

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary Meeting of Council will be held at the Civic Centre, Dee Why on

Tuesday 16 May 2023

Beginning at 6:00pm for the purpose of considering and determining matters included in this agenda.



Louise Kerr
Interim Chief Executive Officer

OUR VISION

Delivering the highest quality service valued and trusted by our community

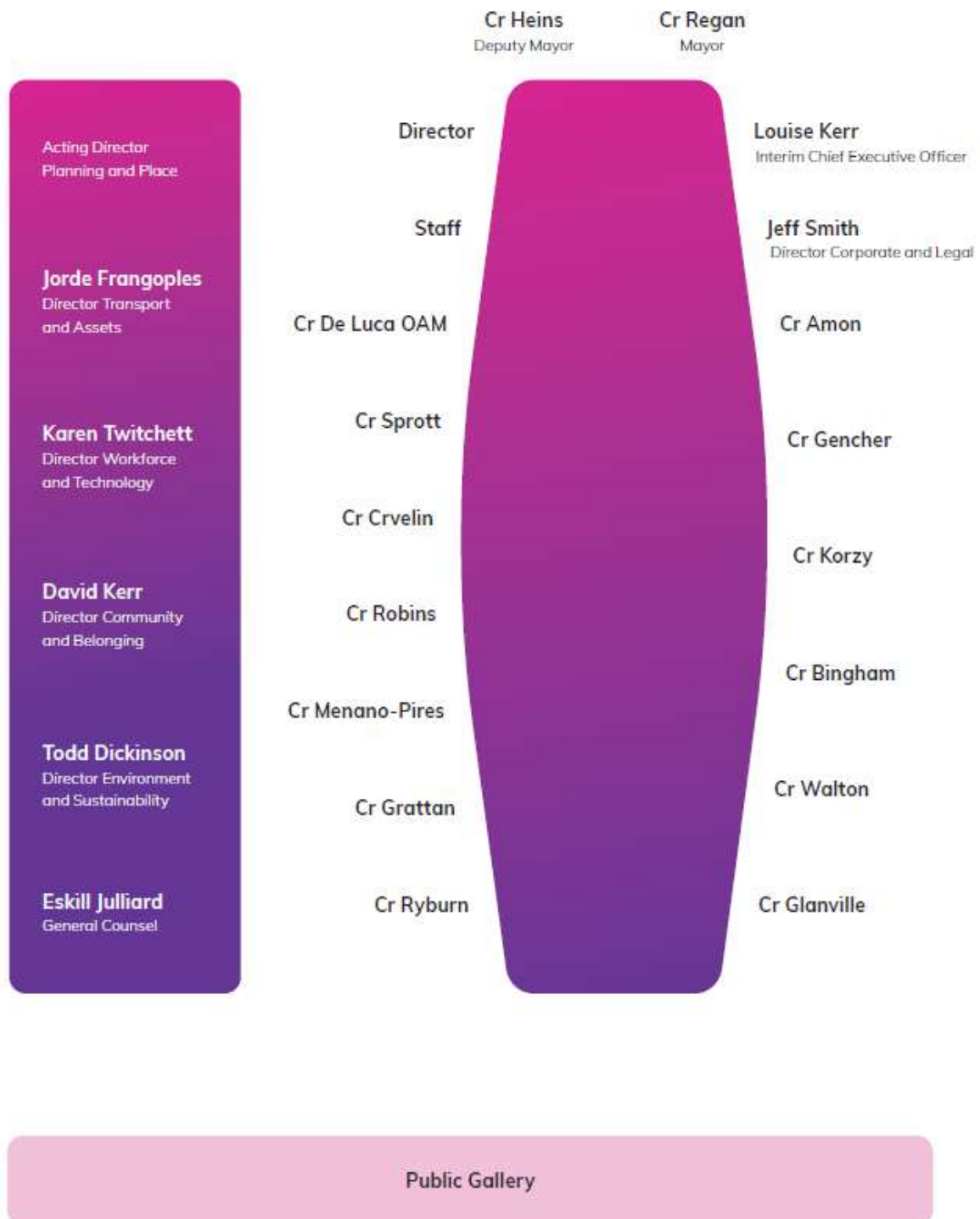
OUR VALUES

Trust Teamwork Respect Integrity Service Leadership

OUR OBLIGATIONS

I swear/solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of the Northern Beaches and the Northern Beaches Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgement.

Council Chambers Seating Plan



**Agenda for an Extraordinary Meeting of Council
to be held on Tuesday 16 May 2023
at the Civic Centre, Dee Why
Commencing at 6:00pm**

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6.0 MAYORAL MINUTES

ITEM 6.1 **MAYORAL MINUTE NO 3/2023 - MAYOR, MICHAEL REGAN,
MP FOR WAKEHURST - RESIGNATION FROM THE OFFICE
OF MAYOR**

TRIM FILE REF **2023/293833**

ATTACHMENTS **1 [Mayoral Minute - Michael Regan - Summary of
Achievements](#)**

BACKGROUND

It's been an extraordinary and humbling journey over the past 15 years as both the first directly elected Mayor of Warringah and then the first Mayor of the Northern Beaches Council.

With so much to be proud of, I have attached highlights of what has been achieved collectively by the wonderful partnership between Council, its staff, and our community. When we put the community first, work with the staff and with each other, we will always achieve much for our local community.

When I started, my goals were simple, to get the Council to do the basics right, to put our residents first, to support local business and to get its house (finances) in order. I wanted to get rid of the infrastructure backlog before building anything else; to live within our means and be transparent in how we spend the community's money and transparent in how we make decisions - I've always been a realist, noting we will make mistakes along the way, but that is okay so long as we are transparent and learn from them. And so began my journey as Mayor.

In that time, I have met the most extraordinary people doing great things supporting their community in various capacities. Some have sadly passed on too, but their legacy lives on. Others step in or step up.

The community I have had the privilege of leading over the past 15 years is a compassionate and caring one.

One example that will always resonate with me is during that dark period of our lifetime (remember COVID 19 Lockdowns). The community by and large got around each other, checked on neighbours, supported local businesses and took care of each other. Our staff here at Council stepped up, creating innovative programs to support its community like the very popular Library2U service. Some staff dropped message cards into letterboxes encouraging neighbours to check in on each other while others helped make around 8,000 calls to some of our most vulnerable residents to see if they needed anything. I'm incredibly proud of how we worked closely with NSW Health especially during the "Northern Beaches" outbreak of Christmas 2020 when authorities were not coping with the logistics of testing a population keen to avoid another lockdown. Within hours, we had testing sites set up for them to staff - marquees and lighting and portable amenities and shelters. NSW Health could not believe it nor be more grateful. What people don't know is the amount of work that went on behind the scenes to ensure that we planned for every scenario possible. Some too morbid to detail, but we were there ready and willing and very able and I'm proud of our council and more broadly our community.

But we had been caring for each other long before the pandemic hit. What about the natural disasters we had both locally and afar? Locally, our staff door-knocked thousands of homes in the days after local flooding or East coast lows to ensure nobody was being overlooked or missed out on any support. Along with our former CEO, I was able to pick up the phone to local surf clubs to enlist their help to provide additional assistance to those houses impacted who had no family or friends to assist. Those same surf club volunteers joined our SES and RFS along with others, to

volunteer and drive hundreds of kilometres to help others around the State in need, be it the floods or the fires. Our staff went South to a regional council who was so badly affected by the fires, their own staff were unable to work. As part of the recovery, our staff stepped in. This compassion was evident when I was Mayor of Warringah, I took a call at the Sydney Cricket Test one summer from the Mayor of Brewarrina. They had just been flooded and their staff could not get into town as they were surrounded by water on their farms. Our staff flew in to help out. Go forward a few years, Brewarrina was about to lose accreditation for childcare, and as such would lose their scarce teachers and police officer. Something the town could not afford. Our staff flew in again and helped them gain accreditation by meeting the new legislation requirements resulting in them maintaining their staff and essential workers.

Across my entire Council journey as Mayor, I have been proud to lead a Council that has empathy for its community and abroad. Prepared to act without sometimes being asked, but often initiating the help.

For me, those are the biggest achievements. The human side of the organisation and how we treat each other and the community. And attached are some of the professional highlights of what we did together over the years, what we built and will continue to build on. The Community, the staff and Councillors. No Council or organisation is perfect. No individual is perfect. It is and will always be the sum of all parts that make us extra-ordinary. Never forget that.

So as my time as Mayor ends tonight, I want to say thank you to all who have shared the journey. Far too many to name individually. Together we achieved so much which is very much the envy of other Councils and communities. We have adopted various policies to ensure there is strong governance and transparency throughout the business. This has ensured we now have a resilient and sustainable organisation that provides excellent services and facilities to support our community into the future.

I want to thank the former Chief Executive Officer Ray Brownlee, PSM, the Directors and all the staff of this current Council. Nothing would be achieved if we did not have their commitment and determination to excel in what we do. Our staff work hard. Be it out on our roads, in our parks, on our beaches, in our libraries, customer service areas, in our swim centres, and our childcare centres and of course there are those staff we don't see – everyone making a difference because I know they are also proud of what they do and how we support our community and for many of them – it is their community too.

And I want to thank the previous Warringah Council administration led by Rik Hart and again re-iterate the words above for Northern Beaches Council. Together with our community we took the Councils to high performing and transparent organisations that served our Community with genuine passion, skill and empathy. And we were awarded the A R Bluet award – for both Councils. A rare feat.

I'd like to also thank our local State and Federal Members for their support and working with us to deliver some amazing projects in the last fifteen years.

Fun Facts: In my time we have had seven Prime Ministers (if you count Mr Rudd twice) and in batting order. Rudd, Gillard, Rudd, Abbott, Turnbull, Morrison and Albanese. Seven Premiers: Rees, Keneally, O'Farrell, Baird, Berejiklian, Perrottet and Minns. Five Federal MPs locally – Abbott, Steggall, Bishop, Falinski and Scamps. And seven local State MPs – Baird, Griffin, Hazzard, Stokes, Amon, Odea, Cross... and now an 8th, me.

While we're talking numbers, I was astounded last night at my final Citizenship Ceremony to be told that I have personally presided over 16,000 locals becoming new citizens. Truly amazing. Without a doubt, citizenship ceremonies are one of my most favourite parts of being the Mayor - to hear the accents as people proudly read their oaths is truly beautiful. To then learn their stories - some romantic, some tragic - all of them unique - is to learn about the human condition. And it makes me appreciate even more how lucky we are to live here in God's country. To those 16,000

new citizens - you have done us an honour by choosing the Northern Beaches, thank you for letting me play a small part in your journey.

Also, a big thank you to our Strategic Reference Group members, our advisory groups, community organisations, resident associations and the many individuals who have worked with us to ensure the stability and success of this council and Warringah Council before it. Many of you had watched previous councils struggle with accountability and transparency... for some of you, your faith and trust had been lost. Thank you for giving us a chance - your vigilance, scrutiny and contribution made us a stronger organisation.

Finally, I want to acknowledge that there have been many Councillors who I have had the privilege to serve alongside. Some 33 in total. Some multiple times. I take this opportunity to thank you publicly and personally for your contributions not just on this Council, but the previous Councils you may have served with distinction. Very few people appreciate the hard work, the hours and effort that goes into being a Councillor. I do. A sincere thank you for making the sacrifice, making the effort, for giving a damn and for being willing to put your hand up to contribute to the ideas and debate, and making decisions on behalf of the community. Most importantly to our families and friends, and in particular, partners who all allow us to do what we do for and on behalf of our local community. You all contribute in various ways. So, to my "boys" now young men - James and Alex - thank you for allowing me to be Mayor and sharing me with the local community. And to my wife Bronwen, thank you for all you do for me personally, for our community and being so selfless for over a decade. You are one of a kind.

Enjoy reading through the attachments. We achieved a lot together. These are but a snapshot of all that. A moment in time to reflect on. Did we leave this place in better shape than when we took over... absolutely yes, we did!

Good luck to the next Mayor. Remember, it's about the Community. Always.

I leave knowing that the Council is in good shape and the community is in good hands. I look forward to working with the new leadership and seeing our wonderful community to continue to go from strength to strength.

MOTION

That Council note the Mayoral Minute and ask the Chief Executive Officer to convey my sincere thanks to the staff of the Northern Beaches Council.



Michael Regan
MAYOR

Achievements 2008 – 2023

2008-2009 Highlights

- With the global financial crisis impacting so many, we remained well positioned and delivered high quality services to our community. It was a year of consolidation, leveraging our goals and strategies to enable us to better serve the community.
- Our operating surplus was \$2.278 million and we allocated \$20.03 million on capital works to improve facilities and services throughout Warringah.
- We commissioned an independent assessment of our corporate performance by Morrison Low with the Report stating that "It was quite evident that the corporate performance of Warringah Council exceeds NSW best practice".
- We spent over \$1.5 m to make significant improvements to the Freshwater Village Town Centre to enable it to be a more vibrant, active and safe public domain.
- We invested in our playgrounds installing new and upgrading existing ones in Freshwater, Beacon Hill, Dee Why and Davidson.
- Planning continued on the Narrabeen lagoon multi-use trail and funding secured from the State and Federal governments.
- Community engagement and consultation remained a priority and in 2009 Council undertook an extensive process to inform, engage and consult the community to develop the 2009-2010 budget and SCP.
- Community satisfaction was at 69.2%.

2009-2010 Highlights

- The local impact of the global economic downturn and other issues unique to local government were providing challenges for Council to maintain existing service levels but our aim was to ensure a clear and sustainable strategic direction to ensure we were able to continue to deliver high quality services now and into the future.
- The State Government's Metropolitan Strategy and the draft North-East Subregional Plan had set specific growth targets for Warringah of 12,500 new jobs and 10,300 new dwellings by 2031, so we set about consulting with our community.
- In May 2010, Council engaged with 440 residents who attended the Warringah's Housing Future 'Talk of the Town' Community Summit.
- Completed the revitalisation works at Freshwater Village - \$2,950,000.
- The Warringah Aquatic Centre was recognised as runner-up in the state-wide "Sustainable Cities Award" for water conservation.
- We consulted with the community on the future of Brookvale Oval through Brekkie at Brookie, information stalls at Warringah Mall and online discussion forums.
- Our operating surplus was \$7.938 million, and we allocated \$30.58 million on capital works to improve facilities and services throughout Warringah.
- Our community satisfaction was at 57%.

Achievements 2008 – 2023

2010-2011 Highlights

- In 2010-2011 we had a budget of around \$153 million with a works program of about \$32million which enabled Council to deliver a comprehensive range of services, including a significant expansion of online service and some innovative projects.
- We opened two new community spaces for the community including a playground in Green Street, Brookvale and a community garden at Innes Road, Manly Vale.
- We improved the playing surface at Brookvale Oval and continued with community consultation on the future of the Oval with over 3,000 people participating in our consultation.
- Online services began through social media – including Facebook and Twitter to get information to the community in real time.
- We held the inaugural New Year's Eve Fireworks at Collaroy Beach.
- Worked with the State Government to undertake a feasibility study into a Rapid Bus Transit System between the Northern Beaches and the city and also from Chatswood to Dee Why
- Following community consultation, we withdrew the Draft Housing Strategy and asked the State Government to confirm housing numbers and to provide a commitment to fund the additional infrastructure that would be required to support the additional dwellings.
- After listening to the community, we brought forward a capital project to create a new field and lighting at Cromer Park along with sportsfield rectifications works at a number of playing fields.
- Our finance planning was rated as 'exemplary' by the Department of Local Government and we implemented the new Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework which meant a greater level of transparency and timeliness in providing business information to the community.
- We foreshadowed to the community that it may be necessary to seek a Special Rate Increase in the future in 2014-2015 to maintain services and community infrastructure at the present levels.
- As an important part of our community engagement framework, we established four Strategic Reference Groups which included members of the community covering the areas of community and culture, Infrastructure and Development, Recreation and Open Space and Environmental Sustainability.
- We launched soy-diesel conversion for the diesel fleet resulting in 19% less greenhouse gases.
- We had solar panels on five council buildings.
- As a result of 16 separate initiatives, we saved \$694,975 and 1,472 tonnes of carbon emissions in the two years from 2008-2009 and 2010-2011 and our water usage continued to decline by nearly 20% from 2004-05.
- Along with other awards, we won the IAP2 2010 Award for Robust Public Participation and were highly commended in the LGMA NSW Excellence Awards for leadership in engaging communities.
- Our community satisfaction was at 67%

Achievements 2008 – 2023

2011-2012 Highlights

- This period marked the end of the four-year term of the elected Council.
- We delivered big projects including The Strand at Dee Why, Brookvale Oval and Stage One of the Narrabeen Lagoon Multi-use Trail.
- We held the New Year's Eve fireworks event at Dee Why Beach and brought back the Brookvale Show Centenary which were both huge successes.
- We completed the new surface at Cromer Park – Warringah's first synthetic field with it being opened on 1 July 2012.
- We won four sustainability awards and were finalists or highly commended in seven others. We also received industry recognition for best practice at our Warringah Aquatic Centre.
- Technologies were integrated to improve our efficiency and resulted in our residents now able to conduct their council business with us quicker and easier, 24-hours-a-day.
- We also revised our Customer Service Charter and customer service training was delivered to all staff to ensure we provided the highest level of service to our community.
- We continued in a financially healthy position despite financial uncertainty internationally with a surplus of just over \$44.5 million and spending of \$28.9 million on capital works. This allowed us to postpone the need for any rate increase or change in service provision.
- We completed nearly \$120 million of infrastructure works and continued to use local businesses wherever possible to ensure our local economy was better off.
- We were in the 'Top Five' most improved councils with Warringah being only one of two councils to process the average DA in less than 50 days.
- All areas of Council business completed Business Continuity Plans for their operations to ensure we are prepared should any unplanned disruptions eventuate.
- We unveiled the Freshwater National Surf Reserve
- Our community satisfaction was at 79%

2012-2013 Highlights

- I was re-elected as Mayor for a further four-year term by our community and welcomed new and returning Councillors.
- We continued to stay strong financially with a surplus of \$10.853 million and spending of \$36.467 million on capital works.
- In 2013, we developed the award-winning Dee Why Town Centre Masterplan which set out works to be carried out over three phases to make Dee Why a more attractive, contemporary, and vibrant town centre.
- We adopted a Masterplan for the cultural hub at Glen Street Theatre
- Work was completed on the Collaroy Accessibility Precinct providing a world-class beach reserve precinct, accessible for people of all abilities, was completed in October, 2013. The \$1.9m upgrade included a replacement carpark, beach promenade, lighting,

Achievements 2008 – 2023

stormwater drainage, picnic shelters, barbecues, a network of accessible footpaths and landscaping. Special features for people with a disability includes picnic tables with spaces for wheelchairs, an at-grade pedestrian crossing and additional disabled parking spaces, all connected with wheelchair friendly footpaths and pavements, and Braille signs.

- The Curl Curl Sports Centre upgrade was completed providing vastly improved amenities.
- We opened our first 'new' sportsfield at Cromer Park which also include work on the other three grass fields, a new car park, a new cricket pitch, and an innovative water harvesting system that will save millions of litres of water per year.
- We undertook a revamp of our digital platform which included new branding and a new logo.
- As one of only 13 councils in the State we were able to renew a self-insurers licence saving the community \$1 million a year in premiums.
- We were awarded top three large Councils for financial sustainability by the NSW Treasury Corporation.
- Awarded top five by Division of Local Government of Asset Management rated as strong for managing our assets sustainably.
- Warringah once again had the fastest DA processing times in Sydney under 50 days (2nd year in a row)
- Community satisfaction was at 78%

2013-2014 Highlights

- The community and Council worked together resulting in the completion of the Warringah Creative Space and providing an inspiring environment for local artists to work, display and create.
- The Stage 1 refurbishment to Glen Street Theatre was completed with a new forecourt, foyer, and bar for patrons to enjoy for years to come.
- Stage 1 of the Collaroy Accessibility Precinct to upgrade the beach reserve was completed with work on the all-abilities playground commencing later in 2014.
- Narrabeen Multi-use Trail almost complete with only once section to be completed. Work commenced on the construction of the two new bridges as part of the project which would ultimately enable everyone to walk and cycle around the full circuit of the Lagoon.
- The extraordinarily popular *La Lune* art exhibition was held on Long Reef Headland with over 35,000 people attending. This exhibition is believed to have been Sydney's first night-time, outdoor, naturally-powered sculpture exhibition which was produced in partnership with the College of Fine Arts, University of NSW and was held over eight nights.
- Our Walter Gors Park Design competition attracted lots of inspiring ideas for the future of this area.
- \$13.596 million was spent on new capital works projects and we had a net operating surplus of \$6.590 million.

Achievements 2008 – 2023

- There were upgrades to five playgrounds, upgrades to children's centres, upgrades to BMX track at JJ Melbourne Hills and the Manly Dam mountain bike trail.
- \$4.8m was spent on improvements to roads footpaths and streetscapes.
- We held two forums on housing affordability to get the right people and the community involved and talking about solutions to a housing crisis we cannot ignore.
- Consultation began on the future masterplans for Curl Curl, Manly Dam, District Park and Forestville playing fields.
- We were recognised nationally and internationally with over 20 awards including international awards for the customer service centre, website and online services.
- Once again, we were had the fastest DA processing time in Sydney for 3rd year.
- IPART partially approved Council's application for a special rate variation, allowing us to maintain existing service levels. IPART, in making the decision, recognised that Council had improved its efficiency and Warringah ratepayers actually paid lower rates than those in adjoining Councils.
- We continued to work with the State Government on the Northern Beaches Hospital and the Bus Rapid Transit system and partnered with them on regional Healthy Ageing and Youth Strategies.
- Began working with NSW Police and PCYC to develop the designs for the exciting new PCYC Facility.
- We adopted a Sustainable Transport Strategy.

2014-2015 Highlights

- The State Government announced the Fit for the Future program of local government reform and we made a submission on behalf of our community.
- We commenced construction on the PCYC facility which was the first major activity to bring the Dee Why Town Centre Masterplan to life.
- Narrabeen Lagoon Trail was opened after nearly five years of hard work and negotiation. Driven by the late Jim Somerville who drove the vision of the trail around the Lagoon, this trail enables people to circumnavigate 8.4kms around the lagoon and appreciate the local environment, aboriginal heritage sites and the heritage-listed ruins.
- Launched the Collaroy All-abilities Playground and continued to receive high praise.
- We also completed a major upgrade of the Forestville playing fields at Melwood Avenue, Forestville. Synthetic turf was laid on two playing fields with new irrigation and drainage improving the surface further. It provided over 60 hours each field of playing time to the northern beaches community every week. This \$3.5m project offered more opportunities for football, rugby union, AFL, cricket, touch football and Oz-Tag.
- \$18.272 million was spent on new capital works projects and we had a net operating surplus of \$7.788 million.
- Community consultation was undertaken to develop a visionary Plan of Management for the 62 hectares at District Park, North Manly.

Achievements 2008 – 2023

- Community engagement on developing the Draft Precinct Structure Plan for the precinct around the new Northern Beaches Hospital began with drop-in sessions and workshops.
- We began publicly reporting our capital projects online on a monthly basis, to provide more transparency to the community and to see how projects are tracking at any time.
- We partnered with Go-Get to pilot a car share scheme for the Warringah community.
- Our highest community satisfaction – achieving 94%.
- We had a significant storm event in April 2015 with our customer service team taking 680 calls per day during the storm period. Many staff in various teams managed a high volume of requests and worked outdoors in the driving rain and cyclonic winds in coordination with emergency services. We demonstrated our resilience and commitment to our community.

2015-2016 Highlights

Warringah Council won the 2014/2015 A R Bluett Memorial Award.

I was incredibly proud and humbled that Warringah Council was officially recognised as the winner of the 2015 A. R. Bluett Memorial Award.

I put forward a Mayoral Minute in October 2015 acknowledging our achievement. My Mayoral Minute at the time stated –

I'm incredibly proud and humbled that Warringah Council was officially recognised as the winner this year of the 2015 A. R. Bluett Memorial Award.

As most of you would know the Bluett is known as 'the greatest accolade a Council can achieve' and is awarded to the most progressive Council in the State.

Everyone (Community, staff and Councillors) should be justly proud as this award is judged by a panel of trustees that investigates all of Council's operations and services. It's the second year Warringah has been named as a finalist and I am extremely honoured to be working alongside such dedicated people in such an accomplished organisation.

I believe this award is a true testament to the hard work we are doing to be the most effective, efficient and transparent organisation possible. It also proves, once and for all, that Warringah Council has transformed from the organisation that was dismissed over a decade ago.

Our community has told us through the many independent customer surveys that we are doing a good job and continually improving. 94% community satisfaction rate in the last survey is testament to that. We have together truly turned this organisation around and, anyone who still insists on talking about our checkered past, is truly stuck in the past and exactly why we need Local Government Reform.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors, our dedicated staff and our wonderful community for making this Council and the Warringah area the success it currently is. I also want to give our commitment that we will continue to strive to be better and improve.

Achievements 2008 – 2023

Finally, I would also like to formally thank the Bluett Trustees for coming to Warringah and judging us - not on what we were – but on what we are today.

There was not much time for us to celebrate as the State Government announced the following year in May 2016 that Warringah Council would be amalgamated with Pittwater and Manly Councils and would immediately come under administration.

2016-2017 Highlights

- Following a period of Administration, I was elected the first Mayor of the Northern Beaches and acknowledged the contribution made by the former Administrator, Dick Persson AM. I also acknowledged the contribution made by former Councillors from the three former Councils who served on the Council's Implementation Advisory Group and the Local Representative Committees who I believe collectively through our knowledge and experience were able to contribute to the strategic direction and the community engagement framework of the new Council.
- Our Merger Savings Fund quarantined efficiency savings for reinvestment in projects and programs that are to strengthen community cohesion and wellbeing into the future.

In partnership with the NSW Government - and partly funded through the Stronger Communities program - \$32.6 million was committed towards major community infrastructure: building a spectacular coastal walkway and cycleway stretching from Manly to Palm Beach; providing all-inclusive playgrounds; and improving accessibility to sporting facilities and surf lifesaving clubs.

We also took into consideration community cohesion and wellbeing with funding through the Merger Savings Fund of a total of \$5.64 million allocated for over the next four years into four different outcome areas: Arts and Cultural Program; Youth Program; Environment Program; and a Community Events program.

- We worked hard to integrate systems and improvements while undergoing significant organisational change and ensured we reinvested efficiency savings into infrastructure and programs that have benefitted the community in very tangible ways.

2017-2018 Highlights

- We addressed the community's top priorities by providing quality services and assets, as well as strategic solutions for transport, housing, local jobs, and our environment.
- An extensive \$78.7 million capital works program was delivered.
- We secured a further \$21 million from the NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund and \$20 million from State and Federal Govt grants for other services and infrastructure.
- We were able to deliver 32km of new cycleways and 3km of footpaths as part of our Connected Communities program.
- We undertook town centre improvements in Avalon, Narrabeen, Dee Why and Manly and beyond with better plazas, amenities community and childcare centres.
- We adopted Council's first new plans to capture the long-term community goals development in the 10-year Community Strategic Plan.

Achievements 2008 – 2023

- We completed six new netball courts at Forestville.
- We allocated \$5m toward the new carpark at Church Point.
- Through partnerships with the community, the new Youth Hub at Avalon was established.
- We were able to assist 85 local businesses with Easy to Do Business startups.
- The \$10m floodproof bridge was constructed at Warriewood.
- We were winners and finalists in 13 awards including taking out the National Local Government Customer Service Network Awards in the Customer Service Strategy Award and taking out Gold and Silver in four categories of the international Communicator Awards from the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts.
- Community satisfaction was at 86%

2018 – 2019 Highlights

- We delivered \$102m of capital works projects including new and renewed facilities.
- Two new major playgrounds at Tania Park and Berry Reserve were completed.
- We re-opened the refurbished Tramshed Community Arts Centre with the cleverly restored heritage tram by the Forest Men's Shed. We took out the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Special Heritage Award for this project.
- We also built new facilities at Manly Dam and North Narrabeen Reserve. Renewal works included the South Palm Beach Pavilion and many of our community buildings.
- We doubled the budget for new footpaths and delivered 8.4km of new footpaths.
- We began work on the Northern Beaches Walking Plan to set out Council's directions and priorities to guide delivery of new footpaths across the region.
- All our childcare centres once again met or exceeded National Standards with the Harbour View children's Centre benefitting from a refurbishment that increased the spaces available for children under 3 years of age.
- Our financial position was sound, exceeding all financial indicator benchmarks and achieved a balanced funding result. We achieved an operating surplus of \$9.9m.
- Six directorates were created to respond more effectively to our Community Strategic Plan.
- We were winners and finalists in over 25 awards for projects in areas such as the environment, communications, engineering, and customer service.

2019 – 2020 Highlights

- During this time, we endured storms and flooding and the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was also the period when the State was ravaged by bushfires.
- We supported our community by providing support and essential services including coordinating horse evacuations during the bushfire threats, additional waste services following the extensive storm damage.

Achievements 2008 – 2023

- Our pre-pandemic planning team and ongoing incident management team ensured we reacted quickly as the threat of COVID-19 increased along with the evolving restrictions.
- Staff were redeployed to assist with social distancing enforcement, we introduced a library home delivery service and expanded our Meals on Wheels service and transitioned adolescent and family counselling services online.
- We launched a business support package, including fee waivers and rent relieve, short stay parking for take away pickups and relaxed restrictions on supermarket deliveries so they could restock more quickly to ensure the community had the supplies they needed.
- We boosted communications to keep our community informed and connected and established an online COVID-19 information hub, disseminated regular updates to residents and responded to community concerns on social media 24/7.
- We provided online services to the community including story time via video, digital art exhibitions, and a range of business, environment, and health webinars.
- The Glen Street Open Space precinct was completed (\$9m) with synthetic all weather sportsfields, surrounded by a network of shared paths that linked the showground with an impressive new regional playground and a skate park that was designed in conjunction with local kids.
- We completed new playgrounds at Allambie Oval and Manly Dam.
- The Billarong Scout Hall was rebuilt for broader community use.
- ANZAC dawn services on driveways, find-a-teddy treasure hunts in house windows, rainbows on footpaths and the #viralkindness movement were some examples of our community coming together during difficult times.
- Community satisfaction was at 90%
- We adopted the Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040 and the Connected Through Creativity 2029 Arts and Creativity Strategy.
- We were finalists in a number of awards and took out the 2020 Local Government Excellence Awards for the Community Partnerships and Collaboration: population over 200,000 for our Northern Beaches Suicide Response and the Environmental Leadership and Sustainability: population over 200,000 for our Swap for Good Business Program.

2020-2021 Highlights

- Despite lockdowns on the Northern Beaches from COVID-19 throughout the year, we were able to complete \$73.9m capital works projects.
- By 2021 Council had achieved more than double the State Government's \$76.3 million estimated savings over 10 years from amalgamation, which were reinvested into the community through Council's operational and capital projects, placing Council in a strong financial position.
- Council developed a Local Housing Strategy to plan for a growing population and additional housing demand on the Northern Beaches through to 2036. A draft Local Housing Strategy was on public exhibition and more than 630 submissions were

Achievements 2008 – 2023

received. An amended Local Housing Strategy was subsequently adopted by Council at its meeting on 27 April 2021.

- Work progressed on the new Northern Beaches Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP) to replace the current four LEPs and DCPs across the Local Government Area. The new LEP and DCP provide the key rules for future planning and development on the Northern Beaches. Council resolved to exhibit a LEP/DCP Discussion Paper at its meeting on 15 June 2021.

Work continued on several technical studies which inform the new LEP and DCP work. These included environmental studies (environmental zones review, biodiversity planning review, riparian provisions, Cowan Creek and North and Middle Harbour estuarine planning levels studies, stormwater quality strategy, geotechnical engineering study), Deferred Lands studies (biodiversity study and strategic bush fire risk assessment), and planning studies (urban design study, character study, social infrastructure study, employment study)

- During the year several digital enhancements were implemented including the removal of the requirement to complete Council's DA form and the introduction of the ability to pay for development applications online.

Quarterly Development Activity Reports were introduced on Council's website to improve visibility of Council's performance.

The Development and Sustainability Advisory Panel (DSAP) was established in September 2020 comprising external design and sustainability experts who provide high level, independent advice on development applications with the aim to improve the design quality and sustainability of developments on the Northern Beaches.

- We completed upgrades at Dunbar Park and Collaroy Plateau Park playgrounds.
- We completed the first stage of the restorations at Currawong.
- The boat ramp at Bilarong Reserve was upgraded.
- We resurfaced 19km of road and constructed 8.2km of new footpaths.
- We installed a solar system on the Andrew Boy Charlton Aquatic Centre.
- Community engagement on the draft delivery program and budget resulted in over 25,000 visitors to the online project page.
- We engaged on a total of 120 projects during this time and received over 20,000 responses on significant projects including Rates Harmonisation, the Northern Beaches Local Housing Strategy, Better Together: Social Sustainability Strategy 2040, Wakehurst Parkway Flood Mitigation and the Long Reef and Mona Vale Surf Club redevelopments.
- During this time, we were impacted by the COVID-19 lockdowns and here is just a snapshot of what we achieved to assist our community -
 - 73,310 library items were borrowed through 33,239 deliveries through our Library 2U home deliveries
 - Children's Services continued to deliver childcare for essential workers
 - Over 3,000 native plants were distributed through the Backyard Habitat Program
 - Over 600 Click and Create craft kits went to homes
 - Over 400 locals joined our environment, waste and school webinars

Achievements 2008 – 2023

- 100s of newsletters and updates were sent out, as well as numerous social media posts published and signage put up to keep everyone informed of the evolving situation
- Our Meals on Wheels service continued when it was needed most, with welfare checks moved to the phone to make sure each of our clients were okay
- Our cleansing and waste collections staff increased their rounds to make sure our public facilities were hygienic.

2021-2022 Highlights

- We faced ongoing challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic and several natural disasters which tested our resilience and adaptability.
- In early March 2022 we were inundated by flood waters following a major rain event and in response Council staff volunteered to door knock the affected homes over several days and followed up those residents with welfare checks.
- There were extensive storm clean-up efforts and through our partnership with surf clubs we were able to mobilise volunteers from the clubs and other groups to help clear the debris from our elderly residents' homes.
- We delivered over \$76.9m of capital works during this time.
- The new Mona Vale Surf Club was opened.
- Work on the new Long Reef Surf Club was close to completion.
- Delivered the final piece in the \$20 million Collaroy Beach precinct accessibility project with the completion of the accessible ramp.
- With restrictions lifted, we delivered several events to drive visitation back to our town centres, reinvigorating local businesses and lifting the spirits of the community.

Events included the delivery of NSW's largest fun run since the pandemic began with the Sun Run attracting over 4,300 participants, Taste of the Beaches and the hugely successful Play Manly that brought 77,000 visitors over 10 days to Manly and spent more than \$19.5 million over the duration of the event.

- We adopted our first Destination Management and Action Plan and was awarded host of the 2023 Local Government NSW Destination Visitor Economy Conference.
- We delivered the innovative Creative Library at Manly Library, the first of its kind for a NSW public library.
- Developed a COVID Summer Action Plan that became the government's template on how to keep public spaces open.
- Our Library 2U home delivery service continued.
- Set up a *Back to Business* program helping 160 individual operators.
- Invested \$3.7 million to support recovery of local small businesses.
- In all, we provided \$41m (2019-2022) in total during COVID for financial support through rates relief, removing outdoor dining fees, direct grants and more.
- We exceeded our 2040 target to reduce corporate emissions by 80% - well ahead of our scheduled target of 60%.
- We won the Cities Power Partnership Renewable Energy Achievement Award

Achievements 2008 – 2023

- We adopted the Northern Beaches Resilience Strategy.
- We adopted a new four -year Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP2022-2026)
- We were recognised by Dementia Australia as the first local council to be “working towards becoming a dementia-friendly organisation”.
- We adopted a revised CSP (CSP2040) with a 20-year focus.
- Surplus of \$17.7m excluding grants and contributions.
- We were acknowledged in over 40 award recognitions but the pinnacle was being awarded the 2022 A R Bluett Award.

I have attached the Executive Summary taken from our submission for the 2021/2022 A R Bluett Award as it was a remarkable achievement and testament to the incredible efforts of this Council to go above and beyond to provide the highest quality service to our community.

This Award is described as ‘the pinnacle of local government achievement’ and has been awarded by Local Government NSW every year since 1945. It recognises the most progressive metropolitan and rural council out of 128 across NSW.

I believe the COVID-19 pandemic and three natural disasters within our LGA all within a few months of each other tested everyone and we demonstrated how we led our community with compassion and empathy.

We embraced innovative thinking and through our determination to not only look after our community through it all, we were also able to continue to adapt and deliver to ensure a strong future for our community.

Our Council has had a huge focus on repairing and renewing ailing infrastructure, delivering long term financial stability, and putting the community at the centre of everything we do.

This award recognised the hard work and dedication of both the elected Council and our incredible staff and volunteers to deliver great outcomes for our community.

Achievements 2008 – 2023

Executive summary

"Instead of constantly adapting to change, why not change to be adaptive?" - Fred Amery



Throughout 2021/2022 the pandemic continued to take its toll on our community, and we were hit by devastating rainstorms, leading to our region twice being declared a natural disaster zone.



Our expertise in managing crisis events was demonstrated yet again but our focus also shifted. We saw the need for us and our community to adapt - ensuring we can thrive regardless of disruption, now and in the future.

For the long term we endorsed a comprehensive Resilience Strategy to create better community connections, strengthen our economy and enhance environmental protection. This is underpinned by a new Social Sustainability Strategy, a roadmap for a safe and inclusive Northern Beaches for the next 20 years.

In the short term we invested \$3.7 million supporting our hard-hit local businesses and we opened a request service to deliver help where it made the most difference.

We took every opportunity to reconnect our community and boost our economy through award winning events. Our Sun Run was the first mass participation event in NSW after COVID restrictions lifted. We reshaped Taste of the Beaches, creating a month-long food and wine festival and we pulled off a massive new event, PLAY MANLY, rewarding Manly CBD with a 9% uplift in visitor spending during the festival.

We continued to put the customer at the centre of everything we do and implemented a program to improve our customer experience, using real time dashboards.

This saw a satisfaction score shift from 71% in 2019 to 88% in 2022. This program's success was recognised with a national award.

We still delivered a solid \$76 million capital works program despite the damage from the severe weather events costing \$5.6 million. This included the \$10 million Mona Vale Surf Club - an incredible new community asset, fit for purpose and built for the future. Construction will soon be complete on the new Long Reef Surf Club too. These projects involved years of consultation and partnerships with government and our community.

We kept the kids playing, delivering new all ability playgrounds, upgrades to our BMX Track, returfed the synthetic Cromer sportsfield and finished the \$20 million Collaroy Beach precinct accessibility project.

Our focus on resilience and sustainability lead to the rehabilitation of Careel Creek, installation of over 2000sqm of sustainable concrete, support for solar on schools and a diversion of more waste from landfill - up from 49% of domestic waste in 2018/19 to 66% in 2021/22.

We are proud to continue to be leaders in suicide prevention and are the first Council to be implementing significant actions towards becoming a dementia-friendly organisation.

Of course, nothing would be possible without our dedicated staff. Our focus on fostering wellbeing and building resilience internally has seen uplifts in the 2022 Employee Engagement Survey.

Change we did, and now we look forward to developing more opportunities to partner with and support our community to continue to thrive.



Michael Regan
Mayor



Ray Brownlee PSM
CEO

