Within 10 metres of a food fair stall/ kiosk/ canteen.

### **Selling of Goods**

Hirers may only sell food, drinks (non-alcoholic) and raffle tickets.

### **Public Address System**

A public address (PA) system or electronically operated sound equipment must not be used unless approved by Council. Sound levels must not exceed LAeq 15 minute  $\leq 65$  dB(A) when measured at the nearest affected receiver (resident or business).

### **Good Sports**

Council expects all Hirers to demonstrate respect towards each other and towards Council staff.

All Strathfield sporting clubs must be accredited with Good Sports. The Good Sports program is a preventive health initiative. It's implemented voluntarily through community sporting clubs; helping clubs to promote healthier, safer and family-friendly environments and behaviors.

### **Alterations and Building Works**

The Hirer must not make alterations, additions or deletions to the facilities or any Council assets without first obtaining permission in writing from Council as the owner of the land and buildings. If works are approved, they must be carried out under the supervision of Council.

Buildings, improvements, additions and extensions, if approved, once built become the absolute property of Council without the Hirer being entitled to any payment or compensation in request thereof.

### **Coaching Clinics**

All school holiday coaching clinics for sport within the Strathfield Local Government Area must be run through a registered Strathfield sporting club with clinics and training dates approved by Council.

### **School Allocations**

Schools must submit an application form for all usage of the sporting grounds (even if Council does not charge for this usage).

### **Activities Requiring Approval**

The following activities require an approval from Council in writing:

- Filming (commercial);
- Selling or consuming alcohol;
- Installing any structure, screen, awning, sign, enclosure, equipment, stalls or amusement devices;
- Exhibiting or distributing advertisements or handbills;
- Any use that brings in a third party supplier, including amusement devices, formal catering, etc.

### **Prohibited Activities**

The following activities are not permitted within any park or sporting ground:

- Tree pruning
- Trench digging
- Attaching signs or structures to trees or Council signage
- Archery; golf; go karting (or using other motorised equipment); paintball; laser tag; riding horses; driving of model cars; sale or use of glass receptacles; camping or

lodging overnight; possession or use of any firearms; coal BBQs; lighting candles; lighting fires (this excludes use of the Council provided BBQs).

Council discourages the use of balloons, plastic straws, glitter, party poppers and confetti in parks and discourages Colour Run events.

### **Management Plans**

Council may require the Hirer to prepare and implement management plans. The size and nature of the activities being held on the sporting ground will determine if the Hirer must prepare the following, for approval by Council:

- Prepare and implement a Traffic Management Plan
- Prepare and implement a Risk Assessment and Management Plan
- Prepare and implement an Emergency Management Plan
- Provide security staff
- Undertake community notification of the activities
- Install temporary fencing around the perimeter of the activities
- Install Variable Message Signs in advance of the activities
- Prepare a First Aid Plan and provide first aid staff
- Provide toilet facilities (in addition to existing park public toilets)
- Prepare and implement a Waste and Litter Management Plan
- Install "No Smoking" signs throughout the venue

### **Additional Conditions**

In consideration of the Hirer's proposed activities, Council at its sole discretion may impose additional conditions of approval, as deemed necessary.

EO4 STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WORKING COMMITTEES FOR ARTHUR STREET/CENTENARY DRIVE INTERSECTION AND MARLBOROUGH ROAD, HOMEBUSH WEST - UPDATE

AUTHOR: John Inglese, Traffic Engineer

APPROVER: Cathy Edwards-Davis, Director Engineering and Operations

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#### RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council staff continue to work with TfNSW as required, to resolve both the Arthur Street/Centenary Drive intersection traffic congestion and pedestrian safety issues along Marlborough Road, Homebush West.
2. That, at this point in time, a quarterly meeting between State and Federal Agencies and Council cannot be established.

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

At the Council Meeting of 2 May 2023, **two** resolutions were made:

*“State and Federal Government Agencies Working Committee - Arthur Street and Homebush Bay Drive in Homebush West*

*118/23*

*RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR RAJ DATTA*

*Moved by: (Pensabene / Hall)*

*That Council be provided with a report to investigate the establishment of a Working Party to address:*

- I. Prospective funding options that might be available for building a flyover/overpass/tunnel across the intersection of Arthur Street and Homebush Bay Drive.*
- II. The delegation of a Working Party to prepare a plausible action plan for securing funding for delivery of the infrastructure.*
- III. The possibility of a site visit by the Working Party by 30 June 2023.*
- IV. The appointment of an Executive of the council to coordinate and manage the progress of the Working Party on the delivery of progressive milestones and achievements and commence reporting on progress from August 2023 council meeting, every 3 months to the council until completion, for updating the council on progress and seeking appropriate guidance for delivery of the outcome.”*

*“State and Federal Government Agencies Working Committee - Marlborough Road*

*119/23*

*RESOLVED ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR RAJ DATTA*

*Moved by: (Pensabene / Hall)*

*That Council be provided with a report to investigate the establishment of a Working Party to address:*

- I. Prospective funding options that might be available for building a safe means of crossing the Marlborough Road.*
- II. The delegation of a Working Party to prepare a plausible action plan for securing funding for delivery of the infrastructure.*
- III. The possibility of a site visit by the working committee by 30 June 2023.*
- IV. The appointment of an Executive of the council to coordinate and manage the progress of the Working Party on the delivery of progressive milestones and achievements and reporting on its progress, every three (3) months to the council until completion and for updating the council on progress and seeking appropriate guidance for delivery of the outcome"*

On the 9 May 2023, Council staff wrote to TfNSW detailing the above resolutions and to seek support from representatives of TfNSW who would be interested in being part of a Working Party that would meet on a quarterly basis to investigate and ultimately try to resolve the above mentioned issues.

On the 11 May 2023 Council received the following response from TfNSW:

*Regarding the working party for the flyover, this has been referred to the TfNSW Projects Integration Team to investigate and advise Council directly.*

*Regarding Marlborough Road, TfNSW have discussed this matter and have developed an option of a kerb extension to improve pedestrian safety and will conduct a speed review of the section with a potential decrease down to 50 km/h. If feasible, TfNSW can submit the project for nomination for funding. Please allow time for this to be investigated and reviewed.*

On the 22 May 2023, Council staff held a site meeting on Marlborough Road and the surrounding area including the pedestrian underpass located beneath Centenary Drive, and the pathway on east side on Centenary Drive leading to Austin Avenue, which is the entrance to Sydney Markets. It was determined that this piece of infrastructure is owned and maintained by TfNSW and therefore any upgrades to this area including lighting of the underpass will need to be developed, approved, and funded by the State Government through TfNSW.

It should be noted that TfNSW have commenced the investigation into Road Safety Improvements of Marlborough Road, and subsequently on the 29 May 2023, Council received the following correspondence from TfNSW (Attachments 1):

*....In accordance with the NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines, Transport for NSW proposes to reduce the speed limit from 60km/h to 50km/h on Marlborough Road, between Parramatta Road and Richmond Road. A sketch is attached for your reference. As the review location falls within Strathfield LGA, Transport for NSW would like to invite you to provide any relevant comments that should be*

*considered as part of this review. Any information that is provided will be used as part of the assessment of the speed limit.*

Council responded accordingly (Attachment 2) and stated that the speed reduction from 60Km/h to 50km/h for Marlborough Road is welcomed as an important first step in improving the pedestrian safety and amenity in this area. However, Council feels that further improvements such as the following is required to make this area as safe as possible for pedestrians and all road users:

- A pedestrian refuge across Marlborough (west side of the underpass).
- Improved lighting of the pedestrian underpass both during the daylight hours and at night.
- Some form of pedestrian facility (possibly traffic signals) at the intersection of Marlborough Road and Austin Avenue at the entry into Sydney Markets.

On the 5 June 2023 Council received a follow up response:

*Transport for NSW (TfNSW) is currently in the process of developing options to improve pedestrian safety on both sides of the underpass. Two treatments have been proposed: a kerb extension on the western side of Marlborough Road and a refuge island on the eastern side of Marlborough Road near Austin Avenue. If feasible, the project can be submitted for nomination for funding. Please be assured that TfNSW will also investigate the lighting issue for the underpass as requested.*

Council is yet to be taken up on our offer of a site meeting with TfNSW, however it is anticipated that this will happen in the near future.

## Discussion

To date, it is unclear whether State or Federal representatives will attend the suggested working committees. Council staff can attend but there will be limited progress if State and Federal representatives do not attend.

The infrastructure is State infrastructure and therefore requires substantial financial commitment from the State Government. The State will undertake its own cost-benefit review of any proposal on State infrastructure, which will sit separately from any Committee established by Council.

If the Committees are to proceed, it is recommended that they be chaired by the local State Member for Strathfield, Mr Jason Yat-sen Li to ensure a level of gravity is afforded to the Committee and because it is State infrastructure that is being discussed. If the Committees are to proceed, they will need to be held during office hours to help ensure State and Federal representatives attend.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As both locations mentioned in the report are on the State Road Network and that any improvements, upgrades would be funded by TfNSW, there are no financial implications for Council.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Letter from Transport 29 May 2023
2. Letter to Transport 1 June 2023

# ATTACHMENT 1



29 May 2023

Michael Mamo  
General Manager  
Strathfield Council

**RE: SPEED ZONE REVIEW WITHIN STRATHFIELD LGA**

Dear Michael,

Transport for NSW is undertaking a review of the existing speed limit along Marlborough Road, Homebush West following concerns raised by the community and Council to improve safety in the area.

Speed limits in NSW, as in other parts of Australia, are determined by a number of factors including the road geometry, surrounding conditions, road usage, adjacent development, vehicle types and volumes, crash history and the number of access points along the route.

In accordance with the NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines, Transport for NSW proposes to reduce the speed limit from 60km/h to 50km/h on Marlborough Road, between Parramatta Road and Richmond Road. A sketch is attached for your reference.

As the review location falls within Strathfield LGA, Transport for NSW would like to invite you to provide any relevant comments that should be considered as part of this review. Any information that is provided will be used as part of the assessment of the speed limit.

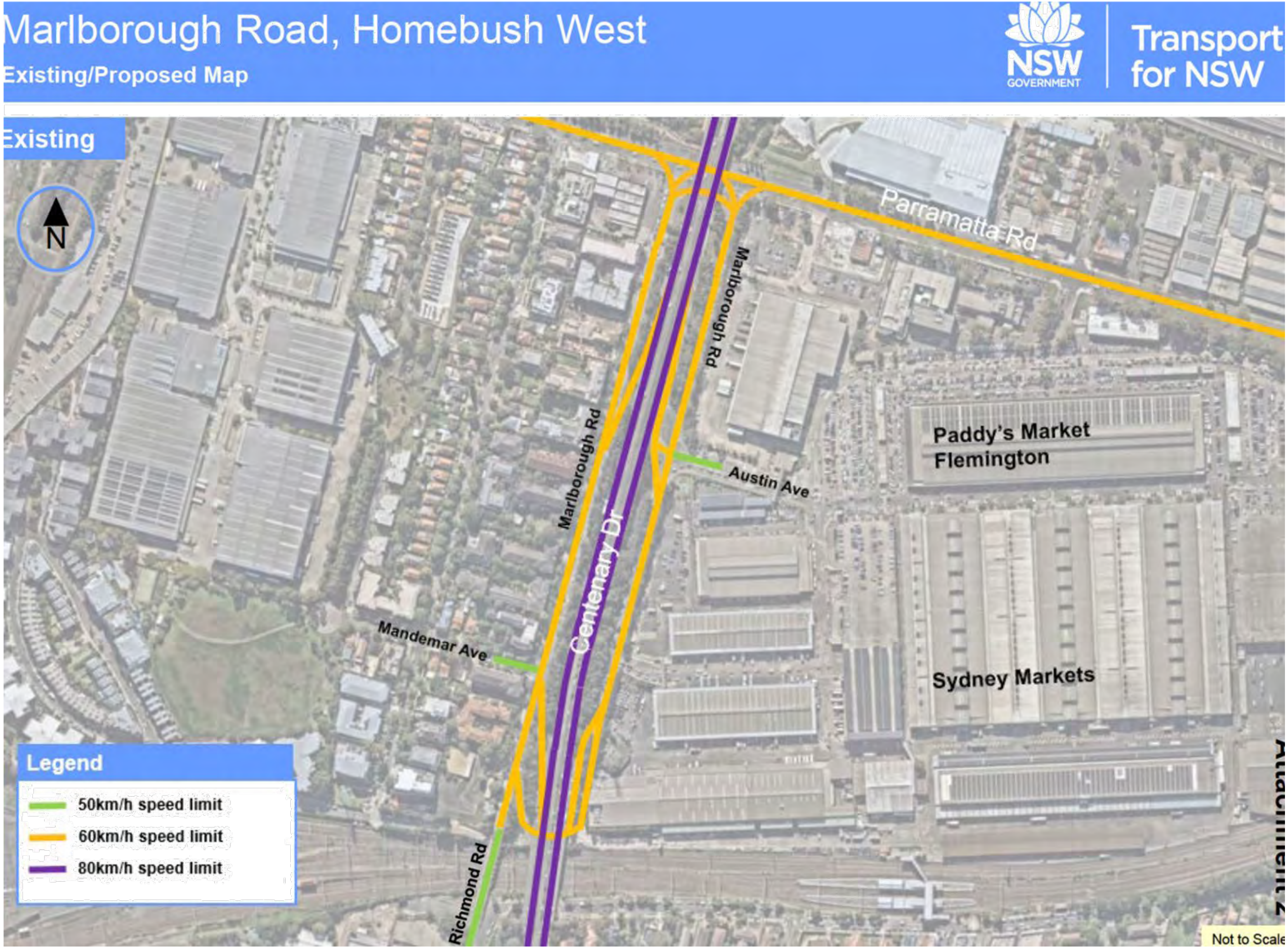
Should you require any further information or would like to discuss, please contact Andy Huynh through [REDACTED], prior to Tuesday, 13 June 2023.

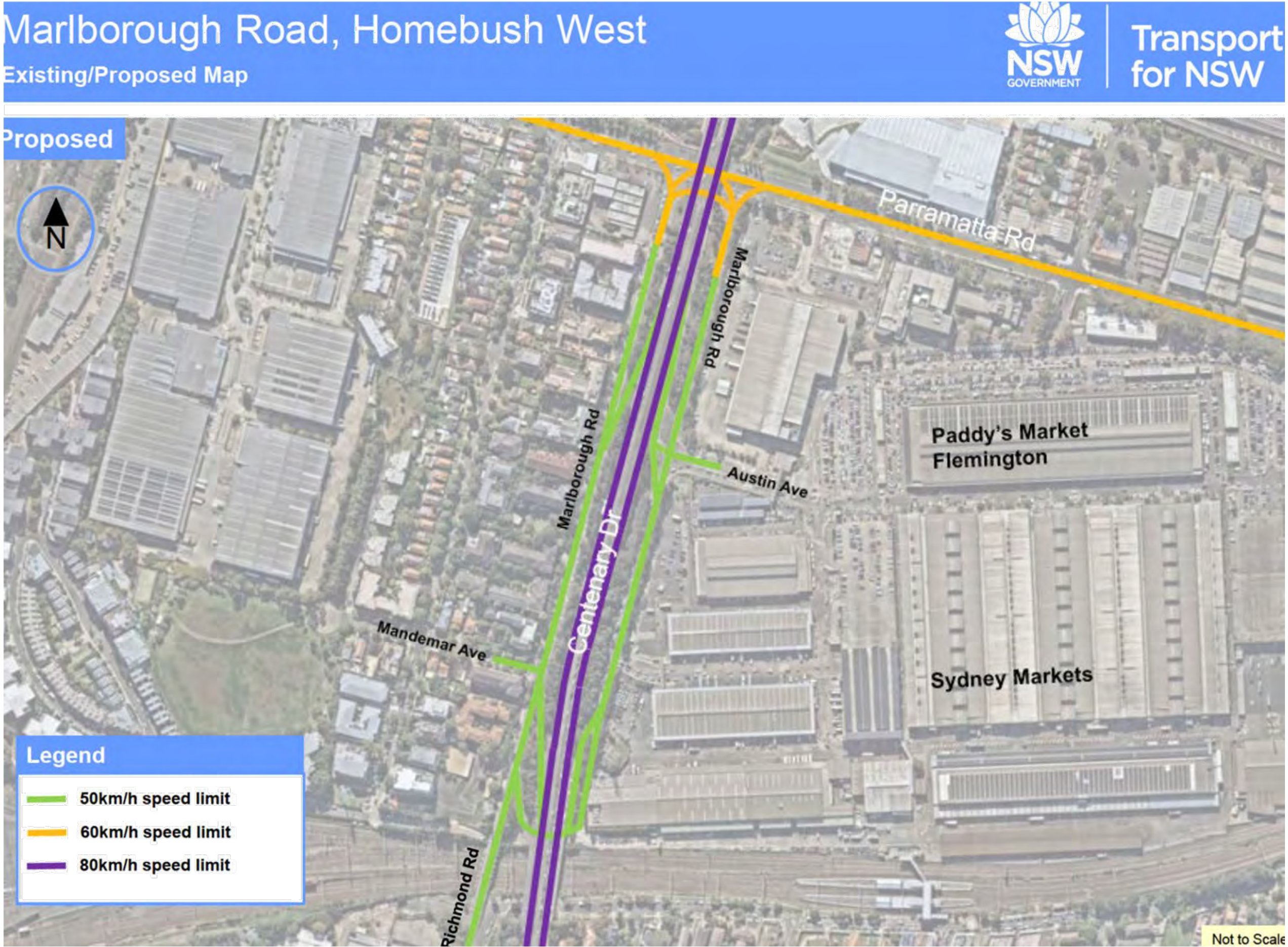
Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Nicolas Kocoski,  
Senior Manager Network & Safety Services  
Network and Asset Management – Central River City  
Greater Sydney  
Transport for NSW

**Transport for NSW**  
130 George Street, Parramatta NSW 2150 | Locked Bag 5085, Parramatta NSW 2124  
W [transport.nsw.gov.au](https://transport.nsw.gov.au) | ABN 18 804 239 602





## ATTACHMENT 2



65 Homebush Road, Strathfield NSW 2135  
PO Box 120, Strathfield NSW 2135 | P 02 9748 9999 | F 02 9764 1034  
E council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au | www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au | ABN 52 719 940 263

01 June 2023

Nicolas Kocoski  
Senior Manager Network & Safety Services  
Network and Asset Management – Central River City  
Greater Sydney, Transport for NSW

Dear Nicolas

Speed Zones Review within Strathfield LGA - (Marlborough Road, Homebush West)

Thank you very much for your letter dated 29 May 2023, and for the opportunity to be involved in the decision-making process for a Speed Review of Marlborough Road, Homebush West. Council has also received several requests to improve traffic and pedestrian safety conditions along this section of the State Road Network.

Please note that Council welcomes a speed reduction from 60Km/h to 50km/h for Marlborough Road as an important first step in improving the pedestrian safety and amenity in the area.

However, Council feels that further improvements such as the following is required to make this area as safe as possible for pedestrians and all road users.

1. a pedestrian refuge across Marlborough (west side of the underpass)
2. improved lighting of the pedestrian underpass both during the daylight hours as well as the night
3. some form of pedestrian facility (possibly traffic signals) at the intersection of Marlborough Road and Austin Ave at the Entry into Sydney Markets

Back in July 2022 Council's Traffic Team liaised with TfNSW on possible improvements to pedestrian safety on Marlborough Road especially in the vicinity of the pedestrian underpass that links the residential area of Homebush West to Sydney Markets.

At that time, a concept design was prepared by TfNSW Plan attached SK-01 which was endorsed by Council and subsequently TfNSW were going to apply for Active Transport Finding. More recently, a site visit by Council's Director- Engineering and Operations, Manager Engineering and Senior Traffic Engineer, revealed that a number of pedestrians were "running the gauntlet" across Marlborough Road to use the pedestrian underpass to get to Sydney Markets.

This prompted Council to email Andy Huynh who has kindly forward the request to the Assets Team in TfNSW for investigation. Andy also mentioned that he is currently working with the Design Team at TfNSW to develop options to improve pedestrian safety to both sides of the underpass on Marlborough Road.

Council would welcome any proposed improvements in this area and Council's Engineering and Traffic Team would be more than happy to assist TfNSW as required.

Should you require and further information please contact Senior Traffic Engineer - John Inglese

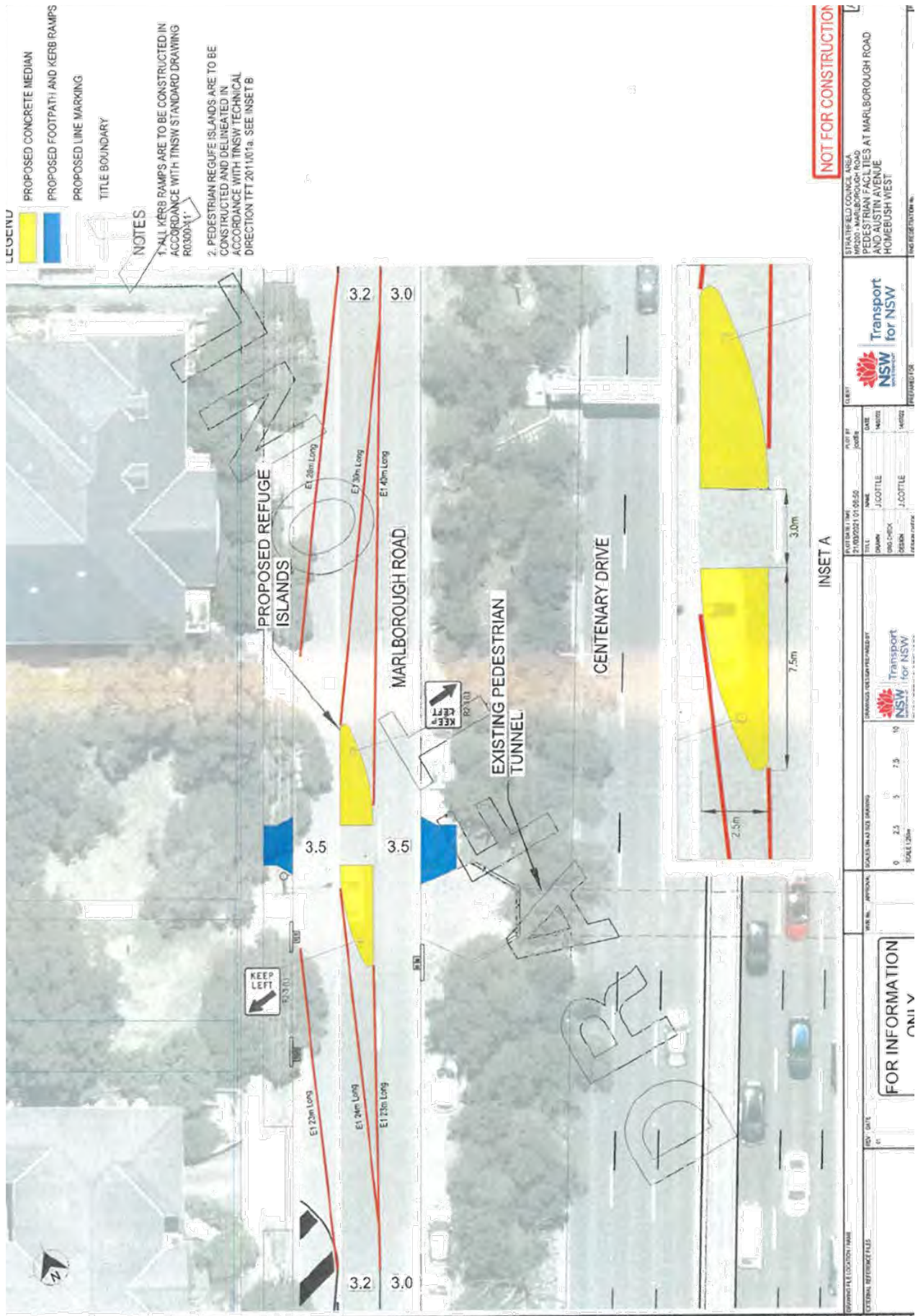
[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Michael Mamo  
General Manager

Encl. Existing and Proposed Map – Marlborough Road, Homebush West



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EO5                      TENDER 03A/2023 STRATHFIELD COUNCIL DRIVING RANGE DESIGN & CONSTRUCT OR DESIGN, CONSTRUCT & OPERATE UNDER LICENCE

AUTHOR:              Ray Saleam, Manager Capital Works

APPROVER:          Cathy Edwards-Davis, Director Engineering and Operations

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#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the recommendation as outlined in the Confidential Attachment.

#### REPORT

On the 22 March 2023, Council advertised a Tender for the Design and Construct Or Design, Construct and Operate Under Licence (Tender 03A/2023). This was a public open Tender, which was advertised on the Tenderlink website and Council's website. The Tender was open for a period of 30 days and closed on 21 April 2023. The confidential Tender Evaluation Report is attached.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding has been provided in 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. Hudson Park Tender Summary Report - ***CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT - for the information of Councillors***
2. Hudson Park Driving Range- Combined Signed Summary Assessment Sheets - ***CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT - for the information of Councillors***

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EO6                      DECLINE TO ACCEPT TENDER SUBMISSIONS - T03B-2023 - POWELLS CREEK AND SALEYARDS CREEK FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY

AUTHOR:              Herman Lok, Manager, Engineering

APPROVER:          Cathy Edwards-Davis, Director Engineering and Operations

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#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the recommendation as outlined in the Confidential Attachment.

#### REPORT

On 1 May 2023, Council released a Tender for the Powells Creek and Saleyards Creek Flood Risk Management Study (T03B-2023). The Tender was released on the Tenderlink website. The Tender was open for a period of 36 days and closed on 5 June 2023. The confidential Tender Evaluation Report is attached.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. Tender Summary Report - Powell Creek FRM - ***CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT - for the information of Councillors*** - Circulated in Attachments document
2. KBR - Project Experience - ***CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT - for the information of Councillors*** - Circulated in Attachments document
3. KBR - Late Cost Schedule Submission - ***CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT - for the information of Councillors*** - Circulated in Attachments document
4. WMS- Project Experience - ***CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT - for the information of Councillors*** - Circulated in Attachments document

**11.1               REPORT FROM TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING ON 20 JUNE 2023**

**AUTHOR:**       John Inglese, Traffic Engineer

**APPROVER:**     Michael Mamo, General Manager

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting held on 20 June 2023 be noted and the recommendations be adopted.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1.       Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes - 20 June 2023

# ATTACHMENT 1

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

# TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING

## MINUTES

Tuesday 20 June 2023

11am

Main Building Meeting Room

65 Homebush Road, Strathfield





## TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING - 20 JUNE 2023

## MINUTES

Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting of Strathfield Municipal Council held on 20 June 2023, in the Main Building Meeting Room, 65 Homebush Road, Strathfield.

**COMMENCING:** 11:05AM

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Karen Pensabene	Mayor and Chairperson
	Raymond Yeung	Auburn Traffic Police
	Andy Huynh	Transport for NSW

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr John Inglese	Manager, Traffic, Strathfield Council
Mr Jack Griffiths	Traffic Engineer, Strathfield Council
Mr Chris Johnson	Road Safety Officer

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Mayor welcomed all member present at the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Karin Gaylard	Representative of Member for Strathfield Jason Yat-sen Li MP
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**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

MOVED - ANDY HUYNH  
SECONDED – RAYMOND YEUNG

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting meeting held on 16 May 2023, 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 Mintaro Avenue, Strathfield – Consultation Outcomes of Permanent Road Closure and Pocket Park

#### Summary

This report presents the results of the consultation outcomes for the proposed permanent road closure and pocket park in Mintaro Avenue, Strathfield.

#### Background

In line with item 6.5 of the 2023 April Local Traffic Committee meeting, 'Mintaro Avenue, Strathfield – Proposed Traffic Management Changes and Pocket Park', Council staff conducted consultation around the proposed road closure as per the item's recommended consultation area.

The proposal was to permanently close Mintaro Avenue on the north side of the existing triangular section of land and convert this to greenspace, which when combined with the existing greenspace would form a 'pocket park'. This closure was to both reclaim redundant roadway for conversion to greenspace and improve traffic conditions here by clearly defining the travel route for vehicles. See Figure 1.

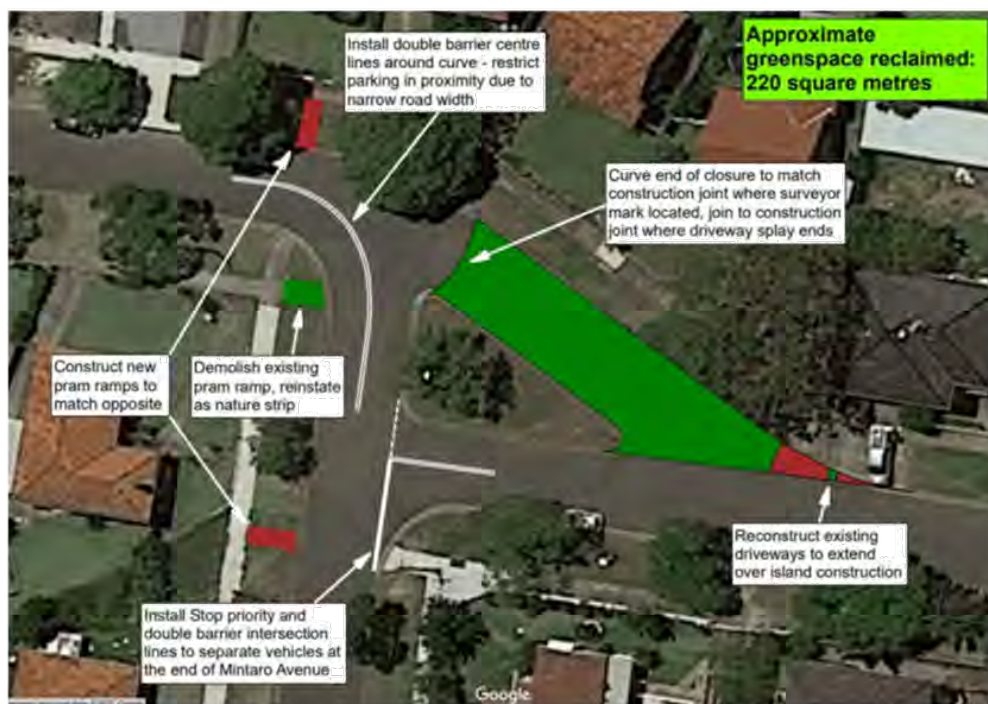


Figure 1 – Original option considered at the 18 April 2023 Traffic Committee Meeting.



### Consultation

Consultation letters of Council's proposal were delivered on Thursday 4 May 2023 and consultation remained open until Friday 2 June 2023, providing a 4-week consultation period. Only the preferred option selected at the Local Traffic Committee meeting was presented and the letters asked for residents to either express their support for, or objection to the proposal.

102 letters were delivered to residences and 11 individual responses via email (sometimes preceded by phone calls) and a signed petition representing 25 residents were received. These responses represent 30 residences and 36 individual residents. The consultation results are as follows:

Supportive		Objection	Objection	Objection
Residences	Residents		Supports closure on south side	Supports one-way
19	25	3	5	2

Of those residents who objected to the current proposal:

- 5 suggested the closure on the south side as per Council's other closure option as shown in Figure 2, including the 'Stop' priority on Noble Avenue exiting onto Mintaro Avenue, and
- 2 suggested a one-way traffic flow around the island, supported by 'Keep Left' and 'No Entry' signs as shown in Figure 3.

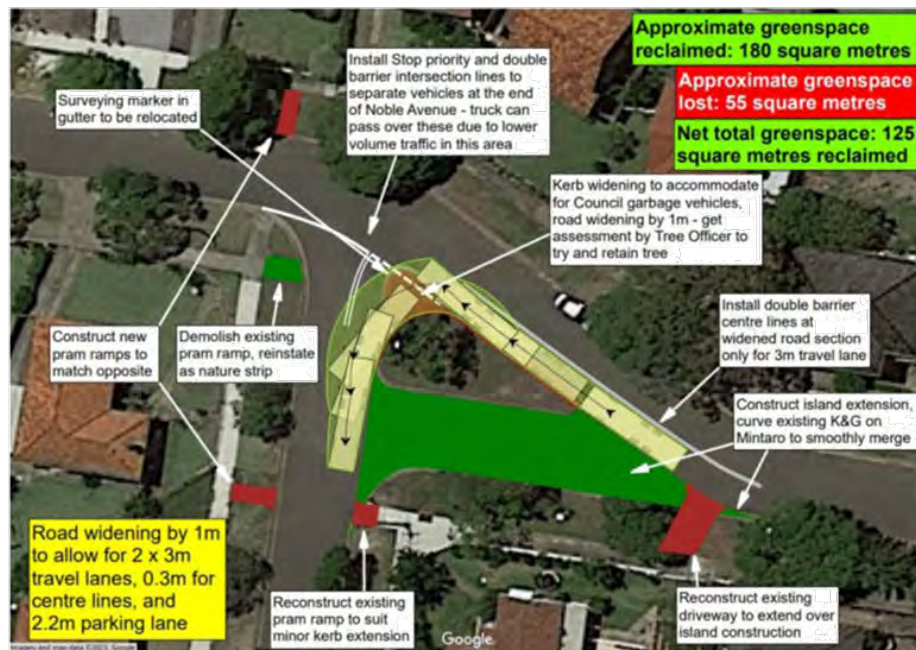


Figure 2 – proposed southern lane closure of Mintaro Avenue with ancillary works and parking restrictions.

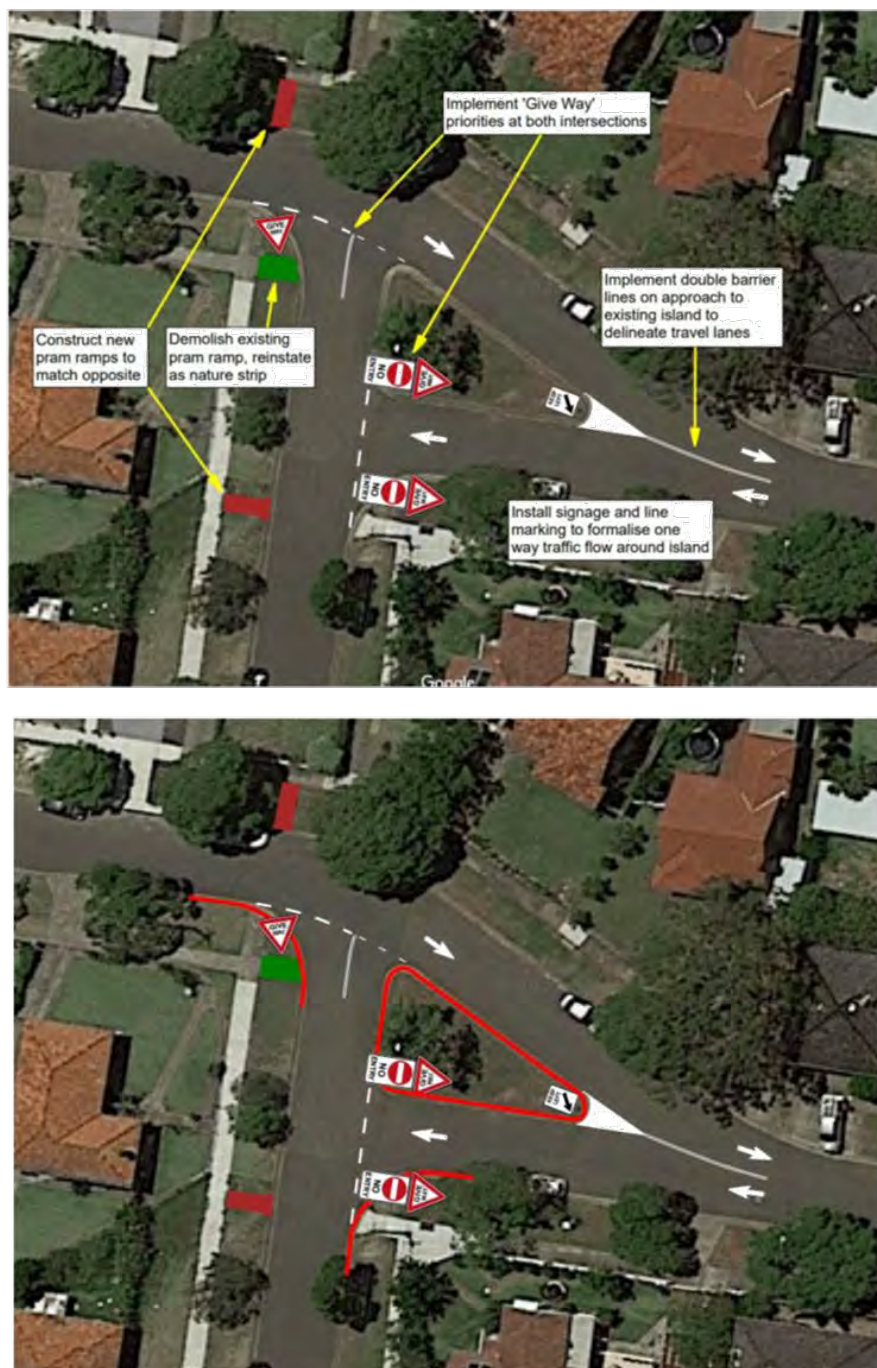


Figure 3 – proposed one way treatment around Mintaro Avenue and Noble Avenue with parking restrictions



Similar reasons for objections were:

- The current proposal disrupts the natural traffic flow, where Mintaro Avenue (north) acts as a local collector road and distributes traffic to all intersecting roads, Noble Avenue, MacArthur Avenue, and Amaroo Avenue,
- Similarly, Mintaro Avenue is the primary collector road through this area and as such should be given priority to and from Homebush Road instead of needing to navigate the bend in the proposal and stopping at the proposed 'Stop' location, and
- The current proposal creates a traffic safety issue by vehicles navigating the tight bend and needing to execute a zig-zag manoeuvre to travel to and from Homebush Road, including limited visibility around the bend at the intersection.

Further isolated comments were:

- The additional greenspace would attract people who may drink, loiter, and sleep in the park, and
- Presents concerns for children playing close to traffic.

### Proposal

Despite the significant number of residents in support of the proposal as it is, it is recommended to conduct further resident consultation on this matter due to the reasons for objection and possible alternative solution that may satisfy those who objected while still being satisfactory to those currently supportive.

Council will conduct further consultation in the same area as the original consultation as shown in Figure 4.

Consultation will include both options as outlined in Figures 1 and 2 and the results of the consultation will be presented at the August Local Traffic Committee meeting that considers responses from both rounds of consultation and all 3 options for treatment at the subject location.

**At the meeting** discussion took place on the outcome of the consultation and the proposal options, where it was highlighted that further consultation should be conducted with other options to ensure all residents are satisfied with the final outcome. It was further discussed that the option shown in Figure 3 may be a good short-term solution and the option shown in Figure 2 may be a long-term solution.



Figure 4 – consultation area from original consultation period

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve further resident consultation be conducted in the area shown in Figure 4 with the preferred option shown in Figure 3 and the alternative option shown in Figure 2.

*(Voting on this item was unanimous)*



## 6.2 Cave Road Shopping Centre - Proposed 90 Degree angle Parking on the North Side of Cave Road - Increasing Parking from 10 to 21 Spaces

### Introduction

Council has received a request to consider converting the existing Parallel parking on the north side of Cave Road to 90 Degree Angle Parking. This report details a design of 90-degree angle parking, including an accessible parking space, to be implemented on the north side of Cave Road.

### Background

Council received representation requesting angled parking spaces be implemented on the north side of Cave Road to increase parking supply for use by customers and staff accessing the shops on Cave Road.

### Existing Arrangement

There are currently 10 X 90-degree parking spaces on the south side of Cave Road and 6 X parallel parking spaces on the north side in the indented area as shown in Figure 1. In August 2022, the following parking restriction was implemented on these parking spaces to encourage customer turnover and improved access to the businesses: '2P 8:30AM-6PM MON-FRI 8:30AM-12:30PM SAT'



Figure 1 – existing number of parking spaces at the Cave Road shops (10 X south side 6 X north side).

As per Australian Standard 2890.5 – *On-Street Parking*, there are currently 6 unmarked, indented parking spaces on the north side of Cave Road as shown in Figure 1.

The width of the indented parking area from front of kerb to the lip of the gutter is 2.8m and the width of the road from the lip of the north gutter to the front of the south kerb is 10.4m as shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2 – existing parking bay and carriageway widths on Cave Road.

### Proposal

Council is proposing to implement 15 unrestricted 90-degree parking spaces on the north side of Cave Road in accordance with Australian Standard 2890.5 as shown in Figure 3, with minor civil works to be conducted to encourage a safe parking environment.

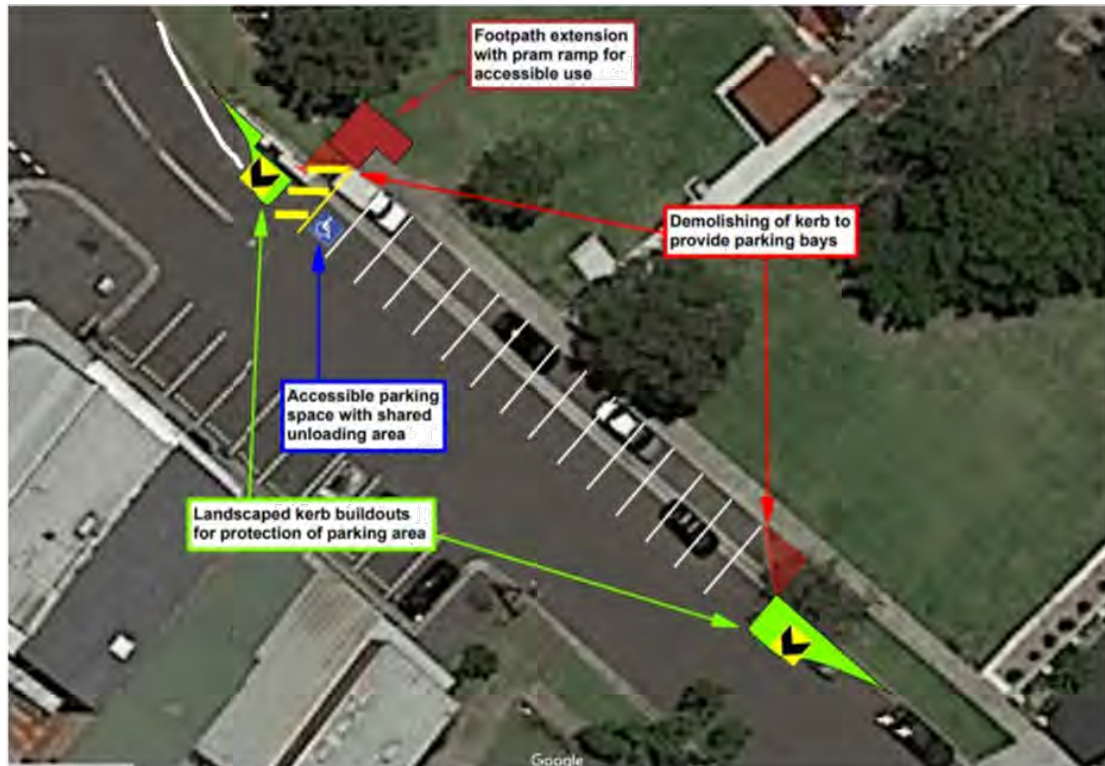


Figure 3 – proposed angle parking spaces and supporting civil works (14 X Spaces) resulting in a total increase of 9 X Spaces.

According to Australian Standard 2890.5, this area and the proposed parking has the following characteristics:

- Classification of on-street parking: medium – generally more than 2-hour parking but less than a full day, e.g. town centre or sports facility
  - Given the adjacent park and small number of shops, this classification is more suitable than 'high' as this relates more to shopping centres
- Speed limit of 50 km/hr
- Less than 200 veh/hr
- Park to a wall or high kerb (kerb height greater than 150mm) with no overhang

As such, AS2890.5 requires a parking space width of 2.5m and a length of 5.6m for regular parking spaces. The implementation of the parking spaces will leave a clear carriageway width of 7.8m to provide a 3.9m-wide travel lane in either direction.



For the accessible parking space, as per *AS2890.5*:

- The parking space must be 2.4m wide and 5.4m long – for consistency, the parking space will be 5.6m long,
- A side shared unloading space must be provided at 2.4m wide and 5.4m long – for consistency, the space will be 5.6m long, and
- A rear unloading space of 2.4m width and 2.4m length must be provided except where the vehicle may unload directly onto the footpath – as vehicles can reverse in to unload directly onto the footpath, this rear unloading area is not required.

To provide the 15 parking spaces and further provide a safe environment for both parking vehicles and through traffic, Council are proposing the below civil (Figure 3) and ancillary (Figure 4) works:

- Square off the end angled sections of kerb to fit all 15 parking spaces within the indented area – the western end to be squared off will have a footpath extension and pram ramp included for accessible use that aligns with the shared unloading area,
- Construct a kerb buildout on the west end of the indented parking area for protection of the parking spaces – this kerb buildout joins into the existing kerb but does not affect the existing stormwater pit,
- Construct a kerb buildout on the east end of the indented parking area for protection of the parking spaces – a completely connected buildout to the existing kerb with suitable gutter treatment for stormwater, and
- Implementing/refreshing various line marking for improved delineation.

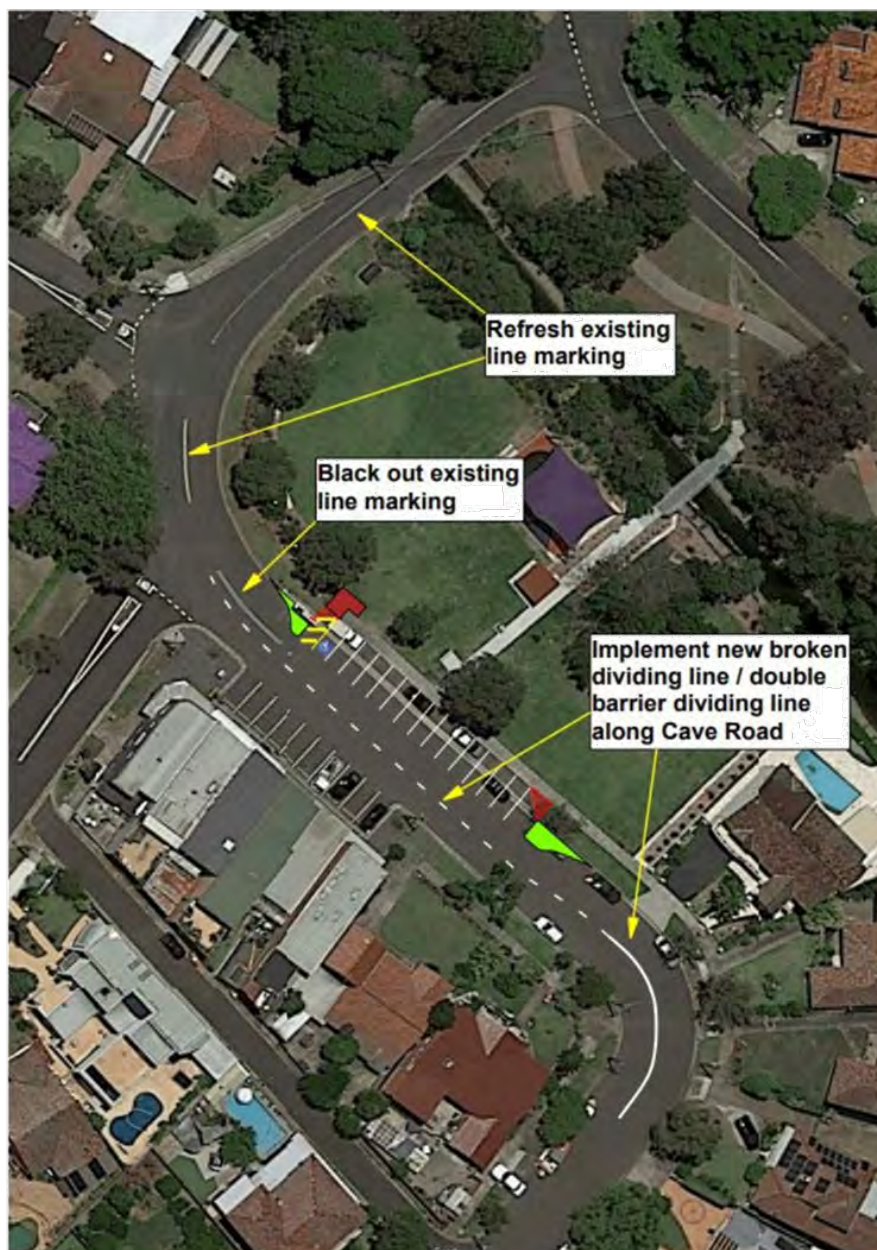


Figure 4 – proposed line marking along Cave Road to support proposed parking changes.

The existing dish drain will remain as it is to assist with stormwater flow at this location.



Council is not proposing to implement parking restrictions on the proposed 90-degree parking at this time given the existing aforementioned parking restrictions on the 10 spaces on the south side of Cave Road and to allow for use of the parking spaces by vehicles accessing both the shops and the park. However, Council can investigate parking restrictions on the proposed parking spaces in the future should demand for the parking be sufficient.

Further, it is not proposed to restrict parallel parking east of the angle parking adjacent to the broken dividing line given the low vehicle volumes along Cave Road (there is 'No Stopping' in place around the bend on Cave Road).

\*Please note that one on-street parking space will be lost to the east of the proposed parking area due to the kerb buildout to be implemented, and this results in a net gain of 8 on-street parking spaces.

**At the meeting** discussion took place on the design, where the TfNSW representative also suggested edge line marking around the kerb buildouts to better delineate these buildouts for improved vehicle safety.

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council approve the proposed 90-degree angle parking (rear to kerb) and supporting civil works to be implemented as per Figure 3 of the report.
2. Further that Council approve the line marking including the edge line marking to be implemented as per Figure 4 of the report.
3. That the estimated total cost of \$15,000 be funded from the 2023/24 LATM budget.
4. That the businesses and surrounding residences be notified of the changes prior to implementation.

*(Voting on this item was unanimous)*



**7. LATE ITEM – SPEAKER FROM FITZGERALD CRESCENT, STRATHFIELD - SMALL TRUCK PARKING ISSUES IN THE STREET**

**Introduction**

At the Traffic Committee of the 20 June 2023 a resident from Fitzgerald Crescent Strathfield requested to speak at the Traffic Committee Meeting regarding the number of small trucks parking in the street for extended periods of time.

**Background**

On the 5 June 2023, The Mayor and Council offices attended a site meeting with a resident of Fitzgerald Crescent to discuss the small trucks parking in the street. At the time of the site meeting one small tip truck and trailer were present. See figure 1.



Figure 1.

Also during the site meeting discussions it became evident that traffic and parking movements would benefit from having some No Stopping restrictions installed on the inside of the curve (see figure 2).



Figure 2.

In addition to the above, in April 2023 Council received a request to tidy up the mismatched 3t and 4t Weight limit signage at either end of the Crescent where it meets Liverpool Road. At that time the signs were all made 3t. (See Figure 3).



### No trucks sign

Drivers of long or heavy vehicles, except buses, must not drive past a NO TRUCKS sign unless the vehicle is equal to or less than the mass or length specified on the sign.

When the sign does not provide detailed information, no truck (ie GVM greater than 4.5 tonnes) is permitted to drive past the sign, unless the driver's destination lies beyond the sign and it is the only route.



Figure 3.

At the meeting Committee members heard the residents' concerns regarding truck and trailer parking in Fitzgerald Crescent and the following was advised:

Council has done all it can to improve the situation in Fitzgerald Crescent in terms of Parking Restrictions, 3t weight limit signage and enforcement. If the resident wants to change the legislation in relation to trucks parking under 4.5t then there is a separate process that he needs to follow and Council will provide a contact in State Government for that.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes that staff have done all that is possible under the current legislation in Fitzgerald Crescent in terms of parking restrictions, 3t weight limit signage and enforcement.

In relation the unregistered trailer parking in Fitzgerald Crescent, Council Rangers will be advised to act on that matter as soon as possible.

*(Voting on this item was unanimous)*



## 8. ROAD SAFETY

### 8.1 ROAD SAFETY OFFICERS REPORT – JUNE 2023

Report prepared by Road Safety Officer – Chris Johnson

#### Issues

- a) New funding opportunity for pedestrian safety thermoplastics in Strathfield Town Centre.
- b) Finalising the new Local Government Road Safety Program Grant Applications for the 2023 – 24 year.

#### Highlights

Younger Drivers – New Workshop planned in July 2023  
 National Road Safety Week Programs planned for May 2023  
 Strathfield Pedestrian Safety Campaign – Audit of street messaging to be replaced or removed.  
 Safety Around Schools – Second Forum being planned for the end of Term 2.

#### Projects

##### 1) Young Driver Workshop

New Workshops, with Burwood, Inner West and Canada Bay in July 2023

#### BOOKINGS

- The next workshop will be held in July 2023.
- Over 68 attended from Strathfield community in 2022.
- The workshops are free for the community.
- Promotions included schools and community groups.

#### Impact

- Continuation of Strathfield's low crash rate with persons aged 17 – 24.
- Better preparation for learner drivers.
- Learning can be a positive experience.

##### 2) Child Restraint Checking Days (Strathfield Occupant Restraint)

The RSO is evaluating the process of customer bookings to increase the numbers Council can service during the checking days. 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.

- Vehicles Checked 22/23 as of April 2023 202
- Next Checking Day 13 June 2023
- June is fully booked.

#### Impact

- Positive Community Feedback
- Positive promotions 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.



### Road Safety News of Interest to the Community

Thanks to Mayor Pensabene and John Inglese for organising National Road Safety Week Promotions.



#### National Road Safety Week

Strathfield Council is proud to support National Road Safety Week by continuing our commitment to creating safer streets for our community. An example of this is the recently improved Homebush West Car Park which has increased safety for both pedestrians and motorists. Take the pledge and learn more about how you can do your part to keep our roads safe.

We had great feedback on the 'Share the Path' as the theme for National Road Safety Week from transport as one of a few Councils in our region to do an official announcement.

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Road Safety Officer Report be received and noted.

*(Voting on this item was unanimous)*

Meeting Closed: 11:55am

Next Meeting: 18 July 2023

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12.1 NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR HALL

SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION NOTIFICATION AREA - AMENDMENT  
TO STRATHFIELD COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PLAN

I MOVE:

That a report, be provided to Council at the earliest opportunity, outlining how the notification area for Development Applications can be extended to a 500m radius.

**Rationale**

The Strathfield Community Participation Plan (CPP) outlines the ways in which Council should advertise and notify Development Applications (section 5.8) including:

- Who should be notified,
- Methods of notification,
- Advertisement requirements,
- Content of notifications,
- Minimum notification area, and
- Notification periods.

At the moment the CPP expresses the notification area as a minimum which can be increased at the discretion of the assessing officer, considering the nature and the likely impact of the proposal. For the construction of, or use of a Boarding House all properties within a minimum 500m radius, measured from the centre of the site of the development application are to be notified.

I propose that a 500m radius is an appropriate notification for all Development Applications, so that potentially affected residents or businesses are provided with an opportunity to make a submission to Council.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That a draft amendment to the Strathfield Community Participation Plan be reported to Council. The draft amendment is to extend the notification area for Development Applications to a 500m radius.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

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12.2 NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DATTA

SUBJECT: FOOTPATH EXTENSION CORONATION PARADE

I MOVE:

That a report be provided for Council to undertake the necessary works to connect the concrete path from the coronation parade slip road down to the cycle way.

Rationale

Many local residents are cyclists, using this route for cycling. This disconnect of only a few meters, forces cyclists to leave Cooks river cycle-way and take the busy Coronation parade to continue their cycling. It is not only an inconvenience for the cyclists, but also a major safety issue as cyclists are forced to share the coronation parade with busy traffic.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That a report be provided for Council to undertake the necessary works to connect the concrete path from the coronation parade slip road down to the cycle way.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

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**12.3 NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DATTA**

**SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES**

I MOVE:

That commencing from July 2023 all Citizenship ceremonies are planned for 5pm or later if held on weekdays or held on weekends.

Rationale

Citizenship ceremonies are one of the most important events in the lives of the new citizens.

It should be held at a time when all willing Councillors can join the new citizens to welcome them as new Australians.

Currently on some occasions, by having the citizenship ceremonies during working hours, some Councillors who are full time workers, are being prevented from joining the new citizens on such an important event of their lives.

It is also becoming a barrier to the full time working Councillors for representing their communities and performing their civic duties.

Many residents have also complained that they need to take leave for attending the ceremonies thereby incurring financial loss.

It is also becoming a barrier for family, friends and school and university going children who are keen to accompany the new citizens to the ceremony, for attending the event due to the ceremonies being held at working during hour.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That commencing from July 2023 all Citizenship ceremonies are planned for 5pm or later if held on weekdays or held on weekends.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

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**12.4 NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DATTA**

**SUBJECT: COURALLIE AVENUE - PARKING**

I MOVE:

That a report be prepared for transforming Courallie Avenue into a 4P parking zone for general public who are not local but remain the way it is for local residents.

Rationale

Currently as it is an unlimited parking zone, local residents and visitors find it very hard to find a parking spot on the road, as many non-local are parking on the road for whole day. Some cars are even parked on Courallie for days at a time. It is also creating traffic congestion in the area.

Unlimited parking for local residents will ensure local residents are not inconvenienced by this exercise.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That a report be prepared for transforming Courallie Avenue into a 4P parking zone for general public who are not local but remain the way it is for local residents.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.