



# STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

**ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF STRATHFIELD  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
65 HOMEBUSH ROAD, STRATHFIELD  
ON TUESDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2009**

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

### **OPEN FORUM**

**COMMENCING AT 7.00PM**

Open Forum is held prior to each Council Meeting to enable any person to address Council without notice on any matter NOT included in the Agenda of the meeting.

Speakers must give their name and address and are permitted 5 minutes to address council.

Members of the public are not permitted to make personal comments concerning Councillors, staff or other members of the public or engage in disorderly or offensive conduct at a meeting. Unacceptable conduct may result in rescinding speaking rights or expulsion from the meeting.

All comments made in Open Forum are recorded.

### **COUNCIL MEETING COMMENCING AT THE CONCLUSION OF OPEN FORUM**

Please refer to Agenda attached.

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

"Tape record" includes a video camera and an electronic device capable of recording speech.  
Mobile phones must be turned off so as not to disrupt the meeting.

Anyone, including Councillors, found using a mobile phone will be told to leave the meeting immediately and for the duration of the said meeting.

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

1. Prayer
2. Declaration of Pecuniary or Conflict of Interest (nature of interest to be disclosed)
3. Confirmation of Minutes
  1. Ordinary Council Meeting 3 November 2009
  2. Extraordinary Council Meeting 24 November 2009
4. Apologies
5. Deferred/Outstanding matters awaiting report  
Nil.
6. Planning and Development Matters  
Nil.
7. Mayoral Minute(s) in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice
8. Councillors' Questions to the Mayor (submitted in writing in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice)  
Nil.
9. Reports from Committees  
Traffic Committee Meeting 17 November 2009
10. Motions Pursuant to Notice
  - A. Notice of Motions signed by Councillor Brett-Bowen
    1. Strathfield Chamber of Commerce Christmas Window Display Competition
  - B. Notice of Motions signed by Councillor Barron
    1. Residents Christmas Decorations Competition

C. Notice of Motions signed by Councillor Lim

1. Observing Boer War Day – 30 May 2010
2. Home Window Safety
3. Home Balcony Safety
4. Council Supported Playgroup
5. International Students
6. Public Health Expenditure

11. General Business

1. Southern Sydney Region of Councils (SSROC) Electricity Tender
2. Investment Report as at 31 October 2009
3. Mayor and Councillor Fees
4. Council Recess
5. Sydney Metro West Update
6. Heritage Assistance Grants 2009/2010
7. Proposed Licence Agreement – Begnell Field
8. Concept for Leash Free Area at Allen Street Reserve and Strathfield Creek Pedestrian Bridge
9. Regional Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP) Grant Application – Review of Applications

12. Matters of Urgency in Accordance with Clause 241 of the Local Government General Regulation, 2005

13. Closed Session

In accordance with Section 10A (2) of the Local Government Act 1993 the following matters will be considered in Closed Session for the reasons stated:

1. Tender – Southend Tennis Centre

The above matter is being 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.

2. 1 Broughton Road and 33 Beresford Road Strathfield

The above matter is being considered in Closed Session as it relates to the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer.

I endorse the recommendations contained herein.

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General Manager

**MOTIONS PURSUANT TO NOTICE**

A. Notice of Motions signed by Councillor Brett-Bowen

**1. Strathfield Chamber of Commerce Christmas Window Display Competition**

I MOVE:

THAT Strathfield Municipal Council resolves to:

- a) To make a contribution of \$100 towards the first prize in the Strathfield Chamber of Commerce Christmas Window Display Competition.
- b) To endorse Councillor Tony Maroun, the Mayor of Strathfield to be one of the Judges of the Best Decorated Christmas Window that have been entered in the Strathfield Chamber of Commerce Christmas Window Display Competition.

**Rationale:** *To assist in providing an incentive to shop owners to decorate their windows for the festive season.*

B. Notice of Motions signed by Councillor Barron

**1. Residents Christmas Decorations Competition**

I MOVE:

THAT in recognition of the great effort by Strathfield residents, Council authorise the General Manager to conduct a competition for first, second and third place for the best Christmas decoration displays. The prizes to consist of a Congratulations Plaque together with a cash prize of (first place \$300) (second place \$200) and (third place \$100).

**Rational:** *When you drive or walk around the Strathfield Council area during the Christmas period I am struck by the beautiful Christmas decorations that residents display on and around their homes. Obviously a lot of time and energy has been used to put the displays together and lets don't forget the extra electricity costs to the residents. The residents should be congratulated for adding to the Christmas spirit around the Strathfield Council area.*

C. Notice of Motions signed by Councillor Lim

**1. Observing Boer War Day – 30 May 2010**

I MOVE:

THAT Strathfield Municipal Council resolves to authorise the General Manager to prepare a report on the opportunities for the Council and Community of Strathfield to participate in observing Boer War Day on Sunday, May 30th, 2010.

**Rationale:** *The Local Government and Shires Associations of New South Wales are supporting local Boer War Day ceremonies on Sunday, May 30th, 2010, and local councils, like Strathfield, are encouraged to consider participating in observing Boer War Day.*

**Previous Events:** *Earlier this year, on Sunday, May 31st, 2009, Woollahra Municipal Council – in collaboration with the Boer War Memorial Committee – conducted a ceremony at the memorial dedicated to Lt Gideon Grieve, who was killed in action in South Africa in February 1900.*

*This event attracted considerable interest from descendants of Lt Grieve and a wide range of community organizations, including local media, associations of armed services, the RSL, the local historical society, churches and local residents.*

**Background Information:** *Approximately 22,000 Australian soldiers and nurses – the largest of any country other than the United Kingdom – served with the 400,000 British and Commonwealth army.*

*In many ways the Boer War was a precursor for the First World War, including the beginnings of Australia's military association with New Zealand that was to become the ANZAC legend. However, Australia's role in its first real war, the Boer War, was overshadowed by the horrors of the First World War.*

## **2. Home Window Safety**

### I MOVE:

1. THAT Strathfield Municipal Council resolves to authorise the General Manager to prepare a report on Home Window Safety, including, but not limited to, the take up of safety measures, such as window locks and barriers, on houses, townhouses/villas and residential flat buildings in the Strathfield local government area.
2. THAT Strathfield Municipal Council resolves to authorise the General Manager to open a dialogue with local residents, ratepayers and other stakeholders, including, but not limited to, landlords and bodies corporate, in the Strathfield local government area, to encourage the take up of Home Window Safety measures, such as window locks and barriers, AND THAT Council further resolves to authorise the General Manager to prepare a further progress report to Council accordingly.
3. THAT Strathfield Municipal Council resolves to develop an education/information campaign for local residents, ratepayers and other stakeholders, including, but not limited to, landlords and bodies corporate, in the Strathfield local government area, to encourage the take up of Home Window Safety measures, such as window locks and barriers, AND THAT Council further resolves to authorise the General Manager to prepare a further progress report to Council accordingly.
4. THAT Strathfield Municipal Council resolves to call on the State Member for Strathfield, the Honourable Dianne Virginia Judge MP, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts, and the New South Wales State Government, to immediately take urgent action on Home Window Safety, including, but not limited to, legislative reform in New South Wales, to mandate the take up of Home Window Safety measures, such as window locks and barriers, in all new residential dwellings, AND THAT, additionally, a motion from Council to that effect be submitted to the 2010 Local Government Association Conference at Albury.

**Rationale:** Council will be aware, as reported in the Sydney Morning Herald in October 2009, that a surge in the number of serious injuries to children from falling out of windows over the past five years has had no effect on the New South Wales State Government's building and tenancy laws or hastened the introduction of Home Window Safety measures.

The recent falls from home windows by Sydney children in two separate incidents has brought renewed calls for houses and apartments to be fitted with window locks or barriers.

The Commission for Children and Young People Injury Prevention Reference Group Report clearly indicates an increase of some 30 per cent in the number of children aged one to four admitted to NSW hospitals between 2005 and last year after falls from windows.

About 40 per cent of these falls occurred at home and the majority resulted in head injuries. Overseas studies have also demonstrated that introducing proper locks and barriers can dramatically reduce the number of serious falls. However, New South Wales state legislation does not require these measures to be included in either new or existing homes.

According to the Executive Officer of KidSafe NSW, Ms Christine Erskine, there is a safe housing design standard which says that all windows less than 1.2 metres above the floor should be designed so that a child cannot open them more than 10 centimetres, but this standard has not been made into law in New South Wales.

Chris Martin from the Tenants Union of NSW also argues that safety measures are also being held back by inadequate tenancy laws under which landlords can ignore requests from tenants with children to undertake specific works. Under law, landlords only have to provide premises that are 'fit for habitation and in a reasonable state of repair'.

Consequently, other than putting in little more than a smoke detector, there are no specific standards that landlords have to meet at all – whether it is a safe electrical switch, a window lock or a security screen on the window. Indeed, there have been cases where a tenant requests a specific thing and the landlord has refused to do it because, put simply, 'they can'.

A five-year audit of trauma cases at Sydney Children's Hospital also found that of the 23 children admitted between 2003 and 2007 after window falls, nine were injured at rental properties.

### **3. Home Balcony Safety**

#### IMOVE:

1. THAT Strathfield Municipal Council resolves to authorise the General Manager to prepare a report on Home Balcony Safety, including, but not limited to, the take up of safety measures, such as minimum balcony heights and the like, on houses, townhouses/villas and residential flat buildings in the Strathfield local government area.

2. THAT Strathfield Municipal Council resolves to authorise the General Manager to open a dialogue with local residents, ratepayers and other stakeholders, including, but not limited to, landlords and bodies corporate, in the Strathfield local government area, to encourage the take up of Home Balcony Safety measures, such as minimum balcony heights and the like, AND THAT Council further resolves to authorise the General Manager to prepare a further progress report to Council accordingly.
3. THAT Strathfield Municipal Council resolves to develop an education/information campaign for local residents, ratepayers and other stakeholders, including, but not limited to, landlords and bodies corporate, in the Strathfield local government area, to encourage the take up of Home Balcony Safety measures, such as minimum balcony heights and the like, AND THAT Council further resolves to authorise the General Manager to prepare a further progress report to Council accordingly.
4. THAT Strathfield Municipal Council resolves to call on the State Member for Strathfield, the Honourable Dianne Virginia Judge MP, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts, and the New South Wales State Government, to immediately take urgent action on Home Balcony Safety, including, but not limited to, legislative reform in New South Wales, to mandate the take up of Home Balcony Safety measures, such as minimum balcony heights and the like, in all new residential dwellings, AND THAT, additionally, a motion from Council to that effect be submitted to the 2010 Local Government Association Conference at Albury.

#### **4. Council Supported Playgroup**

I MOVE:

1. THAT Strathfield Municipal Council resolves to express the gratitude of the Council and Community of Strathfield to all parents and staff involved in the establishment and operations of the Council supported playgroup over the last two years.
2. THAT Strathfield Municipal Council resolves to re-establish the Council Supported Playgroup with a minimum of one paid children's services worker employed by Council.

#### **5. International Students**

I MOVE:

1. THAT Strathfield Municipal Council resolves to authorise the General Manager to prepare a report on the opportunities for supporting and assisting the growing number of International Students in the Strathfield local government area, including, but not limited to, prompting further opportunities for facilitating informal referral to relevant governmental bodies as well as appropriate non-government organisations.
2. THAT Strathfield Municipal Council resolves to call on the State Member for Strathfield, the Honourable Dianne Virginia Judge MP, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts, and the New

South Wales State Government, to immediately take urgent action on the welfare of International Students, including, but not limited to, by considering the establishment of an 'Overseas Students Centre' to provide assistance to students, as proposed by the Consul General of the Republic of India to Sydney, Mr Amrit Dasgupta, AND THAT, additionally, a motion from Council to that effect be submitted to the 2010 Local Government Association Conference at Albury.

**Rationale:** Council will be aware of the growing number of International Students in the Strathfield local government area and, also, of the recent call to the New South Wales State Government by the Consul General of the Republic of India to Sydney, Mr Amrit Dasgupta, for the establishment of an 'Overseas Students Centre' to provide assistance to International Students.

*The past year alone has seen the collapse of some twelve private colleges – including those attended by International Students residing in the Strathfield council area. The majority of these college closures occurred without warning to students.*

*Some 3,000 International Students were left out of pocket and uncertain about their visa situation with the most recent collapse of four colleges in Sydney and Melbourne owned by Global Campus Management Group.*

*Meanwhile, earlier in 2009, near riots also broke out in Melbourne and Sydney – in our neighbouring council area of Auburn – when students of Indian background demanded more police action in response to alleged race-related.*

*Last month's publication of the 'Consumer Guide for International Students' –as reported in the Sydney Morning Herald in November 2009, has been attacked as a useless waste of money by an overseas student support group.*

*The colourful 46-page brochure – produced by the New South Wales Office of Fair Trading – covers basic consumer, home ownership and tenancy rights in New South Wales, and includes advice on escaping a bad gym membership, selecting a mobile phone plan and shopping for a car.*

*However, according to the President of the All International Students Association, Navjot Singh, it appears the authors have no idea about the concerns of overseas students, whose plight has this year threatened the \$16 billion industry and caused tension between Australia and India – the original home country of many International Students.*

*'They just don't understand the concept of being a foreign student in Australia,' Mr Singh told the Sydney Morning Herald.*

*'We know how to buy a laptop, but we need to know how to get a refund from a college that closes down,' Mr Singh said. 'Though you could choose between a thousand colleges to do a hairdressing course, there is nothing about how to choose a good one.'*

*Mr Singh said that the brochure – 50,000 copies of which will be distributed in universities and TAFEs – did not even begin to address these problems. Even if it did, he said, the most vulnerable students attend private colleges, not TAFEs and universities.*

*'This is not [advice] for international students; it's just advice for anyone who lives in Sydney,' Mr Singh added.*

## **6. Public Health Expenditure**

### IMOVE:

THAT Strathfield Municipal Council resolves to congratulate the New South Wales Government and, in particular, the State Member for Strathfield, the Honourable Dianne Virginia Judge MP, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts, whose own pay has increased as a Councillor, Mayor, Member of Parliament, and now a Minister, for spending by far the lowest on each person of all Australian states on public health activities.

**Rationale:** *Council will be aware that the New South Wales State Government spent by far the lowest on each person of all Australian states on public health activities and relied on the Australian Commonwealth Government for 61 per cent of the funds, as reported in the Sydney Morning Herald in November 2009.*

*The New South Wales Government spent just \$90 a person in the last reported year, compared with a national average of \$102. In contrast, the Queensland Government spent \$103 a person, Western Australia \$100 and Victoria \$99.*

*Against the national trend, the NSW Government spent just \$12 a person on health promotion, half as much as the Victorian Government, and the least of all states. Health promotion includes campaigns on personal hygiene, mental health awareness, sun exposure and injury prevention, including suicide prevention.*

*The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Report on Public Health Expenditure in Australia showed that the NSW Government spent two per cent more from its own budget in 2007/08, or \$174 million on public health activities, compared with the previous year. But this was far less than the average increase for the other states and territories of 13 per cent.*

*In contrast, the Australian Commonwealth Government spent \$267 million in New South Wales – bringing the state's total to \$441 million.*

*Public health activities are aimed at prevention and protection and include communicable disease control, food standards and hygiene, screening programs, drug use prevention and immunisation.*

*According to the Principal Economist at the Institute, John Goss, the low public health promotion spending means that the New South Wales State Government should examine whether it is spending enough.*