



northern
beaches
council

AGENDA

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Northern Beaches Council Meeting will be held in the Council Chambers at the Civic Centre, Dee Why on

Tuesday 16 June 2026

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

Scott Phillips
Chief Executive Officer

OUR VISION

Northern Beaches – a safe, diverse, inclusive and connected community that lives in balance with our extraordinary coastal and bushland environment.

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.

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1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As a sign of respect, Northern Beaches Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of these lands on which we gather and pays respect to Elders past and present.

2.0 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE AND REMOTE ATTENDANCE

In accordance with Part 6 of the Code of Meeting Practice, Council will consider apologies, requests for leave of absence, and requests to attend meetings remotely via audio-visual link.

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Ordinary Northern Beaches Council Meeting held on 19 May 2026, copies of which were previously circulated, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

4.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

In accordance with Part 17 of the Code of Meeting Practice, all Councillors must disclose and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting.

A Councillor who has a **pecuniary interest** in any matter with which Council is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of Council at which the matter is being considered, must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable.

The Councillor must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting:

- a. at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed, or
- b. at any time during which Council is voting on any question in relation to the matter.

A Councillor who has a **significant non-pecuniary** conflict of interest in a matter under consideration at a Council meeting, must manage the conflict of interest as if they had a pecuniary interest in the matter.

A Councillor who determines that they have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter that is **not significant** and does not require further action, when disclosing the interest must also explain why the conflict is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances.

5.0 PRESENTATIONS

6.0 ITEMS RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

In accordance with Part 14 of the Code of Meeting Practice, items that are dealt with by exception are items where the recommendations contained in the staff reports in the agenda are adopted without discussion.

7.0 MAYORAL MINUTES

ITEM 7.1 MAYORAL MINUTE NO 4/2026 - EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this mayoral minute is to seek Council's endorsement to make a submission to the NSW Legislative Assembly Select Committee on Emergency Services Funding Reform.



Sue Heins
MAYOR

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Make a submission to the NSW Legislative Assembly Select Committee on Emergency Services Funding Reform, which states Council's position:
 - a. We support reform of the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) to ensure the funding model is fairer, more transparent, and more equitable across the community.
 - b. We oppose any funding model that requires local councils to act as the primary collection agency through the inclusion of the levy on council rate notices, particularly where such arrangements would impose additional administrative costs, resource burdens, and cost-shifting pressures on local government.
2. Provide a copy of the submission to the Northern Beaches State Members of Parliament.
3. Continue advocacy of the proposed Emergency Services Funding Reform by sharing relevant information and updates with the community as the Inquiry progresses.

BACKGROUND

In April 2026, the NSW Government released an Options Paper regarding proposed reform of the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) funding model.

The NSW Government has proposed replacing the current Emergency Services Levy (ESL) with a new property-based funding mechanism. While Council supports reform to improve fairness, transparency, and equity, there are significant concerns regarding the potential for increased cost shifting and administrative burden on local government.

Council’s submission should advocate that the NSW Government retain full responsibility for the administration, billing, collection, and debt management of any new levy. This would provide greater transparency and accountability for the community, ensure consistency across the state, and avoid further cost shifting onto local government.

The existing model effectively shifts costs from the NSW Government onto local government. As the levy is funded through general rates, Council is unable to separately identify or directly recover these costs from ratepayers. This reduces transparency and limits Council’s ability to allocate resources toward local infrastructure, services and community priorities.

Council has also raised ongoing concerns regarding the timing and clarity of levy notifications. In many cases, advice is received after draft budgets have already been exhibited, creating uncertainty and limiting effective financial planning. There is also limited transparency regarding how increases are determined.

Under the current system, emergency services are funded from insurance premiums (73.7%), local councils (11.7%) and the NSW Government (14.6%).

It is important to note that Northern Beaches Council contributes the highest ESL of any council in the state. In May 2026 NSW Revenue advised Northern Beaches Council’s Emergency Services Levy for the 2026/27 financial year will be \$10.5 million, which is a \$1 million (10.8%) increase on the current year. This cost is absorbed through general rates and represents \$100 for every ratepayer for the year.

The current ESL already contributes to higher insurance premiums, potentially reducing affordability and increasing the risk of underinsurance or non-insurance among some households and businesses. This, along with emergency services funding requirements expected to continue rising over coming decades, will result in growing pressure on the need for a funding framework that is sustainable, equitable and transparent.

The Government’s proposed replacement model is a tiered fixed-charge levy based on land values and applied to property owners. However, there remains insufficient detail regarding how any replacement model would operate in practice and what the implications would be for local government. Council’s submission should therefore emphasise the need for clarity around the proposed administration and collection arrangements.

We need to advocate strongly on this issue as there is a risk that future arrangements may impose additional administrative responsibilities and unfunded costs on local government impacting Council’s financial sustainability and service delivery capacity.

More importantly, we need to ensure that any future funding model delivers fair and equitable outcomes for our community and supports the long-term sustainability of local government.

TRIM file ref	2026/302330
Attachments	⇒1 Emergency Services Funding Reform - NSW Treasury options paper - May 2026 (Included In Attachments Booklet)

8.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S DIVISION REPORTS

ITEM 8.1 IMPLICATIONS OF THE DISALLOWANCE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (GENERAL) AMENDMENT (MODEL CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE) REGULATION 2025

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the implications of the NSW Legislative Council's disallowance of the Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code of Meeting Practice) Regulation 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Model Code of Meeting Practice ensures consistent, open, and effective council meetings across NSW, with councils required under section 360 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to adopt a compliant code.
- Council adopted a code consistent with the 2025 Model Code in December 2025 following public exhibition, with interim arrangements applied pending a rescission motion resolved in March 2026.
- On 26 May 2026, the NSW Legislative Council disallowed the Regulation prescribing the 2025 Model Code, reinstating the 2021 Model Code as the current prescribed Model Code.
- The Office of Local Government (OLG) has indicated that an updated Model Code to address the concerns raised in connection with the disallowance motion will be completed shortly.
- While the OLG has provided guidance to councils on a process to revert to their previous codes via rescission, this is not available to Council at present, nor is it considered practical as it would also remove other relevant clauses Council chose to adopt, and would necessitate additional formal exhibition to reinstate those desired clauses, duplicating consultation ahead of a new Model Code expected shortly.
- It is proposed that Council retain its 2025 Code on an interim basis, applying the 2021 mandatory provisions where inconsistent as required, to preserve beneficial reforms while avoiding unnecessary re-exhibition, disruption and confusion for the community.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note the NSW Legislative Council's disallowance of the Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code of Meeting Practice) Regulation 2025 means that provisions of Northern Beaches Council 2025 Code of Meeting Practice which are inconsistent with the mandatory provisions of the 2021 Model Code of Meeting Practice are no longer permissible.
2. Continue to operate under the Northern Beaches Council 2025 Code of Meeting Practice as an interim measure pending the NSW Government's foreshadowed release of a new Model Code of Meeting Practice.
3. Note that where any provisions contained in the Northern Beaches Council 2025 Code of Meeting Practice are inconsistent with the 2021 Model Code of Meeting Practice, then the relevant mandatory provision in the 2021 Model Code will instead apply.

4. Note that Councillor Briefings are permitted under the 2021 Model Code of Meeting Practice and will be held until any further changes are imposed by the NSW Government's release of a future Model Code of Meeting Practice.
5. Note that Councillor Briefings will be operated in accordance with the best practice optional provisions outlined in the 2021 Model Code of Meeting Practice.

BACKGROUND

The Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW prescribes a set of uniform meeting rules for councils across NSW to ensure meetings of councils and committees of councils comprising only of councillors are open, accessible, orderly, effective and efficient.

In accordance with section 360 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), councils are required to adopt a Code of Meeting Practice which is consistent with the Model Code of Meeting Practice issued by the NSW Government.

All Model Codes of Meeting Practices have 2 elements:

- **mandatory provisions** (indicated in black font)
- **non-mandatory provisions** (indicated in red font) covering areas of meeting practice that are common to most councils but where there may be a need for some variation in practice between councils based on local circumstances. The non-mandatory provisions also operate to set a benchmark based on what the Office of Local Government (OLG) sees as best practice.

As part of a tranche of reforms to the Councillor Conduct Framework, the NSW Government released a revised Model Code of Meeting Practice in August 2025 with the stated aim to 'ensure meetings are conducted in a dignified and orderly way befitting to a chamber of democracy and to promote community confidence in councils and their decisions.'

Following a public exhibition period, Council adopted its new Code of Meeting Practice in December 2025, which was consistent with the 2025 Model Meeting Code.

Following receipt of a rescission motion in December 2025, Council operated with an interim Code of Meeting Practice for the February and March 2026 Council meetings until the outcome of the rescission was determined, whereby the Code adopted at the December Council meeting came into force.

On 26 May 2026 a motion to disallow the Local Government (General) Regulation 2025, which prescribed the 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice, was passed in the NSW Legislative Council.

The implications of this are that the 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice no longer applies and the previous 2021 Model Code of Meeting Practice (Attachment 1) is the current prescribed Code.

The Office of Local Government (OLG) has advised that the NSW Government has 'been examining the feedback received from Dr Cohn MLC, the Country Mayors Association and Local Government NSW on the Model Meeting Code, with quite advanced drafting on an updated Code. This work will be completed shortly.'

DISCUSSION

As at the time of writing, the OLG has issued guidance to all councils (not a formal circular) providing a suggestion to rescind their resolutions relating to the adoption of their Codes of Meeting Practice based on the 2025 Model Code and revert to their earlier versions.

While this generic advice may be appropriate for those councils which simply adopted the 2025 Model Code, it presents issues for Northern Beaches Council. Firstly, Northern Beaches Council's Code of Meeting Practice was already subject of a rescission motion, less than 3 months ago, which was lost in March 2026. Accordingly, no similar motion may be brought forward within 3 months of the meeting at which it was lost.

Furthermore, a rescission of this nature would only allow councils to revert to the same Codes of Meeting Practice that were in place before the current versions were adopted. It does not provide for the inclusion of the specific additional clauses Council resolved to adopt in December, without a formal re-drafting, exhibition period and then adoption several months later.

Council's 2025 Code of Meeting Practice included a range of such changes including:

- the votes of all divisions being recorded for all items in the minutes
- earlier deadlines for notice of motions and questions which facilitated the business papers being published 2 weeks prior to the meeting to allow Councillors and the community sufficient time to review and consider
- the public forum being held the week before the Council meeting to enable time for Councillors to consider community feedback and make enquiries of staff
- an earlier meeting finish time to support the wellbeing of Councillors and staff.

In accordance with the informal advice from the OLG, if Council wanted to incorporate some of these new improvements from Council’s 2025 Code into its previous 2024 Code of Meeting Practice, it would first be required to prepare and exhibit a draft Code in accordance with section 361 of the Act.

In this scenario, with the mandated consultation provisions requiring 42 days for submissions, the earliest any new Code could be returned to Council for adoption following a period of public exhibition, review and adoption, would be 3 months.

As the OLG has advised a new Model Code is ‘quite advanced’ and will be ‘completed shortly’, there is the likelihood that Council will be required to prepare and consult on yet another new Code of Meeting Practice in the very near future, regardless of any changes to be made now.

Given this, it is proposed that Council retains its 2025 Code of Meeting Practice and operates under transitional arrangements whereby any provisions of Council’s adopted Code of Meeting Practice that are inconsistent with the mandatory provisions of the prescribed 2021 Model Meeting Code no longer apply. This is consistent with how Council operated for its February and March 2026 Council meetings while the rescission motion was pending and can be implemented immediately without the need for a duplicative engagement process or the adoption of a new Code.

This is recommended as the most practical option to enable Council to retain allowable changes it introduced with its new 2025 Code of Meeting Practice, while reducing the potential for duplication of any community engagement processes (which most recently occurred in November 2025) and avoid confusion and disruption for the community during what is anticipated to be an interim period until a new Model Meeting Code is circulated for all councils to implement.

As councils are able to incorporate supplementary clauses in their own Codes of Meeting Practice, as long as they are not inconsistent with the mandatory provisions of the Model, it is open to Council to maintain most of the provisions of its current Code of Meeting Practice.

It is noted however that the various clauses of the 2025 Code of Meeting Practice are no longer permissible as they are considered inconsistent with the mandatory provisions of the 2021 Model Code. These include the following, with the changes indicated below to automatically apply:

2025 Code of Meeting Practice clause	Interim arrangement
3.3 The Mayor may call an extraordinary meeting without the need to obtain the signature of 2 Councillors.	Not permissible – deleted
3.13 A councillor is not permitted to ask a question with notice under clause 3.12 that would constitute an act of disorder.	2021 Model Code clause to apply 3.13 A councillor is not permitted to ask a question with notice under clause 3.14 that comprises a complaint against the general manager or a member of staff of the council, or a question that implies wrongdoing by the general manager or a member of staff of the council.
3.31 – 3.32 clauses regarding the banning of briefing sessions	The ban mandated by the 2025 Model Code is no longer applicable. The 2021 Model Code permitted councils to choose if they wanted to hold pre-

2025 Code of Meeting Practice clause	Interim arrangement
	<p>meeting briefings for any matters including items on the business paper.</p> <p>A Council resolution is proposed to separately clarify that briefings will be held and will operate in accordance with the 2021 Model Code provisions 3.33 – 3.38 as they are now permissible under the regulation.</p>
<p>9.7 – 9.9 Mayoral minutes</p>	<p>An additional clause from the 2021 Model Code will apply to limit mayoral minutes:</p> <p>9.9 A mayoral minute must not be used to put without notice matters that are routine and not urgent or matters for which proper notice should be given because of their complexity. For the purpose of this clause, a matter will be urgent where it requires a decision by the council before the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the council.</p>
<p>15.10 – Acts of disorder</p> <p>A councillor commits an act of disorder if the councillor, at a meeting of the council or a committee of the council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) contravenes the Act, the Regulation or this code, or (b) assaults or threatens to assault another councillor or person present at the meeting, or (c) moves or attempts to move a motion or an amendment that has an unlawful purpose or that deals with a matter that is outside the jurisdiction of the Council or the committee, or addresses or attempts to address the Council or the committee on such a motion, amendment or matter, or (d) uses offensive or disorderly words, or (e) makes gestures or otherwise behaves in a way that is sexist, racist, homophobic or otherwise discriminatory, or, if the behaviour occurred in the Legislative Assembly, would be considered disorderly, or (f) insults, imputes improper motives to or unfavourably personally reflects upon any other council official, or a person present at the meeting, except by a motion, or (g) says or does anything that would promote disorder at the meeting or is otherwise inconsistent with maintaining order at the meeting. 	<p>Provisions not consistent (eg 15.10 (d) (e) (f)) of the 2021 Model Code clause below apply:</p> <p>15.11 – Acts of disorder</p> <p>A councillor commits an act of disorder if the councillor, at a meeting of the council or a committee of the council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) contravenes the Act, the Regulation or this code, or (b) assaults or threatens to assault another councillor or person present at the meeting, or (c) moves or attempts to move a motion or an amendment that has an unlawful purpose or that deals with a matter that is outside the jurisdiction of the council or the committee, or addresses or attempts to address the council or the committee on such a motion, amendment or matter, or (d) insults or makes unfavourable personal remarks about, or imputes improper motives to any other council official, or alleges a breach of the council’s code of conduct, or (e) says or does anything that is inconsistent with maintaining order at the meeting or is likely to bring the council or the committee into disrepute.

Additional clauses not inconsistent with the 2021 Model Code

Many of the changes that were made by the NSW Government when it introduced the 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice imposed additional mandatory clauses on councils. While they may impose a more stringent requirement on Council, they are not considered to be inconsistent with

any mandatory clause of the 2021 Model Code. As a result of this, there are a number of other clauses that would still remain applicable with the approach proposed by staff.

For clarity these include those highlighted below:

2025 Code of Meeting Practice clause	Comment in relation to 2021 Model Code of Meeting Practice
4.1 – 4.3 clauses regarding the public forums	All public forum provisions are optional in the 2021 Model Code. The current forum arrangements will continue as they are not inconsistent with the 2021 Model Code.
5.18 Councillors may attend and participate in meetings of the council and committees of the council by audio-visual link with the approval of the council or the relevant committee where they are prevented from attending the meeting in person because of ill-health or other medical reasons or because of unforeseen caring responsibilities.	Remote attendance provisions are optional in the 2021 Model Code. Council may continue with its current clause 5.18 without being inconsistent with the 2021 Model Code.
7.1 Where physically able to, councillors and staff should stand when the mayor enters the chamber and when addressing the meeting.	These provisions are optional in the 2021 Model Code and can continue without being inconsistent with the 2021 Model Code.
15.19 Members of the public attending a meeting of the council: (a) must remain silent during the meeting unless invited by the chairperson to speak, (b) must not bring flags, signs or protest symbols to the meeting, and (c) must not disrupt the meeting.	These provisions are simply additional clauses and not inconsistent with the 2021 Model Code. These are expected to be updated shortly by the NSW Government.
10.17 A councillor must not, without the consent of the council, speak more than once on a motion or an amendment, or for longer than 5 minutes at any one time.	In the 2021 Model Code Councils are able to reduce speeches (as Council had previously used a 3 minute option). However, retaining the longer 5 minute speaking opportunity is not inconsistent with the 2021 Model Code.
11.8 Where the council or a council committee makes a planning decision that is inconsistent with the recommendation made in a staff report, it must provide reasons for its decision and why it did not adopt the staff recommendation.	These provisions are simply additional clauses and not inconsistent with the 2021 Model Code.

TIMING

The recommended approach is considered to minimise disruption and confusion in the running of Council meeting for the community and councillors, whilst maintaining Council’s adopted approach and compliance with the 2021 Model Code. Council meetings can proceed without any interim period of re-drafting a code, resolving to exhibit, publicly exhibiting a draft code, and then adopting a code; prior to, or in parallel with, the impending release of a new Model Code by the NSW Government.

This does not change Council’s current adopted council meeting schedule which is resolved separately each year, the deadlines for Councillor Notices of Motion or Questions with Notice, publishing the business papers two weeks prior to the meeting, or the holding of a public forum and

also a community engagement forum as additionally resolved by Council, in the week before the meeting.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial impacts associated with the recommendations of this report.

The costs associated with the facilitation of public forums, councillor briefings and workshops and council meetings are included in the existing budget with no budget adjustments required.

GOVERNANCE AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The proposal in this report is designed to minimise the risk of confusion for the community, and maintain Council’s compliance with its obligations, during what is advised to be a short, interim period.

Council’s Code of Meeting Practice already incorporates the mandatory provisions of the 2021 Model Meeting Code and can continue to also include non-mandatory and other supplementary provisions. Subject to those clauses that have been deemed inconsistent, the Code is fit for purpose in its current form to serve as an interim measure until such time as the NSW Government releases a new Model Code.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The subject of this report has no adverse environmental implications for Council.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Retaining Council’s 2025 Code of Meeting Practice (as adjusted by the 2021 Model Code) provides for a consistent approach of ongoing community participation through members of the public registering to speak at the public forum on matters listed in the Council agenda, and the opportunity to either attend the Council chambers or view the livestream of the Council meeting to hear the elected council’s consideration of the matters. The community can also register to address Council on any matter at the Community Engagement Forum that is held on the same evening as the Public Forum.

LINK TO STRATEGY

This report relates to the Community Strategic Plan Outcome and Goal:

- Good governance and participation - Goal 19 Our Council is transparent and trusted to make decisions that reflect the values of the community.

Reporting team	Corporate Services
TRIM file ref	2026/310623
Attachments	⇒ 1 2021 Model Code of Meeting Practice (Included In Attachments Booklet)

ITEM 8.2 NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL DISCRETIONARY FUND - QUARTERLY REPORT

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the recipients and projects that have received an allocation from the Northern Beaches Council Discretionary Fund during the past quarter.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Northern Beaches Council Discretionary Fund (Fund) provides the opportunity for the Mayor and Councillors to respond to requests for financial assistance from local individuals and community groups.
- The Fund is governed in accordance with the Northern Beaches Council Discretionary Fund Policy (Policy).
- The current Policy requires that details of payments be reported quarterly to Council.
- For the period 11 March 2026 to 10 June 2026, payments totalling \$3,000 have been allocated from the Fund to Dancexcel Performance Studio, the Spanish Community Care Association Inc., a local resident for a community waste cleanup project and to Water Skills for Life Association Inc.
- There is an annual budget of \$30,000 for the Fund and there are no further funds available for the 2025/26 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note:

1. Payments totalling \$3,000 have been allocated from the Northern Beaches Council Discretionary Fund for the period 11 March 2026 to 10 June 2026.
2. No further funds are available for the 2025/26 financial year.

BACKGROUND

The Northern Beaches Council Discretionary Fund Policy (Policy) supports individuals and community organisations through small financial donations. The Policy requires recipient and project details to be reported quarterly to Council. This report only includes allocations that have been finalised.

All requests to the Northern Beaches Council Discretionary Fund are submitted to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor or a Councillor with the CEO (or delegate) to certify that the allocation is made in accordance with the Policy and that the funds are available. The table below includes the name of the Councillor who put forward the discretionary fund application, where applicable.

The maximum amount which may be allocated to an individual or community organisation is \$1,000 and only one payment can be made to an individual or community organisation within the same financial year.

DISCUSSION

For the period 11 March 2026 to 10 June 2026 payments from the Northern Beaches Council Discretionary Fund totalling \$3,000 have been made, as shown in the table below.

Recipient	Description	Allocation	Applied directly or supported by Councillor**
Danceexcel Performance Studio	Financial assistance towards performance tour in the USA by 23 Northern Beaches students	\$500	Application received directly
Spanish Community Care Association Inc	Financial assistance towards the hire fees for local Spanish residents to attend social connection activities at a council community centre	\$1,000	Application received directly
Local Resident*	Financial assistance towards an application to Transport NSW for a Clean Up Wakehurst Parkway community event	\$500	Application received directly
Water Skills for Life Assoc Inc.	Financial assistance towards the cost of presenting the Water Skills for Life Program at Collaroy Rockpool	\$1,000	Application received directly

* Individual recipients' details are not included in this report for privacy reasons. All residents in receipt of funds are verified as residents of the Northern Beaches.

** As per Resolution 264/23, indicates applications put forward by a Councillor where applicable, or if received directly by the Office of the Mayor.

CONSULTATION

Requests for financial assistance from the Northern Beaches Council Discretionary Fund are submitted to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Councillor and the Chief Executive Officer for approval in accordance with the Policy.

TIMING

The Policy requires a quarterly report to be presented to Council.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendations in this report do not result in any change to the current Council budget. The funds allocated are provided from the existing annual budget of \$30,000 for the Northern Beaches Discretionary Fund and are now fully exhausted for this financial year. No funding is provided outside of the allocated budget in each financial year.

GOVERNANCE AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Payments allocated under the Northern Beaches Council Discretionary Fund have satisfied the requirements of the Policy. The next quarterly report is intended to be tabled at the Ordinary Council meeting on 15 September 2026.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

One payment made this quarter will result in a beneficial environmental outcome by using the funding to undertake clean-up activities along Wakehurst Parkway, which will remove the amount of litter in the environment.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Northern Beaches Council Discretionary Fund supports individuals, community groups, community organisations and small local businesses involved in community projects that focus on the physical, intellectual, creative, safety, and/or social welfare of residents on the Northern Beaches.

LINK TO STRATEGY

This report relates to the Community Strategic Plan Outcomes and Goals:

- Community and belonging - Goal 7 Our community has access to a diverse range of cultural activities and events.
- Community and belonging - Goal 8 Our community feels safe and supported.
- Community and belonging - Goal 9 Our community is inclusive and connected.

Reporting team	CEO
TRIM file ref	2026/262163
Attachments	Nil

9.0 CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION REPORTS

ITEM 9.1 OUTCOME OF PUBLIC EXHIBITION - DRAFT DELIVERY PROGRAM 2026-2030, OPERATIONAL PLAN 2026/27 AND LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2026-2036

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to consider the submissions on the public exhibition of the draft Delivery Program, Operational Plan (including Fees and Charges) and Long-Term Financial Plan and seek adoption of the revised documents which will commence from 1 July 2026.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The draft documents were exhibited from 24 April to 24 May 2026, generating strong engagement with over 8,500 online visits and 135 submissions, with community feedback primarily focusing on improving active travel infrastructure (especially footpaths and cycling), upgrades to roads and parks and proposed fees.
- Amendments have been made in response to the submissions as well as new and updated information being available since the draft documents were placed on exhibition.
- Changes to the budget reflect higher domestic waste costs, an increased Emergency Services Levy and capital program adjustments from rollovers from 2025/26, rephrasing and new grants, with key financial and asset performance benchmarks still expected to meet industry benchmarks despite the operating surplus before capital grants and contributions decreasing from \$19.8 million to \$19.5 million.
- The budget proposes expenditure of \$598 million including a capital works program of \$130 million for new and improved community assets, supported by an additional \$35 million from the IPART-endorsed Special Variation to reduce the maintenance backlog and improve community assets, including:
 - \$15 million for improving roads, footpaths and stormwater infrastructure
 - \$11 million invested in community facilities, town centres, rockpools, wharves, playgrounds and grass mowing
 - \$6 million to expand tree maintenance and planting, compliance services, environmental and natural risk reduction programs and disaster management.
 - \$3 million towards future projects - including female friendly sports facilities, and more wharf and town centre improvements in 2027/28.
- The Long-Term Financial Plan confirms that adopting the Special Variation supports sustainable financial performance and asset maintenance, whereas limiting increases to the rate peg alone would leave infrastructure gaps and weaken long-term viability.
- Greater caution is required amid economic volatility and rising cost pressures, as Council continues to monitor the financial impact of increased fuel and related expenses, with contingencies available through working capital and any necessary adjustments to be addressed in future budget reviews.
- Council is progressing its efficiency program targeting at least \$5 million in recurring savings and \$10 million in one-off capital savings, with \$2.1 million already achieved in recurring savings, \$4.9 million realised from asset rationalisation, and further savings expected through service reviews, operational improvements and revenue initiatives.

- The proposed 2026/27 rates notice for a typical residential property will increase by \$56 per quarter, of which \$13 relates to the Domestic Waste charge, \$15 to the rate peg and \$28 to the Special Variation program.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note that it has considered the submissions received and the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report at Attachment 1.
2. Note the changes to the documents following exhibition at Attachment 2.
3. Adopt the Delivery Program 2026-2030 and Operational Plan 2026/27 at Attachment 3.
4. Adopt the Fees and Charges 2026/27 and Pricing Methodology applying from 1 July 2026 at Attachment 4 as the fees in accordance with Part 10 of Chapter 15 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act).
5. Adopt the Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-2036 at Attachment 5.
6. Make the following rates and charges:
 - a. In accordance with sections 494 and 495 of the Act and the IPART 'Instrument Under Section 508A of the Local Government Act 1993' dated 14 May 2025 at Attachment 6, Ordinary and Special Rates are made as shown in Table 4 in the report for this Item.
 - b. In accordance with section 496 of the Act, Domestic Waste Management Charges are made as shown in Table 5 in the report for this Item.
 - c. In accordance with section 496A of the Act, Stormwater Management Service Charges are made as shown in Table 6 in the report for this Item.
 - d. In accordance with section 67 of the Act, the fee for works on private land carried out by Council is set at the appropriate commercial rate (being cost of the works and standard on-costs, to provide full cost recovery plus a return to Council).
 - e. In accordance with section 611 of the Act, a charge on the person for the time being in possession, occupation or enjoyment of a rail, pipe, wire, pole, cable, tunnel or structure laid, erected, suspended, constructed or placed on, under or over a public place.
7. Adopt an interest rate of 9.5% on overdue rates and charges, in accordance with section 566(3) of the Act.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 21 April 2026, Council considered the draft Delivery Program 2026-2030, Operational Plan 2026/27 (including the Fees and Charges 2026/27) and Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-2036 and resolved:

That the draft Delivery Program 2026-2030, Operational Plan 2026/27 (including Fees and Charges and Pricing Methodology), and Long-term Financial Plan 2026-2036 be placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days with the outcome reported to Council.

This report outlines the exhibition and the community response, and provides further detail and explanation including recommended changes.

CONSULTATION

The exhibition was open for 31 days from Friday 24 April to Sunday 24 May 2026. The exhibition was promoted via:

- 7 electronic direct mails (EDMs) with over 149,000 subscribers (Community Engagement newsletter and Council e-News).
- 1 Facebook post with 6,733 reach.
- One Council media release
- Five community pop up/information sessions, with 231 conversations with members of the community.
- Two resident association meetings (Manly Ward Executive, Pittwater Community Alliance) and Council's Youth Action Group.

This resulted in over 8,584 visitors to the online engagement page which is a 71% increase on the same engagement in 2025.

Information online was provided in different formats, making it easy for visitors to find information. Fact sheets were available on footpaths and road re-sheeting programs, recreation programs, 'your dollars at work' and the Special Variation to rates. In addition, 12 local snapshots were provided covering the Northern Beaches making it easier for the community to see what is proposed in their local area.

A total of 135 individuals and groups made submissions, comprised of:

- 107 online submissions using YourSay Northern Beaches engagement platform.
- 28 emails/letters direct to Council.

All submissions were analysed to establish key themes, unique issues and frequency of time raised. An overview of the submissions is below with further detail in the Community Engagement and Stakeholder report at Attachment 1.

Delivery Program 2026-2030, Operational Plan 2026/27 and Fees and Charges 2026/27 - submissions

There was a total of 131 submissions on the Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Fees and Charges raising 130 issues. Tabled over the page are the themes with 3 or more submissions and the unique issues within each theme.

<i>Theme</i>	<i>No. people</i>	<i>No. unique issues</i>
Active Travel	35	27
Community Buildings	26	7
Parks and Open Space	23	20
Fees and charges	17	12
Reduce expenditure	17	7
Roads and transport including wharves	14	15
Other	13	13
Environmental protection	6	9
Rate increase	5	1
Long-Term Financial Plan	4	5
Stormwater and flood mitigation	4	3
Place plans / commercial centre upgrades	4	5

Eight submissions were received on rates (explicitly referenced in the submission). Five submissions opposed the rate increase, 2 were in support of the increase and 1 submission supported a decrease in business rates. Other submissions did not specifically reference the rate increase but called for strengthening the efficiency and improvement program and an increased focus on cost containment. This included employee costs, focusing on core services, or scaling back specific programs or projects.

Submissions also requested improvements to infrastructure and levels of service associated with roads and maintenance of open space and building compliance services. The continuation of the Special Variation program will, if approved, allow additional funding to be directed to:

- Improving the condition of roads via additional road resheeting, patch repairs and preventative crack sealing
- Improving the appearance of open space with increased maintenance
- Increasing building compliance services

The number of submissions on fees and charges is lower this year. Submission related to childcare fees, fees at community centres, permits fees for Church Point carpark and rockpool booking fees. To increase occupancy of Community Centres, the fees for 2026/27 have mostly remained unchanged or reduced.

The majority of unique issues only had a single submission and reflected specific areas of interest / concern to the individual.

More information on submissions and Council's response is at Attachment 1. A summary of the changes made to the Delivery Program 2026-2030, Operational Plan 2026/27 and Fees and Charges 2026/27 is at Attachment 2.

Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-2030 – submissions

There was a total of 4 submissions on the Long-Term Financial Plan. One submission supported the Long-Term Financial Plan and the others raised 5 unique issues. This included support for a new environmental levy, support for reducing business rates as well as clarity on how the forecast surplus will be maintained if the economic assumptions do not hold true.

In relation to the final issue a minor change is proposed to the Long-Term Financial Plan. Edits are proposed to the section on Financial Planning Assumptions to include information on the role of Council's quarterly reviews and monthly financial reporting process.

More information on submissions and Council's response is at Attachment 1. A summary of the changes to the Long-Term Financial Plan is at Attachment 2.

SPECIAL VARIATION TO RATES – IPART'S DETERMINATION

Council applied to IPART in February 2025 for a Special Variation to rates in response to growing pressure on financial sustainability as increases in income, under the NSW rate peg system, have not reflected the rising costs of materials, contracts, and construction, with Sydney's inflation over the 4 years to 30 June 2024 being almost double the increase in rates income.

IPART announced its determination on Council's application on the 16 May 2025 giving permission for an increase over 2 years of 12.1% in 2025/26 and 11.7% in 2026/27. At its meeting on 17 June 2025, Council adopted the 12.1% rate increase for 2025/26.

This report recommends that Council adopts the 11.7% 2026/27 rate increase based on the maximum permitted increase (inclusive of the Special Variation) as approved by IPART. This will enable Council, in accordance with the IPART instrument (Attachment 6) to fully fund the infrastructure and maintenance backlog, expand environmental and natural risk reduction programs, provide capacity to manage an increasing number of natural disasters and secure Council's long term financial sustainability.

Deferring the commencement of the Special Variation to a later year is not supported. This will result in the programs being delayed and a loss of income which is needed to support critical asset maintenance.

While it is acknowledged that there are some community members concerned about the affordability of the rate rise, IPART assessed Council's application, including an independent assessment of ratepayer's capacity to pay, and found that the impact of the proposed SV on ratepayers is generally reasonable. Further, the Council has a hardship policy in place to support ratepayers experiencing financial stress along with concessions for eligible pensioners, which is communicated through the annual rates notice and other channels. Rate payment collection statistics remain consistent with prior years, with about 1 in 5 ratepayers paying their rates in full in August and around 30 ratepayers currently participating in hardship support arrangements.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BUDGET 2026/27

The 2026/27 Budget remains balanced, however the operating result has changed due to amendments to Domestic Waste Management income (offset by an equivalent amendment to Domestic Waste Management expenses) relating to expected additional fuel costs, rollovers from the 2025/26 budget approved through the March Quarterly Budget Review and new information available since the draft documents were placed on exhibition (including confirmation from the NSW Government on the Emergency Services Levy payable for 2026/27).

The following table summarises the movement from the draft to the revised 2026/27 Budget.

Table 1: Movement in the draft 2026/27 budget - Income Statement and Capital Expenditure

	2026/27 Draft Budget April 2026 \$'mil	2026/27 Revised Budget June 2026 \$'mil	Change Incr / (Decr) \$'mil
Income from continuing operations			
Rates and annual charges	313.0	317.2	4.2
User charges and fees	106.4	106.4	-
Other revenues	22.8	22.8	-
Grants and contributions - operating purposes	23.1	23.1	-
Grants and contributions - capital purposes	23.2	24.6	1.4
Interest and investment revenue	10.0	10.0	-

	2026/27 Draft Budget April 2026 \$'mil	2026/27 Revised Budget June 2026 \$'mil	Change Incr / (Decr) \$'mil
Other income	7.2	7.2	-
Net gain from the disposal of assets	0.6	0.6	-
Total income from continuing operations	506.3	511.9	5.6
Expenses from continuing operations			
Employee benefits and on-costs	189.9	189.9	-
Materials and services	191.6	195.7	4.2
Borrowing costs	2.9	2.9	-
Depreciation and amortisation	57.0	57.0	-
Other expenses	22.0	22.3	0.3
Total expenses from continuing operations	463.4	467.8	4.4
Operating result - Surplus / (Deficit)	43.0	44.1	1.1
Operating result - Surplus / (Deficit) excluding Capital Grants and Contributions	19.8	19.5	(0.3)
Capital expenditure	124.7	129.7	5.0

Operating Budget 2026/27 - changes

There has been a reduction in the operating surplus (excluding capital grants and contributions) from \$19.8 million exhibited in the draft budget to \$19.5 million, as outlined below in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of proposed movement in operating budget result (excluding capital grants and contributions)

	Net \$'mil	Income \$'mil	Expenditure \$'mil
Draft operating result before capital grants and contributions	19.787	483.139	(463.353)
Domestic Waste – increased fuel costs and domestic waste charge	-	4.165	(4.165)
Emergency services levy contribution	(0.261)	-	(0.261)
Changes to budget		4.165	(4.426)
Revised operating result before capital grants and contributions	19.526	487.305	(467.779)

Emergency services levy

NSW Revenue has advised that Northern Beaches Council's Emergency Services Levy (ESL) for the 2026/27 financial year will be \$10.5 million, representing an increase of \$1.0 million (10.8%) compared to 2025/26. The draft 2026/27 budget assumed an 8% increase based on historical trends. The actual levy is \$261k higher than this estimate.

The increase is primarily driven by a higher Fire and Rescue NSW contribution, who have advised this reflects rising operating costs required to maintain service delivery and coverage, including the impact of the recently finalised firefighter pay increase (14% over three years).

Emergency Services Levy

	2025/26	2026/27	Increase / (Decrease)	
			\$	%
RFS	\$ 1,379,565	\$ 1,359,359	\$ (20,206)	(1.5%)
SES	\$ 818,150	\$ 834,575	\$ 16,425	2.0%
Fire and Rescue	\$ 7,249,191	\$ 8,270,378	\$ 1,021,187	14.1%
TOTAL	\$9,446,906	\$10,464,312	\$ 1,017,406	10.8%

Councils collectively fund 11.7% of the annual costs of the Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Service, and Fire and Rescue NSW, with the insurance industry contributing 73.7% and the NSW Government 14.6%. Northern Beaches Council continues to pay the highest levy of any council in NSW, almost \$2 million more than the 2nd highest Council – Central Coast.

The NSW Government is currently exploring options to replace the levy, although current considerations are focused on the insurance industry component.

Capital Expenditure Budget 2026/27 - changes

The 2026/27 capital expenditure program has increased from \$124.7 million to \$129.7 million due to budget rollovers approved in the March quarterly budget review (\$4.8m), projects rephased across financial years to align with revised timelines (-\$0.6m) and new grants (\$0.8m).

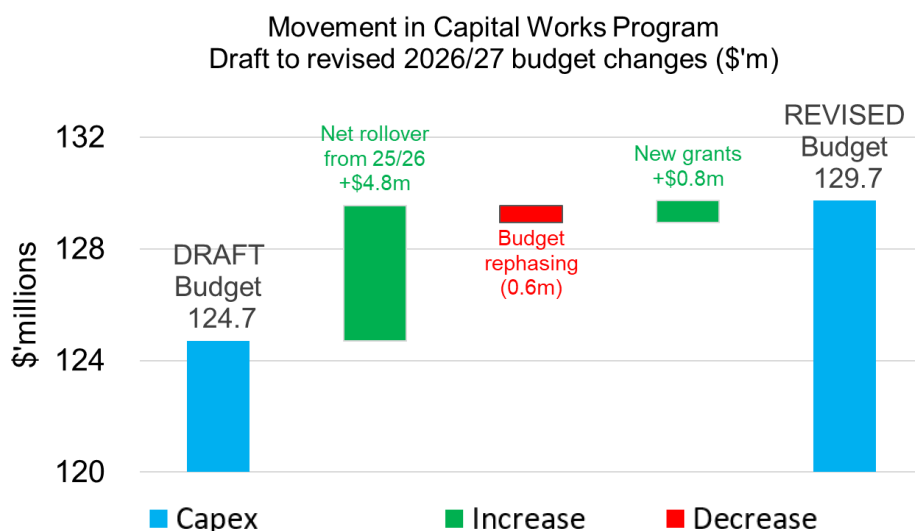


Table 3 below identifies proposed changes to the capital works program.

Table 3. Proposed changes – Capital Works Program – Increases / (Decreases)

Projects rephased: due to adjustments from 2025/26 as approved by Council May 2026 - Increases / (Decreases)

Project	Budget 2026/27 \$'m	Forecast 2027/28 \$'m	Forecast 2028/29 \$'m	Forecast 2029/30 \$'m
70051007 Bridge renewal works	(0.080)			
70151002 Planned stormwater renewal works	0.483			

Project		Budget 2026/27 \$'m	Forecast 2027/28 \$'m	Forecast 2028/29 \$'m	Forecast 2029/30 \$'m
70151011	Cooyong Road Terrey Hills bridge culvert upgrade	0.638			
70151008	Water saving and re-use initiatives	0.020			
70151010	South Collaroy foreshore renewal	0.400			
70151016	Manly Aquatic Centre heat pump	0.025			
70201032	Glen Street Theatre renewal works	0.176			
70201044	Multi storey car park renewal works	0.059			
70201064	Boondah Reserve amenities upgrade	0.150			
70201067	Grandstands renewal	0.135			
80021006	Library local priority grant purchases	0.080			
80041008	Coast walk - art trail	(0.061)			
80051005	Warriewood Valley - traffic and transport infrastructure	0.580			
80051008	Church Point - new infrastructure	0.200			
80051025	Safer schools infrastructure	0.400			
80051028	The Strand Dee Why Beach upgrade		0.140		
80101009	Foreshores - new and upgrades	0.020			
80101012	Sports club capital assistance program	0.014			
80101014	Warriewood Valley - public space and recreation	0.050			
80101032	Clontarf masterplan implementation	0.270			
80101039	Frenchs Forest precinct park upgrades	0.074			
80101048	Ivanhoe Park masterplan implementation	(0.050)			
80101066	Governor Phillip Reserve masterplan implementation	0.025			
80101074	Manly Place Plan implementation	0.177			
80151002	Collaroy-Narrabeen coastal protection works	0.600			
80151003	Planned stormwater new works	0.050			
80201018	West Esplanade, Manly accessible amenity	0.168			
80201022	Freshwater Beach amenities	0.150			
80201029	Jamieson Park Sailing and Recreation Facility	(0.160)			
80201034	Manly Life Saving Club	(0.065)			
80351009	Warriewood Valley Community Centre	0.300			
	Total rollover / (brought forward) from 2025/26	4.827	0.140	-	-

Rephasing to align with updated project timelines – Increases / (Decreases)

Project		Budget 2026/27 \$'m	Forecast 2027/28 \$'m	Forecast 2028/29 \$'m	Forecast 2029/30 \$'m
70101001	Sportsfield renewal program	(0.500)	0.500		
80151011	1 Geelong Road Cromer culvert upgrade	(0.100)	0.100		
	Total rephasing	(0.600)	0.600	-	-

New grants – Increases / (Decreases):

Project		Budget 2026/27 \$'m	Forecast 2027/28 \$'m	Forecast 2028/29 \$'m	Forecast 2029/30 \$'m
70201061	Surf Life Saving Club minor renewal works	0.788			
80101080	Miller Reserve Manly Vale upgrade		0.400	1.600	
	Total new grants	0.788	0.400	1.600	-

Project	Budget 2026/27 \$'m	Forecast 2027/28 \$'m	Forecast 2028/29 \$'m	Forecast 2029/30 \$'m
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Total movement in capital expenditure	5.015	1.140	1.600	-
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Capital Expenditure Summary	Budget 2026/27 \$'m	Forecast 2027/28 \$'m	Forecast 2028/29 \$'m	Forecast 2029/30 \$'m
Draft Budget	124.712	104.619	89.591	92.974
Above Changes - Increases / (Decreases)	5.015	1.140	1.600	-
Revised Budget	129.728	105.759	91.191	92.974

OVERVIEW OF THE REVISED BUDGET 2026/27

Budget 2026/27

The 2026/27 budget projects total expenditure of \$598 million, including a capital works program of \$130 million. The proposed \$130 million capital works program includes \$79 million in asset renewal to improve the overall condition of our assets and to reduce ongoing operational costs associated with asset repair and maintenance. A further \$51 million will deliver high priority new assets to the community.

The budget forecasts an Operating Surplus before Capital Grants and Contributions of \$19.5 million, which includes a \$13 million investment in replacing Council's core operating systems. A further \$1.6 million in loans will be repaid.

Fuel crisis

Since March 2026, global conflict has disrupted international oil and gas supplies, leading to higher fuel costs, supply constraints, and a highly volatile outlook. This poses risks to Council's service delivery and asset maintenance given its reliance on fuel for operations such as mowing, street sweeping, road works, waste collection, emergency service support, and the Hop, Skip and Jump bus service.

While strategies have been implemented to minimise disruption, increased costs from contractors (supported by the Fair Work Commission's Road Transport Contractual Chain Order effective 21 April 2026 requiring regular fuel cost reviews) along with rising prices for fuel-derived materials like asphalt, plastics, and coatings, are likely to be passed on to Council. Although the extent of these impacts was unknown when the 2026/27 Budget was prepared, they will be assessed in a future budget review as more information becomes available. Contingencies are in place through working capital.

Efficiency savings

Council is committed to realising productivity savings in its operations to reduce the burden on rates. A Productivity Journey and Improvement Plan, presented on 28 January 2025, outlines goals to achieve ongoing operational savings of \$5 million over the next 3 years along with one-off capital savings totalling \$10 million within 5 years.

Meaningful progress has been made in 2025/26, with \$2.1 million in recurring annual operational savings and \$4.9 million in one-off capital savings already achieved. Operational savings have been delivered through:

- Adjusting the level of service for the Hop, Skip and Jump Bus service, reducing operating costs while maintaining the main route utilised by passengers.
- Closing vacation care, due to declining utilisation and strong alternative provision in the area.

- Revising the events program, including reducing the number of outdoor cinemas and markets and increasing grant funding available for community led events.
- Removing the NSW Surf Life Saving Championships financial subsidy.
- Further rollout of LED lights for streetlighting, resulting in reduced operating costs.
- Discontinuing the Adolescent and Family Counselling Service to mitigate financial and operational risks. This has also created an opportunity to explore the sale of the property at 1 Pittwater Road, Manly, from which the service operated. A separate report on this matter is being presented for Council's consideration at this meeting.
- Transitioning Council's financially challenged Meals on Wheels service to The Village Chef to improve service delivery, reduce risks, and ensure sustainable, streamlined support for the community.
- Improved organisational design to ensure a cost effective and optimal structure.
- Fleet optimisation initiatives to reduce the number of vehicles and operating costs.
- A range of operational efficiencies across the organisation including AI assistance in internal audit, Library eResources review and technology rationalisation including mobile devices, printing, software and infrastructure.

Capital savings of \$4.9 million have also been realised through the sale of Unit 9, 5 Vuko Place Warriewood and a reduction in the Hop Skip and Jump bus fleet.

The 2026/27 budget incorporates a further \$1.2 million in annual savings from:

- Workforce management initiatives including organisational design changes to reduce overhead costs while maintaining frontline service delivery.
- Increased revenue from bus shelter advertising.
- Expanded outdoor dining opportunities for businesses, resulting in additional income.
- Continued operational efficiencies identified through internal process reviews.

Council has also resolved to sell part of a residential property in North Balgowlah.

Service reviews are a key part of the plan, focusing on efficiency, effectiveness and financial sustainability. Reviews scheduled for 2026/27 include:

- Environmental Education and Community Sustainability
- Strategic and Place Planning
- Economic Development and Tourism
- Parking Operations
- Library Services

Financial position and performance

Council has demonstrated strong and prudent financial management over many years, enabling the delivery of major projects, supporting the community through challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters and reinvesting merger savings into improved services and infrastructure. In recent years, Council has implemented measures to manage cost pressures, including service and fee reviews, efficiency improvements, and cost savings initiatives.

However, while these efforts continue, they are insufficient to fully offset the impacts of sustained high inflation, particularly as infrastructure costs have historically grown faster than the IPART rate peg, placing increasing pressure on long-term financial sustainability. The approved Special

Variation provides an opportunity to address this by supporting ongoing financial stability, maintaining community infrastructure and ensuring the continued delivery of high-quality services. The budget forecasts that Council will meet key financial and asset performance benchmarks in 2026/27.

For 2026/27, Council is projecting an operating surplus of \$19.5 million (excluding capital grants and contributions), with an Operating Performance Ratio of 3.9%, exceeding the benchmark of 0% or greater. Liquidity meets the industry benchmark (greater than 1.50x) with an Unrestricted Current Ratio 2.27x, meaning for every \$1.00 in current liabilities there is \$2.27 in current assets.

Net cashflow will be a negative \$22 million in 2026/27 and \$4 million 2027/28, reflecting the utilisation of restricted funds – including grants and contributions – in the construction of assets and the replacement of Council's core operating systems. Net cashflow will return to a positive position from 2028/29, and the unrestricted cash and investments balance (i.e. working capital) is projected to increase annually over the life of the plan, strengthening Council's financial resilience.

Asset management ratios are strengthened by the Special Variation, meaning Council is able to invest in the maintenance and renewal of assets at the required rate.

Financial performance and position snapshot

	Result 2024/25 \$ 'mil	Forecast 2025/26 \$ 'mil	Budget 2026/27 \$ 'mil	Projected 2027/28 \$ 'mil	Projected 2028/29 \$ 'mil	Projected 2029/30 \$ 'mil
Operating budget						
Income	478	488	512	517	529	537
Operating expenses	416	444	468	472	485	499
Operating result	61	44	44	45	44	38
Less grants and contributions for capital projects	(44)	(34)	(25)	(20)	(18)	(12)
Operating result - excl capital income	17	9	20	25	25	26
Capital expenditure						
New works	(63)	(36)	(49)	(39)	(23)	(23)
Renewal works	(36)	(64)	(81)	(66)	(68)	(70)
Total capital expenditure	(98)	(99)	(130)	(106)	(91)	(93)
Loan repayments	(5)	(3)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Cash and investments						
Externally restricted	64	69	52	55	61	61
Internally restricted	122	101	92	83	91	97
Unrestricted	45	48	52	53	55	58
Total cash and investments	230	218	196	191	207	216
Cashflows						
Net cash from operating activities	106	88	108	102	108	103
Net cash from investing activities*	(82)	(97)	(128)	(103)	(89)	(91)
Net cash from financing activities	7	(4)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash	30	(13)	(22)	(4)	16	9
* Excludes purchase and sale of investments						
Financial position						
Assets	6,228	6,400	6,574	6,743	6,920	7,090
Liabilities	(191)	(181)	(181)	(176)	(178)	(181)

	Result 2024/25 \$ 'mil	Forecast 2025/26 \$ 'mil	Budget 2026/27 \$ 'mil	Projected 2027/28 \$ 'mil	Projected 2028/29 \$ 'mil	Projected 2029/30 \$ 'mil
Net Assets	6,037	6,219	6,393	6,567	6,742	6,909

Performance Measures

	OLG Benchmark	Result 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26	Budget 2026/27	Projected 2027/28	Projected 2028/29	Projected 2029/30
Budget Performance							
Operating Performance Ratio	> 0%	4.0%	1.8%	3.9%	4.9%	4.8%	4.9%
<i>measures the extent to which a council has succeeded in containing operating expenditure within operating revenue.</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio	> 60%	85.6%	88.1%	90.7%	91.6%	92.2%	93.2%
<i>measures fiscal flexibility. It is the degree of reliance on external funding sources.</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Operational Liquidity							
Unrestricted Current Ratio	> 1.5x	2.53x	2.56x	2.27x	2.28x	2.43x	2.34x
<i>represents a council's ability to meet short-term obligations as they fall due.</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rates, Annual Charges, Interest & Extra Charges							
Outstanding Percentage	< 5%	3.5%	3.4%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%
<i>expressed as a percentage of total rates and charges available for collection in the financial year.</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cash Expense Cover Ratio	> 3mths	7.0mths	6.2mths	5.4mths	5.1mths	5.5mths	5.5mths
<i>liquidity ratio indicates the number of months a council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow.</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Liability and Debt Management							
Debt Service Cover Ratio	> 2x	8.7x	12.1x	17.7x	21.3x	21.4x	23.7x
<i>measures the availability of operating cash to service loan repayments.</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Asset Management							
Building and Infrastructure Renewals Ratio	> 100%	87.9%	123.0%	163.2%	125.7%	122.6%	123.6%
<i>assesses the rate at which these assets are being renewed against the rate at which they are depreciating.</i>		✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Infrastructure Backlog Ratio	< 2%	1.56%	1.54%	1.52%	1.52%	1.52%	1.52%
<i>ratio shows what proportion the infrastructure backlog is against the total net carrying amount of a council's infrastructure.</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Asset Maintenance Ratio	> 100%	91.4%	100.4%	100.5%	100.9%	100.5%	100.6%
<i>ratio compares actual versus required annual asset maintenance. A ratio of above 100% indicates that the council is investing enough funds that year to halt the infrastructure backlog from growing.</i>		✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cost to bring assets to agreed service level		1.19%	1.19%	1.19%	1.20%	1.21%	1.22%
<i>ratio shows what proportion the infrastructure backlog is against the total gross replacement cost of a council's infrastructure.</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Sensitivity Scenario Analysis

The following table demonstrates the impact that an unexpected significant event could have on the financial performance and position of Council, if no adjustment was made to fund the event. A situation such as a \$5 million storm event, inflation on contracts at 10% or a \$10 million unfavourable income shock would result in a weakened operating result. Key performance and liquidity ratios would also be weaker but will remain above the industry benchmark.

Long Term Financial Plan 2026-36	Result	Forecast	Budget	Projected	Projected	Projected
Scenario 1: Delivery Program model - IPART approved special variation	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
	\$ 'mil	\$ 'mil	\$ 'mil	\$ 'mil	\$ 'mil	\$ 'mil
Budget						
Operating result (excluding capital grants and contributions)	17.2	9.1	19.5	25.0	25.5	25.7
Operating Performance Ratio	3.98%	1.80%	3.91%	4.90%	4.84%	4.86%
Unrestricted Current Ratio	2.53x	2.56x	2.27x	2.28x	2.43x	2.34x
Unrestricted Cash	45	48	52	53	55	58
Scenario 1 - Inflation on operating contracts at 10%, with no matching income in 26/27						
Operating result (excluding capital grants and contributions)	17.2	9.1	10.5	25.0	25.5	25.7
Operating Performance Ratio	3.98%	1.80%	2.04%	4.90%	4.84%	4.86%
Unrestricted Current Ratio	2.53x	2.56x	2.15x	2.16x	2.30x	2.22x
Unrestricted Cash	45	48	43	44	46	49
Scenario 2 - A significant storm - \$5 million in expenses						
Operating result (excluding capital grants and contributions)	17.2	9.1	14.5	25.0	25.5	25.7
Operating Performance Ratio	3.98%	1.80%	2.88%	4.90%	4.84%	4.86%
Unrestricted Current Ratio	2.53x	2.56x	2.21x	2.21x	2.36x	2.28x
Unrestricted Cash	45	48	47	48	50	53
Scenario 3 - A \$10 million unfavourable income shock						
Operating result (excluding capital grants and contributions)	17.2	9.1	9.5	25.0	25.5	25.7
Operating Performance Ratio	3.98%	1.80%	1.89%	4.90%	4.84%	4.86%
Unrestricted Current Ratio	2.53x	2.56x	2.14x	2.14x	2.29x	2.21x
Unrestricted Cash	45	48	42	43	45	48

The Long-Term Financial Plan (Attachment 5) also includes a Sensitivity Analysis to further test the impact of inherent economic risks.

REVENUE POLICY

Rating Structure 2026/27

The NSW Government, through IPART, caps the total general income that may be raised from levying rates on property. Northern Beaches Council resolved to apply to IPART for a Special Variation. On 14 May 2025 IPART announced that it had approved a 2-year permanent Special Variation of 25.2% for Northern Beaches Council, comprising an increase of 12.1% in 2025/26 and 11.7% in 2026/27. These approved increases include the rate peg component for each applicable year. The approved increase of 11.7% is the basis of the 2026/27 budget.

The rating structure is based entirely upon property valuations (ad valorem) but with minimum rates applying where appropriate. Rates for 2026/27 will be assessed on land values as at 1 July 2025 and are forecast to raise \$248.6 million before pensioner rebates and adjustments (which includes an extra \$17 million from the second and final year of the Special Variation to rates).

The 2025 land values recently issued to Council by the NSW Valuer General will be utilised to calculate rates on properties. Overall, residential land values increased by 8.4% since the last valuation in 2022 and business land values increased by 26.1%. Council does not raise any additional income through changes in land value, but these new values can redistribute the amount

of rates paid by individual ratepayers based on how their land value has changed in comparison to others in the Northern Beaches.

It is recommended that Council adopts the rate increase of 11.7% previously approved by IPART and in accordance with sections 494 and 495 of the Act, makes the following Ordinary and Special Rates for 2026/27:

Table 4: Ordinary and Special Rates 2026/27

Type	Category/subcategory	Number	Ad valorem rate*	Minimum \$	Income estimate \$'000
Ordinary	Residential	97,065	0.120278	1,377.09	205,857
Ordinary	Business	6,577	0.350244	1,793.04	33,314
Ordinary	Business – Manly CBD	638	0.569413	1,793.04	5,463
Ordinary	Business - Warriewood Square	1	0.638781		172
Ordinary	Business – Warringah Mall	1	1.298760		1,221
Ordinary	Business – Strata storage unit facility	758	0.350244	856.98	649
Ordinary	Farmland	4	0.044579	1325.82	7
	TOTAL ORDINARY	105,044			246,683
Special	Manly business centre improvement	638	0.195376		1,809
Special	Balgowlah business centre improvement	84	0.118683		118
	TOTAL SPECIAL	722			1,927
	TOTAL RATES				248,610

* Ad valorem rate – cents in the dollar, charged for every \$1 of land value

Note: The information in the above table has been determined using currently available property and rating information and may be subject to change prior to 30 June 2026, dependent on such matters as the processing of supplementary rates adjustments and revisions to ratepayer land valuations that may be determined by the NSW Valuer General.

Further details on the special rates as well as properties covered by business sub-categories and special rates are shown in Attachment 3 (Delivery Program) to this report.

Domestic Waste Management Charges

The Domestic Waste Management (DWM) Service is provided to all residential properties. Council must make and levy an annual charge for the service and income must not exceed the reasonable cost of providing the services (sections 496 and 504). The standard domestic waste charge is proposed to be \$652 in 2026/27 (a \$53 (8.8%) increase) raising \$70 million in revenue. Of this increase, \$40 is directly attributable to higher diesel fuel costs.

Diesel fuel is a significant cost driver for waste management, as the service relies heavily on fuel-intensive vehicle fleets for kerbside collection and the transport of waste to processing and disposal facilities. These cost pressures are largely outside Council's control and reflect broader market and supply conditions impacting the transport sector, which are anticipated to continue in the immediate future.

Table 5: Domestic Waste Management Services 2026/27

Description	Number	Charge	Income estimate \$'000
Domestic waste management service (includes 80L red, 140L blue, 140L yellow and 2x240L green lid services, 2 booked clean ups per year and vegetation drop-off at Kimbriki for residents (up to 300kg max. per day and 4,000kg max. per annum)	98,489	\$652.00	64,215
Availability charge	1,352	\$130.00	176

Description	Number	Charge	Income estimate \$'000
Additional 80L red lid rubbish service	13,245	\$365.00	4,834
First additional 140L blue OR yellow lid recycling service	7,767	\$40.00	310
Subsequent additional 140L blue OR yellow lid recycling service	304	\$137.00	42
Third or fourth green vegetation lid service	3,884	\$40.00	155
Clean up excessive or incorrectly presented waste	-	\$237.60 per hour + cost recovery on landfill disposal charges	-
Clean up contaminated or excessive booked bulky goods collection in excess of the permitted 3 cubic metres	-	\$91.40 per excess cubic metre	-
Empty contaminated bin	-	\$37.60 per bin	-
Total domestic waste charge income \$'000			69,733
Cost of domestic waste service \$'000			(69,600)
Allocation to reserve \$'000			132

Stormwater Management Services Charges

The Stormwater Management Services Charge is levied to all eligible residential and business ratepayers to fund a program of stormwater improvement projects and is forecast to raise \$2.2 million in 2026/27. The charge is consistent with the upper limit set by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, which remains unchanged since the inception of the charge in the 2006/07 financial year. No changes to the charge are proposed.

Table 6: Stormwater Management Services Charges 2026/27

Property type	Charge
Residential – single dwelling	\$25.00
Residential - strata lots	\$12.50
Business	\$25.00 per 350 square metres (or part thereof) for land categorised as business (excluding strata lots)
Business strata lots, business company title	\$5.00 or the relevant portion of the maximum annual charge that would apply to the strata scheme if it were a parcel of land subject to the land categorised as business

Rates and annual charges

The estimated change in rates and annual charges, which represent the rates notice, is illustrated in the following table. If the proposed Special Variation is adopted, the rates notice for a typical residential property will increase by \$56 per quarter, of which \$13 relates to the Domestic Waste Charge, \$15 to the rate peg and \$28 to the Special Variation program to improve services.

Table 7. Minimum and typical residential rates and annual charges 2026/27

- With proposed Special Variation to rates of 11.7%	Minimum			Typical (median)		
	2026/27 Amount	Increase		2026/27 Amount	Increase	
Residential Rates	\$1,377	\$144	11.7%	\$1,648	\$173	11.7%
Domestic Waste Charge	\$652	\$53	8.8%	\$652	\$53	8.8%
Stormwater Charge	\$12.50 (strata)	-	-	\$25 (house)	-	-
TOTAL RATES NOTICE - Per annum	\$2,042	\$197	10.7%	\$2,325	\$226	10.7%
Per quarter	\$510	\$49	10.7%	\$581	\$56	10.7%
Per day	\$5.59	\$0.54	10.7%	\$6.37	\$0.62	10.7%

- With rate peg only at 4.1%	Minimum			Typical (median)		
	2026/27 Amount	Increase		2026/27 Amount	Increase	
Residential Rates	\$1,283	\$51	4.1%	\$1,536	\$60	4.1%
Domestic Waste Charge	\$652	\$53	8.8%	\$652	\$53	8.8%
Stormwater Charge	\$12.50 (strata)	-	-	\$25 (house)	-	-
TOTAL RATES NOTICE - Per annum	\$1,948	\$104	5.6%	\$2,213	\$113	5.4%
Per quarter	\$487	\$26	6.1%	\$553	\$28	5.2%
Per day	\$5.34	\$0.28	6.1%	\$6.07	\$0.31	5.2%

The typical (median) rate in 2026/27 is based on the median (midpoint) 2025 residential land value of \$1.37 million – individual ratepayers may experience a difference in the change due to the impact of the new land values compared to their old land values that were used in the 2025/26 year. The minimum rate applies to land values under approx. \$1.14 million and is paid by around a third of ratepayers.

Interest charge on overdue rates and annual charges

The Minister for Local Government has determined the maximum rate of interest payable on overdue rates and charges is 9.5% per annum for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 (inclusive).

The methodology used to calculate the interest rate is consistent with the Supreme Court methodology utilised to provide a nationally harmonised provision for the awarding of post-judgement interest (the Reserve Bank cash rate plus 6%), rounded to the nearest half per cent. The cash rate used is based on the cash rate set by the Reserve Bank of Australia on 9 December 2025.

In accordance with section 566(3) of the Act, it is recommended that Council adopts the maximum interest rate allowed and this be applied to all Northern Beaches properties.

Rates and annual charges payment collection rates

Historically, around 20% of ratepayers elect to pay their annual rates in full in August. This payment pattern has remained stable in the current year. The remaining ratepayers generally opt to pay via instalments, with collection performance across all instalment periods continuing to be consistent with prior years.

The 'Rates and Annual Charges Outstanding' ratio, measured annually as at 30 June, is projected to remain stable at approximately 3.4% of the total rates and annual charges collectible. This result remains well below the industry benchmark of 5% for metropolitan councils. Around 30 ratepayers are currently participating in hardship support arrangements. This is consistent with prior years.

Section 611 charges

It is proposed that an annual charge under section 611 of the Act be made and levied for the year commencing 1 July 2026 on the person for the time being in possession, occupation or enjoyment of a rail, pipe, wire, pole, cable, tunnel or structure laid, erected, suspended, constructed or placed on, under or over a public place.

Works on private land

Council may carry out work on private land, either on request or agreement with the owner of the land, or under relevant legislation. The amount or rate proposed to be charged is the appropriate commercial rate – the actual cost of the works and standard on costs to provide full cost recovery plus a return to Council.

Pricing Methodology and Fees and Charges 2026/27

The revised Fees and Charges schedule for the 2026/27 financial year is provided as Attachment 3 to this report and has been prepared in accordance with the principles of the Council's Pricing Methodology.

OVERVIEW OF THE REVISED LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2026-2036

The Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) has been revised to reflect the changes to the budget. The LTFP provides 2 scenario models.

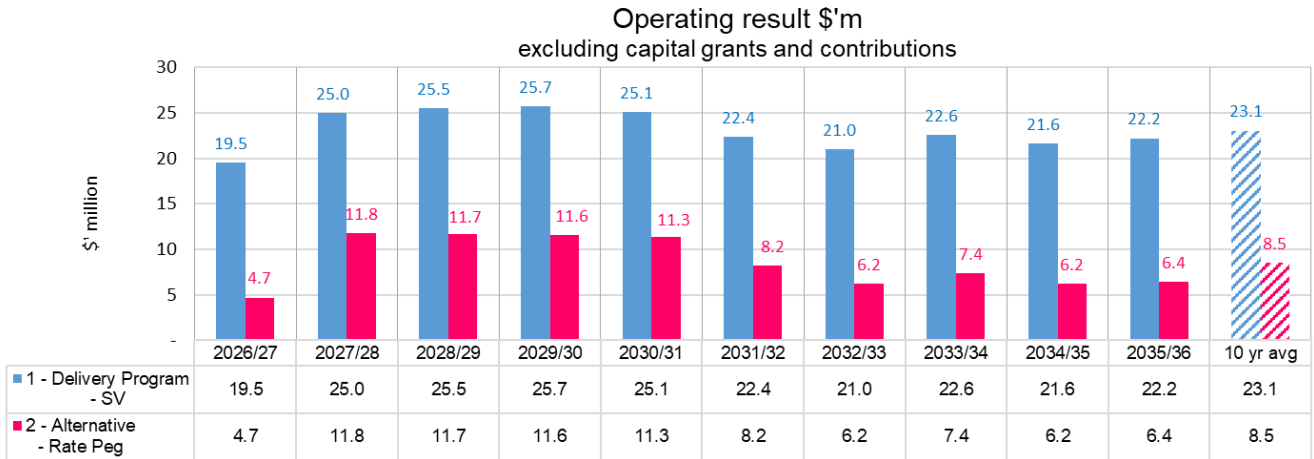
Scenario 1: Delivery Program model – IPART approved Special Variation (7.6% special variation + rate peg 4.1% in 2026/27)

- This model is consistent with the draft Delivery Program 2026-2030 and Council's Special Variation to rates program.
- In this model infrastructure expenditure is increased in line with the requirements of the Asset Management Plans and working capital is strengthened to provide the capacity to respond to unexpected events. Noteworthy is the increased expenditure in renewing road, footpath and stormwater assets which doubles from 2025 expenditure levels. This model produces a stronger operating result and asset management ratios along with improved outcomes for the community.
- Additional funding is also provided to expand environmental and natural risk reduction programs and provide capacity to manage an increasing number of natural disasters.
- To provide funding for this model, rates income increases \$17 million above the 4.1% rate peg in the 2026/27 year and then rate peg each year following. This uplift brings the total Special Variation fund to \$35 million ongoing.

Scenario 2: Alternative model – rate peg only

- Under this model, rates increase annually in line with the rate peg, which is intended to function similarly to CPI for local government. While the first year of the Special Variation in 2025/26 increased funding by \$16 million per annum, this uplift is insufficient to close the funding gap that developed over the preceding 4 years. During that period, rate increases were limited to approximately half the rate of inflation, and the additional revenue does not address the existing backlog in asset management requirements. As a result, this structural funding issue remains unresolved.
- Income levels are not sufficient to fund operating expenses, invest in the ongoing renewal of infrastructure assets and provide the necessary working capital to manage unexpected events (such as the current escalating fuel and associated costs). Performance benchmarks are weakening or not met, especially regarding asset management and operating performance.

- This is not sustainable and will continue to reduce services to the community.



The following table compares key performance measures for the 2 scenarios.

Performance measures – Long Term Financial Plan Scenarios Comparison

Budget Performance

Operating Performance Ratio

measures the extent to which a council has succeeded in containing operating expenditure within operating revenue.

OLG Benchmark	Result 2023/24	Result 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26	Model	Budget 2026/27	Year 2 2027/28	Year 3 2028/29	Year 4 2029/30	Year 5 2030/31	Year 6 2031/32	Year 7 2032/33	Year 8 2033/34	Year 9 2034/35	Year 10 2035/36
> 0%	3.7%	4.0%	1.8%	1 - Delivery Program - SV	3.9%	4.9%	4.8%	4.9%	4.4%	4.0%	3.5%	3.6%	3.5%	3.3%
	✓	✓	✓	2 - Alternative - Rate Peg	0.9%	2.3%	2.2%	2.2%	1.9%	1.5%	0.9%	1.1%	1.0%	0.8%
					⚠	✓	✓	✓	✓	⚠	⚠	⚠	⚠	⚠

Operational Liquidity

Unrestricted Current Ratio

represents a council's ability to meet short-term obligations as they fall due.

OLG Benchmark	Result 2023/24	Result 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26	Model	Budget 2026/27	Year 2 2027/28	Year 3 2028/29	Year 4 2029/30	Year 5 2030/31	Year 6 2031/32	Year 7 2032/33	Year 8 2033/34	Year 9 2034/35	Year 10 2035/36
> 1.5x	2.18x	2.53x	2.56x	1 - Delivery Program - SV	2.27x	2.28x	2.43x	2.34x	2.41x	2.28x	2.42x	2.42x	2.48x	2.63x
	✓	✓	✓	2 - Alternative - Rate Peg	2.25x	2.24x	2.35x	2.26x	2.33x	2.17x	2.27x	2.24x	2.35x	2.45x
					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Asset Management

Building and Infrastructure Renewals Ratio

assesses the rate at which these assets are being renewed against the rate at which they are depreciating.

OLG Benchmark	Result 2023/24	Result 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26	Model	Budget 2026/27	Year 2 2027/28	Year 3 2028/29	Year 4 2029/30	Year 5 2030/31	Year 6 2031/32	Year 7 2032/33	Year 8 2033/34	Year 9 2034/35	Year 10 2035/36
> 100%	94.6%	87.9%	123.0%	1 - Delivery Program - SV	163.2%	125.7%	122.6%	123.6%	118.6%	113.1%	115.9%	120.0%	138.5%	113.8%
	✗	✗	✓	2 - Alternative - Rate Peg	135.6%	109.2%	106.1%	105.1%	101.8%	99.8%	102.5%	102.8%	106.9%	97.2%
					✓	✓	✓	✓	⚠	✗	⚠	⚠	✓	✗

Infrastructure Backlog Ratio

ratio shows what proportion the infrastructure backlog is against the total net carrying amount of a council's infrastructure.

OLG Benchmark	Result 2023/24	Result 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26	Model	Budget 2026/27	Year 2 2027/28	Year 3 2028/29	Year 4 2029/30	Year 5 2030/31	Year 6 2031/32	Year 7 2032/33	Year 8 2033/34	Year 9 2034/35	Year 10 2035/36
< 2%	1.52%	1.56%	1.54%	1 - Delivery Program - SV	1.52%	1.52%	1.52%	1.52%	1.53%	1.53%	1.53%	1.53%	1.52%	1.52%
	✓	✓	✓	2 - Alternative - Rate Peg	1.53%	1.53%	1.54%	1.55%	1.56%	1.57%	1.57%	1.58%	1.58%	1.58%
					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Asset Maintenance Ratio
ratio compares actual versus required annual asset maintenance.

OLG Benchmark	Result 2023/24	Result 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26	→ Model	Budget 2026/27	Year 2 2027/28	Year 3 2028/29	Year 4 2029/30	Year 5 2030/31	Year 6 2031/32	Year 7 2032/33	Year 8 2033/34	Year 9 2034/35	Year 10 2035/36
> 100%	98.1%	91.4%	100.4%	1 - Delivery Program - SV	100.5%	100.9%	100.5%	100.6%	100.8%	100.7%	100.8%	100.8%	100.9%	101.0%
				2 - Alternative - Rate Peg	100.5%	100.9%	100.5%	100.6%	100.8%	100.7%	100.8%	100.8%	100.9%	101.0%

Adoption of Revised Documents

Revisions have been made to the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) documents placed on exhibition in accordance with the changes at Attachment 2. It is recommended that Council:

- Adopt the revised Delivery Program 2026-2030 and Operational Plan 2026/27 at Attachment 3.
- Adopt the revised Fees and Charges 2026/27 and Pricing Methodology at Attachment 4.
- Adopt the revised Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-2036 at Attachment 5.

TIMING

In accordance with the Act, Council needs to endorse a Community Strategic Plan and adopt a Delivery Program and Operational Plan, Fees and Charges and Long-Term Financial Plan by 30 June 2026.

These matters are addressed in sections 404(2), 405, 610F(2), 610B(1) and 406(1) of the Act and the Office of Local Government’s Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines for Local Government in NSW (2021).

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

2026/27 Budget and Delivery Program

In the current environment of economic uncertainty and rising costs, Council is taking a cautious approach in assessing the financial impacts of increased fuel and related expenses, with contingencies expected to be met through working capital and any required adjustments addressed in future budget reviews.

To support financial sustainability and continue delivering expected services and assets, IPART approved a two-year Special Variation in 2025 to increase rates revenue by \$35 million, with rises of 12.1% in 2025/26 and 11.7% in 2026/27, replacing the standard rate peg; this budget reflects the second year of that endorsed pathway.

The Special Variation enables funding of Delivery Program initiatives and Asset Management Plan priorities, including doubling renewal investment in roads, footpaths and stormwater infrastructure by 2027/28, expanding environmental and risk reduction programs, and strengthening capacity to manage shocks and future infrastructure needs.

The budget for 2026/27 includes total expenditure of \$598 million, including a capital works program of \$130 million. The capital works program comprises \$79 million invested in asset renewal expenditure to improve the overall condition of our assets and a further \$51 million in delivering high priority new assets to the community.

Council is projected to achieve an operating surplus of \$19.5 million before capital grants and contributions, along with a stronger working capital position and achievement of the Office of Local Government’s performance benchmarks. The budget includes a \$13 million investment in replacing Council’s core operating systems. A further \$1.6 million in loans will be repaid (with no new loans proposed) and \$1.2 million in savings are forecast.

There are several restrictions on funds within the operating result. When these are removed, the underlying operating result is forecast to be a surplus of \$14.3 million (compared to the deficit of \$0.6 million without the Special Variation).

2026/27 Financial Year	Budget	Budget without Special Variation
	\$m	\$m
Underlying result		
Surplus / (deficit) excluding capital grants and contributions	19.5	4.7
Less:		
Interest on restricted Council funds	(2.9)	(2.9)
Domestic Waste net depreciation	(0.1)	(0.1)
Stormwater Charge net opex	(2.0)	(2.0)
Special Rates	(0.3)	(0.3)
Kimbriki (less dividend)	(0.8)	(0.8)
Mona Vale Cemetery	0.2	0.2
Developer contribution funded operating projects	0.5	0.5
Underlying surplus / (deficit) excluding restricted funds	14.3	(0.6)

Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-2036

The revised Long-Term Financial Plan provides financial modelling for 2 scenarios:

- Scenario 1 'Delivery Program Model - IPART approved 2-year Special Variation' – aligned with the Delivery Program 2026–2030, this model addresses the infrastructure funding gap, expands environmental programs, and includes a \$17 million (7.6%) increase in rates income above the rate peg in 2026/27. It meets all financial and asset performance benchmarks across the 10 year period.
- Scenario 2 'Alternative Model – rate peg only' – limits rate increases to the rate peg, leaving the historic funding gap unresolved. While liquidity and debt measures remain within benchmarks, asset management and operating performance indicators fall below acceptable levels. Revenue is insufficient to cover operating costs, maintain infrastructure, or provide adequate working capital, making this model unsustainable without service reductions.

Overall, the Special Variation model delivers a sustainable financial pathway that supports infrastructure and environmental priorities while maintaining financial sustainability, whereas the rate-peg only scenario would leave Council financially constrained, unable to meet asset and service needs, and at risk of ongoing service reductions without corrective action.

GOVERNANCE AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The review and updating of the Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan are integral to good governance at Council. These documents have been prepared in accordance with Sections 402-405 and 610 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the Office of Local Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines for local government in NSW (2021) and Integrated Planning and Reporting Handbook for Local Government in NSW (2021).

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Protecting the environment and ensuring that we can live sustainably on the Northern Beaches are key community aspirations captured in the outcomes and goals of the Community Strategic Plan. The Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Budget feature programs and activities that protect the environment and support the community to live sustainably.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Delivery Program and Operational Plan include initiatives aimed at continuing to build resilience within a connected, safe and diverse community.

Inclusive communication is fundamental to supporting our diverse community. Council is committed to creating digital documents for assistive technologies, so subject to the adoption of the Delivery Program 2026-2030 and Operational Plan 2026/27, the PDF document published online will be tagged to support access and inclusivity (where possible). In addition, an accessible word version and an Easy Read version are being prepared to be published alongside the PDF version.

LINK TO STRATEGY

This report relates to the Community Strategic Plan Outcome of:

- Good governance and participation - Goal 19: Our Council is transparent and trusted to make decisions that reflect the values of the community.
- Good governance and participation - Goal 20: Our Council is proactive, and efficiently and effectively responds to, and delivers on, the evolving needs of the community.
- Good governance and participation - Goal 21: Our community is engaged in decision making processes.

The projects and programs in the Delivery Program 2026-2030 and Operational Plan 2026/27 will contribute to the advancement of all outcomes and goals in the Community Strategic Plan 2040.

Reporting team	Finance
TRIM file ref	2026/263205
Attachments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒1 Community and Stakeholder report on Exhibition of the Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan (Included In Attachments Booklet) ⇒2 Proposed amendments to the Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan (Included In Attachments Booklet) ⇒3 Delivery Program 2026-2030 and Operational Plan 2026/27 (Included In Attachments Booklet) ⇒4 Fees and Charges 2026/27 (Included In Attachments Booklet) ⇒5 Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-2036 (Included In Attachments Booklet) ⇒6 Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) Special Variation Instrument 2025/26 to 2026/27 (Included In Attachments Booklet) ⇒7 Information Pack - Revised Operational Plan 2026/27 (Included In Attachments Booklet)

ITEM 9.2 MONTHLY INVESTMENT AND FINANCE REPORT - APRIL 2026

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide details of all money that Council has invested under section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act) and to present financial performance information for the month of April 2026 and the 2025/26 financial year to date.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Council's investment portfolio remains fully compliant with legislative requirements and Council's Investment Policy, with all exposures, credit ratings and maturity limits within approved thresholds.
- Council held \$247 million in cash and investments as at 30 April 2026 comprising:

Trading Accounts	\$ 2,025,077
Investments	\$ 244,931,678

- These funds are substantially restricted for specific purposes (77%), with sufficient working capital maintained to support annual cash payments of around \$500 million.
- The investment portfolio achieved an April return of 0.36% (0.02% above the benchmark AusBond Bank Bill Index) and the weighted average interest rate at month end is 4.46% (compared to 4.41% for the prior month).
- Year-to-date investment income of \$9.5 million is \$0.1 million above budget toward a full-year target of \$10.9 million.
- Council's liquidity and projected financial position remains sound, with sufficient capacity to meet short-term financial obligations.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the Investment and Finance Report as at 30 April 2026, including the certification by the Responsible Accounting Officer.

BACKGROUND

Investments

In accordance with section 212 of the Regulation, a report setting out the details of money invested must be presented to Council on a monthly basis along with certification as to whether or not the investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulation and Council's Investment Policy. The details of the report (the key aspects of which are in the Executive Summary) are set out below, together with the Responsible Accounting Officer's certification.

Financial performance

This report also includes a monthly financial report, including information on Council's financial performance and position. Provision of this financial information is consistent with Quarterly Budget Review Statement Guidelines issued by the Office of Local Government (OLG).

CERTIFICATION – RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER

I hereby certify that the investments listed in this report have been made in accordance with section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, section 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and existing Investment Policies – *Caroline Foley, Chief Financial Officer*.

INVESTMENT REPORT

Investment balances

INVESTMENT BALANCES					
As at 30-Apr-2026					
INSTITUTION	RATING	AMOUNT \$	DATE INVESTED	MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE
Trading Accounts					
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	A1+	880,739			4.15%
National Australia Bank Ltd	A1+	<u>5,783</u>			4.10%
		886,521			
At Call Accounts					
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	A1+	<u>3,453,317</u>		At Call	4.20%
		3,453,317			
Mortgage Backed Securities					
Emerald Series 2006-1 Class A	A*	<u>462,730</u>	17-Jul-06	21-Aug-51	4.4435%
		462,730			
Term Deposits					
Rabobank Australia Ltd	A1	2,000,000	07-Aug-25	05-May-26	4.20%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	02-Sep-25	05-May-26	4.12%
Auswide Bank Limited	A2	3,000,000	15-May-25	05-May-26	4.52%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	A1	2,000,000	29-Jul-25	07-May-26	4.28%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	A1	2,000,000	15-Jul-25	12-May-26	4.28%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	A1	2,000,000	22-Jul-25	14-May-26	4.23%
MyState Bank Ltd	A2	3,000,000	27-Jun-25	19-May-26	4.20%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	A1	2,000,000	22-Jul-25	21-May-26	4.23%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	A1	2,000,000	29-Jul-25	26-May-26	4.28%
Defence Bank Ltd	A2	3,000,000	04-Jun-25	02-Jun-26	4.25%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	02-Sep-25	02-Jun-26	4.11%
Defence Bank Ltd	A2	2,000,000	04-Jun-25	04-Jun-26	4.25%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	A1	2,000,000	07-Aug-25	09-Jun-26	4.20%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	A1	3,000,000	14-Aug-25	11-Jun-26	4.15%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	A1	4,000,000	12-Aug-25	16-Jun-26	4.20%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	A1	2,000,000	21-Aug-25	16-Jun-26	4.13%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	A1	2,000,000	19-Aug-25	18-Jun-26	4.15%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	A1	2,000,000	19-Aug-25	23-Jun-26	4.15%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	A1	2,000,000	21-Aug-25	25-Jun-26	4.13%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	3,000,000	31-Jul-25	30-Jun-26	4.15%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	3,000,000	28-Aug-25	02-Jul-26	4.09%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	3,000,000	28-Aug-25	07-Jul-26	4.09%
National Australia Bank Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	14-Aug-25	09-Jul-26	4.10%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	3,000,000	05-Aug-25	14-Jul-26	4.10%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	19-Aug-25	16-Jul-26	4.10%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	21-Aug-25	21-Jul-26	4.09%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	26-Aug-25	23-Jul-26	4.09%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	3,000,000	29-Jul-25	28-Jul-26	4.20%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	31-Jul-25	30-Jul-26	4.18%

INVESTMENT BALANCES					
As at 30-Apr-2026					
INSTITUTION	RATING	AMOUNT \$	DATE INVESTED	MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE
Term Deposits (continued)					
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	05-Aug-25	04-Aug-26	4.12%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	07-Aug-25	06-Aug-26	4.13%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	3,000,000	12-Aug-25	11-Aug-26	4.14%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	28-Aug-25	13-Aug-26	4.10%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	26-Aug-25	18-Aug-26	4.09%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	26-Aug-25	20-Aug-26	4.09%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	4,000,000	26-Aug-25	25-Aug-26	4.09%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	28-Aug-25	27-Aug-26	4.11%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	02-Sep-25	03-Sep-26	4.11%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	4,000,000	03-Sep-25	08-Sep-26	4.11%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	03-Sep-25	10-Sep-26	4.11%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	03-Sep-25	15-Sep-26	4.11%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	03-Sep-25	17-Sep-26	4.11%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	4,000,000	03-Sep-25	22-Sep-26	4.11%
National Australia Bank Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	16-Sep-25	24-Sep-26	4.20%
National Australia Bank Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	18-Sep-25	29-Sep-26	4.15%
National Australia Bank Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	23-Sep-25	01-Oct-26	4.20%
National Australia Bank Ltd	A1+	4,000,000	04-Sep-25	06-Oct-26	4.16%
National Australia Bank Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	23-Sep-25	08-Oct-26	4.20%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	1,000,000	24-Sep-25	13-Oct-26	4.11%
National Australia Bank Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	24-Sep-25	15-Oct-26	4.20%
Auswide Bank Limited	A2	2,000,000	09-Oct-25	20-Oct-26	4.20%
National Australia Bank Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	30-Sep-25	20-Oct-26	4.25%
National Australia Bank Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	16-Oct-25	22-Oct-26	4.25%
National Australia Bank Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	16-Oct-25	27-Oct-26	4.25%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	30-Oct-25	29-Oct-26	4.35%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	3,000,000	30-Oct-25	03-Nov-26	4.35%
Credit Union Australia Ltd	A2	2,000,000	11-Nov-25	05-Nov-26	4.32%
Credit Union Australia Ltd	A2	2,000,000	11-Nov-25	10-Nov-26	4.32%
ING Bank Australia Limited	A1	2,000,000	13-Nov-25	12-Nov-26	4.35%
ING Bank Australia Limited	A1	3,000,000	13-Nov-25	17-Nov-26	4.35%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	A1+	4,000,000	20-Nov-25	19-Nov-26	4.39%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	27-Nov-25	24-Nov-26	4.46%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	27-Nov-25	26-Nov-26	4.46%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	3,000,000	27-Nov-25	01-Dec-26	4.45%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	28-Nov-25	03-Dec-26	4.47%
Credit Union Australia Ltd	A2	3,000,000	02-Dec-25	08-Dec-26	4.47%
Credit Union Australia Ltd	A2	3,000,000	02-Dec-25	10-Dec-26	4.47%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	A1+	3,000,000	28-Nov-25	15-Dec-26	4.47%
Credit Union Australia Ltd	A2	2,000,000	02-Dec-25	17-Dec-26	4.47%
Credit Union Australia Ltd	A2	4,000,000	15-Jan-26	17-Dec-26	4.63%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	03-Feb-26	05-Jan-27	4.76%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	03-Feb-26	07-Jan-27	4.76%
ING Bank Australia Limited	A1	2,000,000	17-Feb-26	12-Jan-27	4.85%
Credit Union Australia Ltd	A2	3,000,000	15-Jan-26	12-Jan-27	4.60%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	03-Feb-26	14-Jan-27	4.77%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	05-Feb-26	19-Jan-27	4.86%

ITEM 9.2 NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL MEETING - 16 JUNE 2026

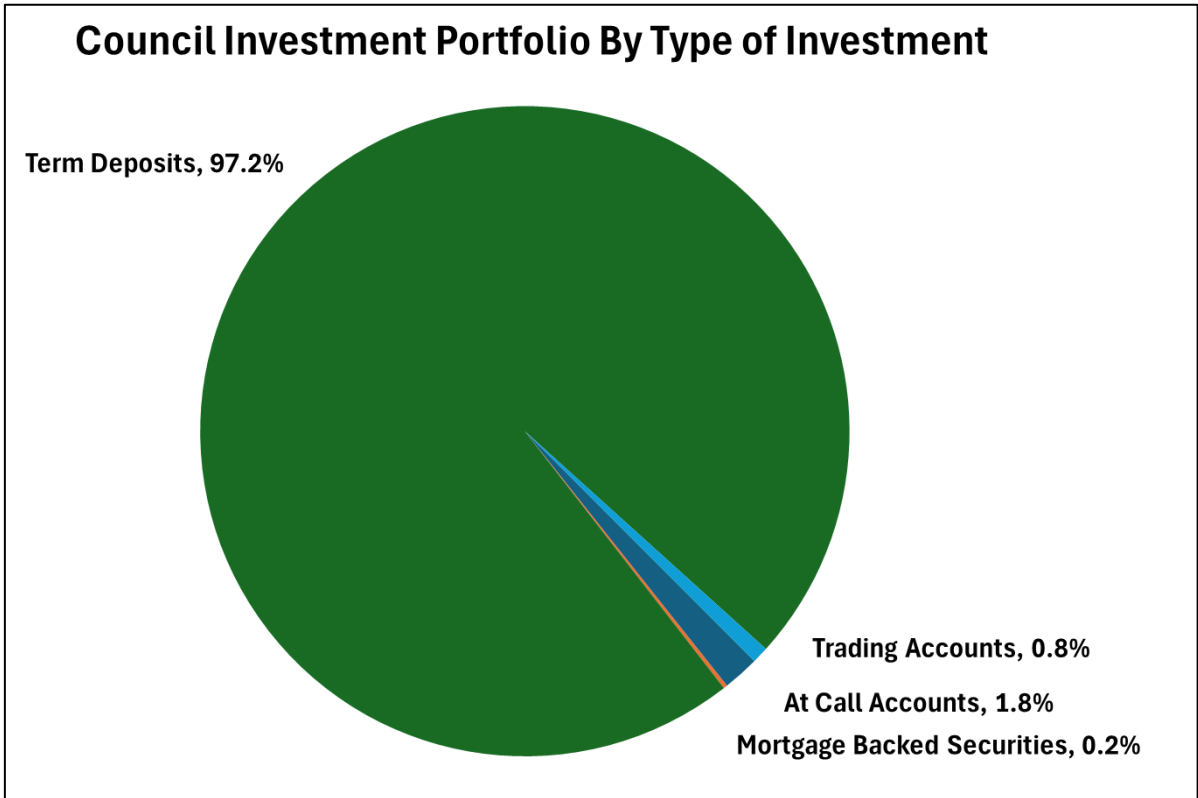
INVESTMENT BALANCES					
As at 30-Apr-2026					
INSTITUTION	RATING	AMOUNT \$	DATE INVESTED	MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE
Term Deposits (continued)					
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	05-Feb-26	21-Jan-27	4.86%
Credit Union Australia Ltd	A2	4,000,000	10-Feb-26	27-Jan-27	4.88%
ING Bank Australia Limited	A1	2,000,000	17-Feb-26	27-Jan-27	4.85%
Heartland Bank Australia Limited	A3	2,000,000	24-Feb-26	02-Feb-27	5.00%
Heartland Bank Australia Limited	A3	2,000,000	24-Feb-26	04-Feb-27	5.00%
Heartland Bank Australia Limited	A3	3,000,000	24-Feb-26	09-Feb-27	5.00%
Victoria Teachers Limited	A2	1,000,000	05-Mar-26	09-Feb-27	5.05%
Heartland Bank Australia Limited	A3	2,000,000	27-Feb-26	11-Feb-27	5.00%
ING Bank Australia Limited	A1	2,000,000	17-Feb-26	16-Feb-27	4.89%
Heartland Bank Australia Limited	A3	2,000,000	27-Feb-26	18-Feb-27	5.00%
Victoria Teachers Limited	A2	1,000,000	03-Mar-26	23-Feb-27	5.05%
Heartland Bank Australia Limited	A3	3,000,000	27-Feb-26	23-Feb-27	5.00%
Victoria Teachers Limited	A2	2,000,000	03-Mar-26	25-Feb-27	5.05%
MyState Bank Ltd	A2	2,000,000	03-Mar-26	02-Mar-27	5.05%
MyState Bank Ltd	A2	2,000,000	03-Mar-26	04-Mar-27	5.05%
MyState Bank Ltd	A2	3,000,000	03-Mar-26	09-Mar-27	5.05%
Victoria Teachers Limited	A2	2,000,000	05-Mar-26	11-Mar-27	5.05%
Victoria Teachers Limited	A2	2,000,000	12-Mar-26	16-Mar-27	5.30%
Victoria Teachers Limited	A2	2,000,000	12-Mar-26	18-Mar-27	5.30%
Beyond Bank Australia Ltd	A2	3,000,000	31-Mar-26	23-Mar-27	5.55%
Defence Bank Ltd	A2	2,000,000	23-Apr-26	25-Mar-27	5.50%
Defence Bank Ltd	A2	2,000,000	23-Apr-26	30-Mar-27	5.50%
Defence Bank Ltd	A2	2,000,000	09-Apr-26	08-Apr-27	5.60%
National Australia Bank Ltd	A1+	2,000,000	28-Apr-26	27-Apr-27	5.40%
		234,000,000			
Kimbriki Environmental Enterprises Pty Ltd					
Trading Accounts					
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	A1+	1,138,556			4.05%
		1,138,556			
At Call Accounts					
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	A1+	1,015,630	At Call		4.20%
		1,015,630			
Term Deposits					
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	A1+	1,000,000	19-Jan-26	07-May-26	4.24%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	A1+	1,000,000	06-Feb-26	09-Jun-26	4.48%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	A1+	1,000,000	04-Mar-26	02-Jul-26	4.61%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	A1+	1,000,000	05-Mar-26	05-Aug-26	4.68%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	A1+	500,000	27-Mar-26	03-Sep-26	4.96%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	A1+	1,500,000	14-Apr-26	14-Oct-26	5.02%
		6,000,000			
Total Cash and Investments		246,956,755			

*Rating is based on a private rating advised by the issuer to Council's Investment Advisors.

Portfolio analysis

The majority of Council's funds are invested in term deposits, with staggered maturities to meet cashflow needs and reduce interest rate risk. All investments remain appropriate for a local government entity and fully comply with legislation and Investment Policy limits.

The following chart summarises Council's investment portfolio (including funds relating to Kimbriki).



Institutional credit framework – compliance with investment policy requirements

Clause 4.2.2 of Council’s Investment Policy requires that exposure to an individual institution be restricted by their credit rating so that single entity exposure is limited, as detailed in the table below:

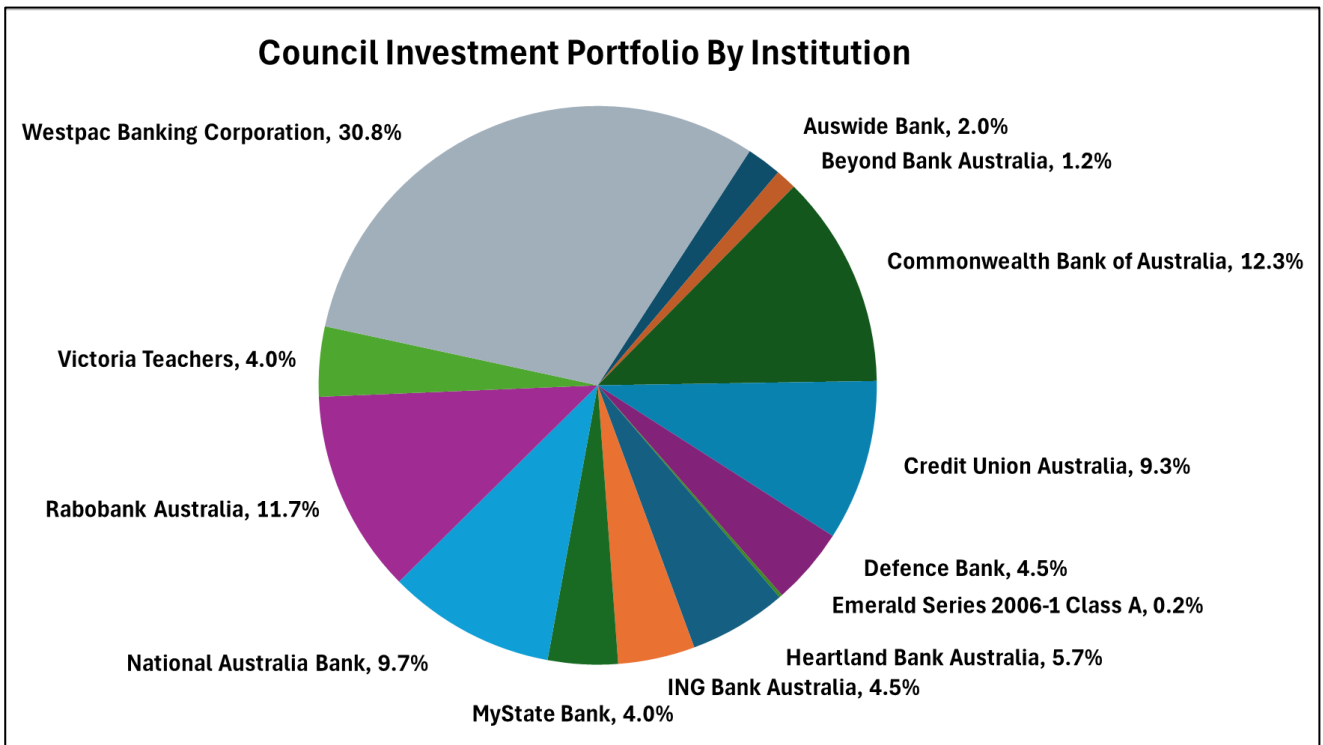
S&P Long Term Rating*	S&P Short Term Rating*	Maximum %	Portfolio Complies with Policy?
AAA (incl. government guaranteed deposits)	A-1+	50%	Yes
AA+			
AA			
AA-			
A+	A-1	40%	Yes
A			
A-			
BBB+	A-2	30%	Yes
BBB			
BBB-			
Unrated**TCorp Funds	Unrated**	5%	Yes (\$Nil)
Unrated***ADIs	Unrated***	\$250,000	Yes (\$Nil)

* Or Moody’s / Fitch equivalents

** Unrated Category is restricted to eligible managed funds such as the NSW Treasury Corporation Hour Glass Facilities

*** Unrated ADIs (Authorised Deposit-taking Institution) Category is restricted to those ADIs that are under the Australian government guarantee scheme and limited to maximum \$250,000 per unrated ADI.

The following chart illustrates the percentage of the portfolio held by each institution.



Overall portfolio credit framework – compliance with investment policy requirements

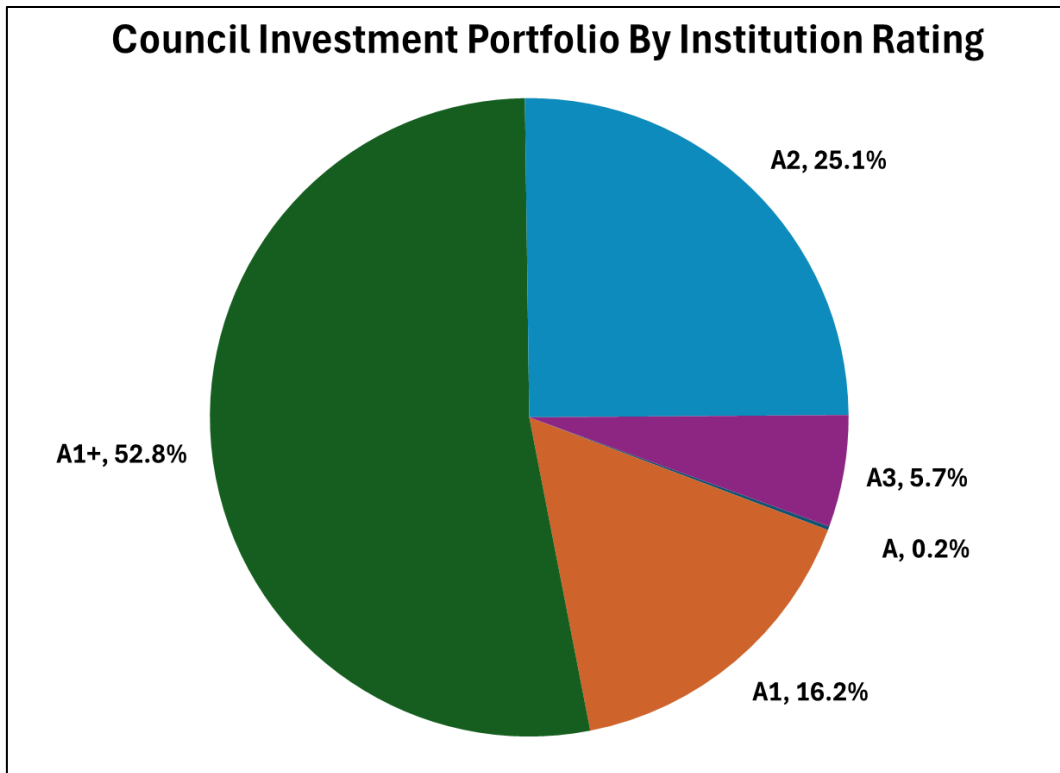
Clause 4.2.1 of Council’s Investment Policy requires that the total percentage exposure within the market to any particular credit rating category be limited, as detailed in the table below:

S&P Long Term Rating*	S&P Short Term Rating*	Maximum %	Portfolio Complies with Policy?
AAA (incl. government guaranteed deposits)	A-1+	100%	Yes
AA+			
AA			
AA-			
A+	A-1	100%	Yes
A			
A-			
BBB+	A-2	80%	Yes
BBB			
BBB-	A-3	30%	Yes
Unrated**	Unrated**	5%	Yes (\$Nil)

* Or Moody’s / Fitch equivalents

** Unrated Category is restricted to eligible managed funds such as the NSW Treasury Corporation Hour Glass Facilities and ADIs covered by the government guarantee scheme.

The following chart illustrates the percentage of the portfolio held within each credit rating category.

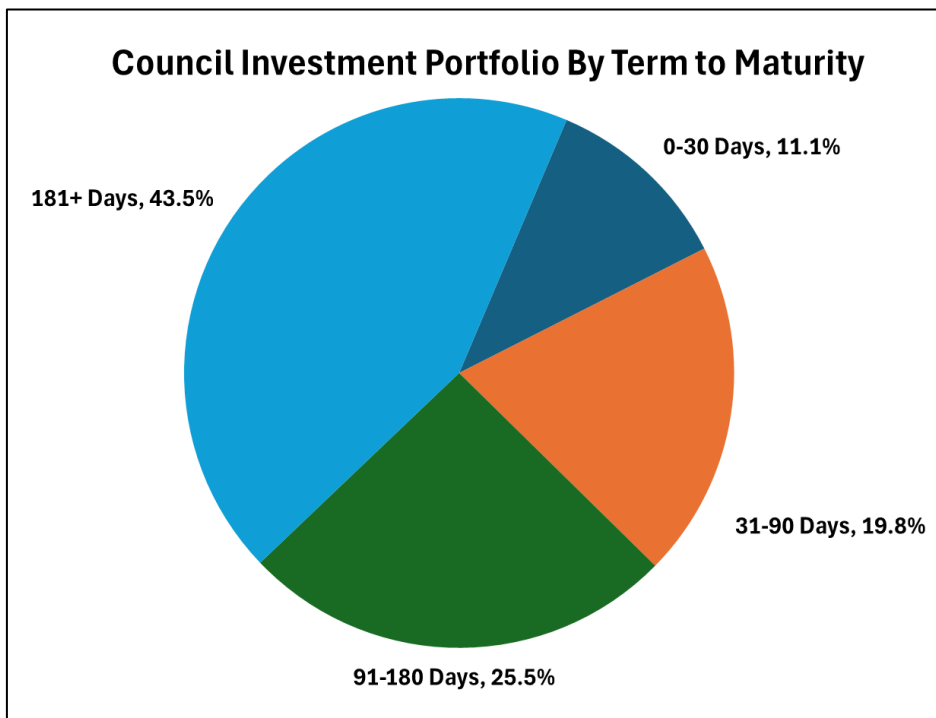


Term to maturity framework – compliance with investment policy requirements

Clause 4.2.4 of Council’s Investment Policy requires Council’s investment portfolio is to be invested within the following maturity constraints:

Overall Portfolio Term to Maturity Limits			Portfolio Complies with Policy?
Portfolio % <1 year	Min 40%	Max 100%	Yes
Portfolio % >1 year ≤3 year	Min 0%	Max 60%	Yes
Portfolio % >3 year ≤5 year	Min 0%	Max 30%	Yes

The following chart illustrates the current term to maturity of the portfolio.



Environmental and social considerations

Portfolio investments: Fossil fuel vs non-fossil fuel banks:

Portfolio Summaries	Fossil Fuel Lending ADIs	Non-Fossil Fuel Lending ADIs
As at 30 April 2026	38.2%	61.8%

Investment performance vs benchmark

a) Portfolio return vs benchmark

	Investment Portfolio Return *	Benchmark: AusBond Bank Bill Index
1 Month	0.360%	0.34%
3 Months	1.055%	0.95%
FYTD	3.295%	3.11%
12 Months	4.522%	3.79%

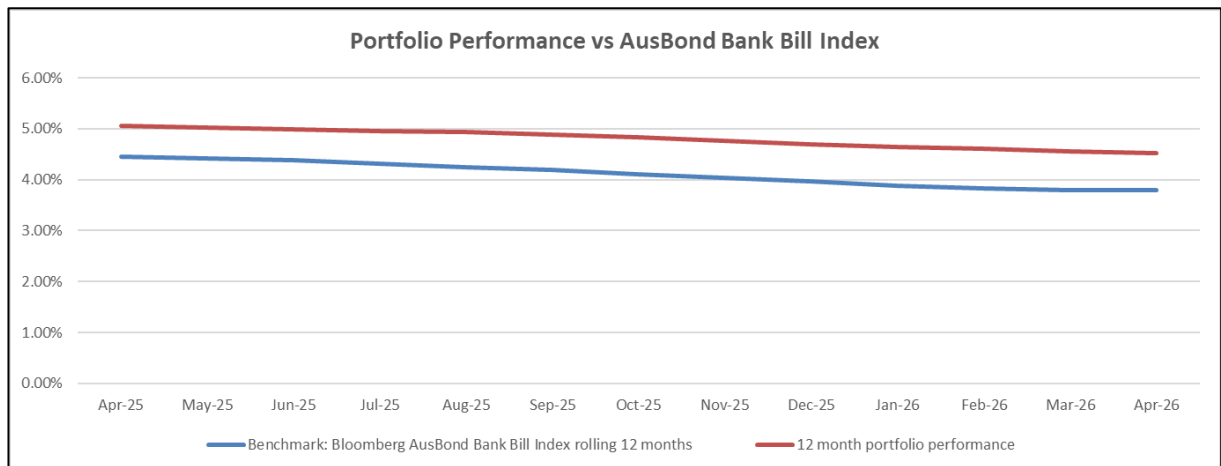
* Excludes trading account balances

Council's Investment Advisors have stated this form of portfolio reporting conforms to global investment performance standards and that these standards say that periods below 12 months should not be annualised.

The above table shows a comparison of Council's investment portfolio return to the benchmark. Council's Investment Advisor, Perpetual CT Capital Pty Ltd (formerly Laminar Capital), has created an accumulation index for the portfolio which increases each month by the portfolio internal rate of return to enable meaningful comparison to the benchmark AusBond Bank Bill index, which is an accumulation index.

The Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index is engineered to measure the Australian money market by representing a passively managed short term money market portfolio. This index is comprised of 13 synthetic instruments defined by rates interpolated from the RBA 24-hour cash rate, 1M BBSW, and 3M BBSW.

The portfolio achieved a return of 0.36% for the month of April which was 0.02% above the benchmark AusBond Bank Bill Index return of 0.34%. For the past 12 months the portfolio achieved a return of 4.522%, which was 0.732% above the benchmark AusBond Bank Bill Index return of 3.79%.



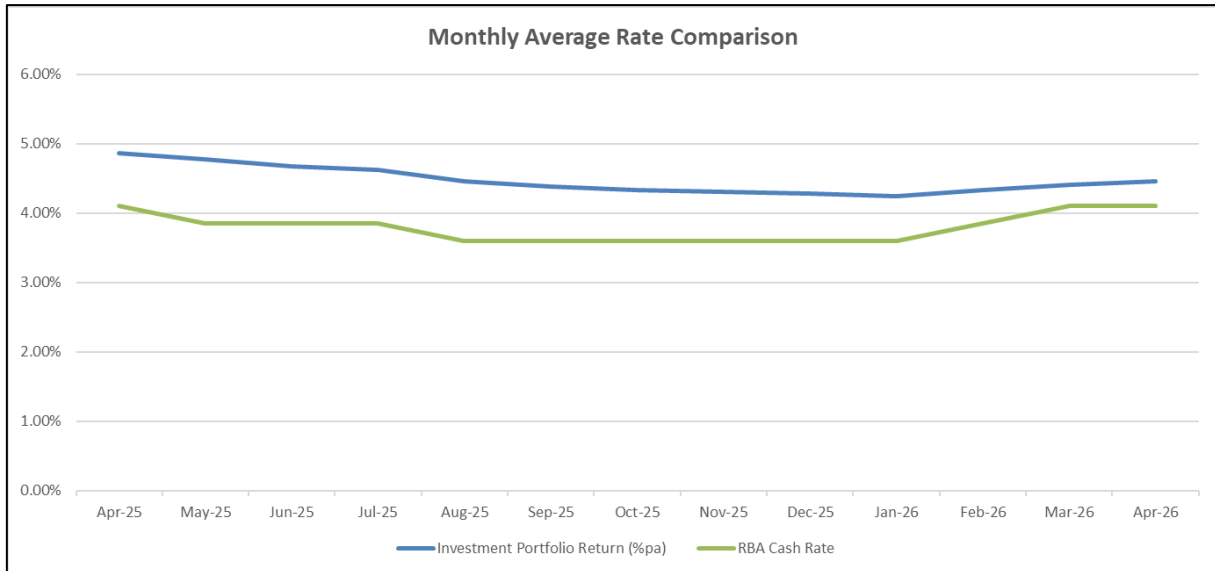
b) Portfolio interest rate vs benchmark

	Weighted Average Portfolio Interest Rate (%pa) *	Average RBA Cash Rate
1 Month	4.46%	4.10%
3 Months	4.40%	4.02%
6 Months	4.34%	3.81%
FYTD	4.39%	3.75%
12 Months	4.44%	3.77%

* Excludes trading account balances

The above table shows the weighted average interest rate of the portfolio as at month end. This is an average of all the interest rates that each term deposit is earning. It is the current earning rate of the portfolio, and this information is useful as it shows how the earning rate changes each month in line with changes in market interest rates. Each time a term deposit matures during the month it is being reinvested at current interest rates. To facilitate meaningful comparison, the weighted average interest rate of the portfolio is compared to the average Reserve Bank of Australia Cash Rate for the same period.

The weighted average interest rate of the portfolio is 4.46%, compared to 4.41% for the prior month. For the past 12 months the weighted average interest rate of the portfolio was 4.44% compared to the average Reserve Bank of Australia Cash Rate of 3.77%.

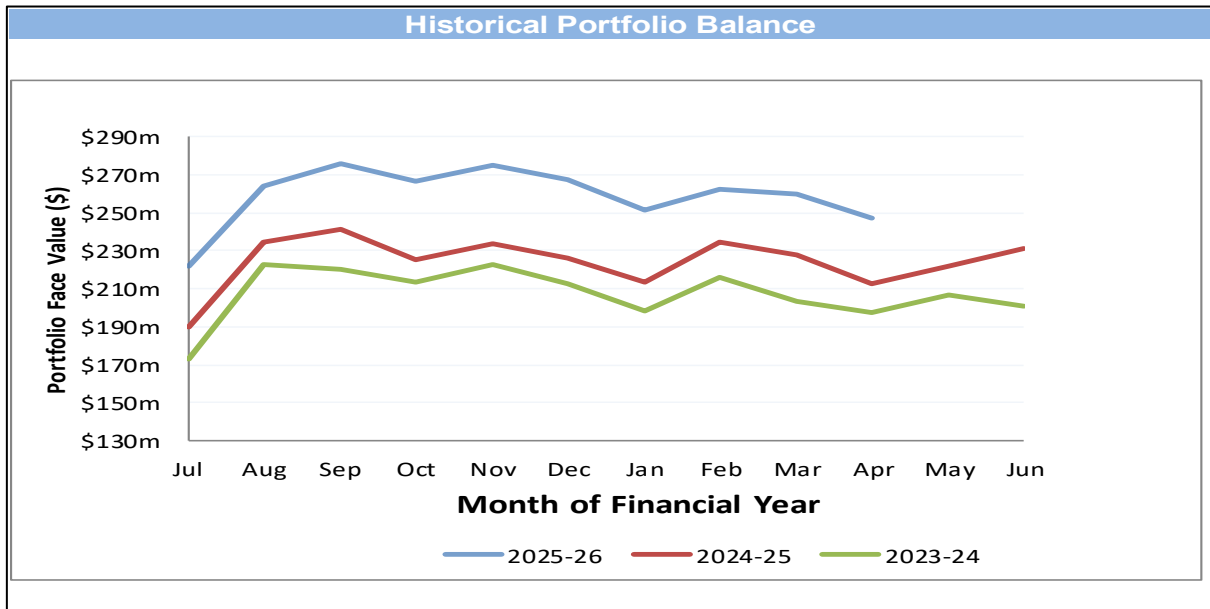


Investment income* vs budget

	Year to Date \$
Investment Income	9,507,897
Adjustment for Fair Value	10,135
Total Investment Income	9,518,032
Budgeted Income	9,387,055

*Includes all cash and investment holdings

Historical Portfolio Balance			
	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24
Jul	\$222m	\$190m	\$173m
Aug	\$264m	\$235m	\$223m
Sep	\$276m	\$241m	\$220m
Oct	\$267m	\$225m	\$213m
Nov	\$275m	\$234m	\$223m
Dec	\$268m	\$226m	\$213m
Jan	\$251m	\$213m	\$198m
Feb	\$263m	\$234m	\$216m
Mar	\$260m	\$227m	\$203m
Apr	\$247m	\$213m	\$197m
May		\$222m	\$206m
Jun		\$231m	\$201m
Average Portfolio Balance	\$259m	\$224m	\$207m



For the month of April 2026 cash inflows were lower than cash outflows, resulting in a negative cash flow for the period. This is primarily related to the timing of rates instalment due dates, which fall on the last day of the months of August, November, February and May (some payments for these periods may fall into the following month). Short term cash holdings are also affected when a month-end occurs on a weekend as funds are received into Council's bank accounts outside of normal business hours.

Statement of compliance

Portfolio Performance vs Bank Bill Index over 12-month period.	✓	Council’s investment performance did exceed benchmark.
Monthly Income vs Budget	✓	Council’s income from investments did exceed monthly budget.

Investment Policy Compliance

Legislative Requirements	✓	Fully compliant
Portfolio Credit Rating Limit	✓	Fully compliant
Institutional Exposure Limits	✓	Fully compliant
Term to Maturity Limits	✓	Fully compliant

Restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments

At the end of April 2026 total cash & investments were \$246,956,755 and were made up of the following reserve allocations:

Allocation of Funds	Amount (\$)	Percentage
Externally restricted	\$77m	31.0%
Internally restricted	\$113m	45.9%
Total restricted	\$190m	76.9%
Unrestricted	\$57m	23.1%
Total	\$247m	100.0%

FINANCE REPORT

Income statement

The Income Statement below outlines Council’s financial performance against budget for the financial year to date as at the end of April 2026.

For the 10 months to 30 April, the operating result (including capital grants and contributions) was \$5.8 million favourable to budget, or \$6.3 million favourable when capital grants and contributions are excluded.

Income was \$2.1 million (0.5%) ahead of budget. Significant favourable items included revenue from enforcement activities (\$0.6m), additional grant income for South Creek rehabilitation works (\$0.4m), higher than anticipated early learning grants (\$0.4m), sports and recreation fees (\$0.3m), and interest income (\$0.3m). Capital grant and contribution income was (\$0.5m) behind budget due to timing of delivery of related capital projects.

Operating expenditure was \$3.7 million (1%) below budget, including depreciation. Employee expenses were under budget by \$1.8m (1%) and materials and services expenses were \$1.8m (1%) favourable to budget. The favourable variance is primarily driven by domestic waste service costs being \$1 million below expectations year-to-date.

Income statement	April	Year-to-date				Annual
	Month Actuals	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	YTD Variance		Current Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%	\$'000
Income from continuing operations						
Rates and Annual Charges	11	285,629	285,367	262	0%	285,355
User Charges and Fees	8,368	88,360	88,019	342	0%	102,713
Other Revenues	2,384	20,685	20,240	444	2%	22,643
Grants and Contributions - Operating	1,413	15,282	14,503	780	5%	23,418
Grants and Contributions - Capital	1,456	22,443	22,957	(514)	(2%)	34,493
Interest and Investment Revenue	956	10,099	9,819	280	3%	11,416
Other Income	651	6,175	6,060	115	2%	6,947
Net Gain on Disposal of Assets	29	1,553	1,131	422	37%	1,006
Total Income from continuing operations	15,269	450,227	448,096	2,131	0.5%	487,990
Expenses from continuing operations						
Employee Benefits and On-Costs	(14,003)	(138,667)	(140,428)	1,762	1%	(175,685)
Borrowing Costs	(245)	(2,500)	(2,508)	7	0%	(2,998)
Materials and Services	(15,043)	(142,410)	(144,235)	1,824	1%	(188,378)
Other Expenses	(868)	(17,460)	(17,563)	102	1%	(21,936)
Total Expenses from continuing operations	(30,159)	(301,038)	(304,734)	3,696	1%	(388,997)
Surplus / (Deficit) excl depreciation and amortisation	(14,890)	149,189	143,362	5,827	4%	98,993
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	(4,355)	(43,946)	(43,951)	5	0%	(55,414)
Surplus / (Deficit)	(19,245)	105,243	99,411	5,832	6%	43,578
Surplus / (Deficit) before capital grants and contributions	(20,701)	82,800	76,454	6,346	8%	9,086

Capital expenditure

Capital expenditure in April 2026 totalled \$12.4 million, bringing the year-to-date expenditure to \$69.9 million, compared with a budget of \$72.4 million to April 2026.

Capital expenditure	April	Year-to-date				Annual
	Month Actuals	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	YTD Variance		Current Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%	\$'000
Capital New	(3,924)	(26,740)	(27,128)	388	1%	(36,598)
Capital Renewal	(8,469)	(43,147)	(45,357)	2,210	5%	(62,872)
Total capital expenditure	(12,393)	(69,887)	(72,486)	2,598	4%	(99,470)

Statement of financial position

A summary of Council's financial position as at 30 April 2026 is presented below.

Statement of financial position	Year-to-date
	Balance
	\$'000
Current assets	322,564
Non-current assets	5,996,042
Total assets	6,318,605
Current liabilities	(108,336)
Non-current liabilities	(68,941)
Total liabilities	(177,277)
Net assets / equity	6,141,328

Council remains in a position to meet its financial obligations (liabilities) as they fall due.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Actual investment income for the period from 1 July 2025 to date was \$9.5 million compared to budgeted income of \$9.4 million (a positive variance of \$0.1m) resulting from both higher than anticipated investment balances and higher investment interest rates. The current budget for the full year is \$10.9 million in investment income, of which almost half relates to restricted funds.

Council remains on track to meet key financial and asset performance benchmarks for the year. The operating surplus for the full year is projected to be \$9.1 million, excluding grants and contributions received for capital expenditure purposes. It should be noted this surplus includes income restricted by legislation, contract or policy for designated future purposes including interest income earned on restricted funds. Capital expenditure for the year is forecast to total \$99.5 million.

GOVERNANCE AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The Investment Policy was adopted by Council at its meeting on 17 March 2026. The Policy is subject to annual review by the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee and was most recently reviewed at the Committee's meeting in December 2025, at which time no amendments were recommended.

Council's Investment Policy and Strategy were also reviewed in September 2025 by Council's Investment Advisors, Perpetual CT Capital Pty Ltd. The advisors confirmed that the Policy remains consistent with the Ministerial Investment Order and the guidelines issued by the Chief Executive (Local Government), Department of Premier and Cabinet, and advised that no changes were required to the approved investment list or credit limit frameworks.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Council's investments are managed in accordance with Council's Investment Policy which requires consideration of environmental responsibility when making investment decisions. The budget includes funding to deliver a range of projects to protect and enhance our natural environment.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Council’s investments are managed in accordance with Council’s Investment Policy. Council’s Investment Policy requires consideration of social responsibility when making investment decisions. The budget includes funding to deliver services that support our community and economy.

LINK TO STRATEGY

This report relates to the Community Strategic Plan Outcome and Goal:

- Good governance and participation - Goal 19 Our Council is transparent and trusted to make decisions that reflect the values of the community.

Reporting team	Finance
TRIM file ref	2026/267540
Attachments	Nil

**ITEM 9.3 SUSPENSION OF THE ALCOHOL FREE ZONE IN MANLY CBD AREA
FOR MANLY JAZZ 2026**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request that Council suspend part of the Alcohol Free Zone (AFZ) on The Corso in Manly to accommodate the operation of a temporary licensed activation as part of the Manly Jazz event in 2026.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Manly Jazz, running from 18 - 20 September, will be in its 49th year and has a long tradition of promoting a diversity of jazz music including school jazz bands, and a mix of local and community artists.
- As part of the 2026 event, a temporary licensed activation would allow people to enjoy the open space of The Corso, listen to live music and socialise with friends and family, replicating the success of similar temporary licensed activations held as part of Manly Jazz in 2024 and 2025.
- The activation is proposed to operate under the liquor licence of a third-party operator from 4 - 8pm on Friday 18 September 2026, 11am - 8pm on Saturday 19 September 2026, and 11am - 6.30pm on Sunday 20 September 2026.
- As the proposed temporary liquor licensed activation on The Corso is situated within an Alcohol Free Zone, if Council is to proceed with the activation it is necessary to suspend operation of part of the Alcohol Free Zone.
- The proposal for this year's event is endorsed by the Northern Beaches Police Area Command Licensing Unit.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Suspend operation of part of the Alcohol Free Zone on Manly Corso (as shown in Attachment 1) from 4 - 8pm on Friday 18 September 2026, 11am - 8pm on Saturday 19 September 2026, and 11am - 6.30pm on Sunday 20 September 2026.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to give effect to the suspension referred to in Item 1 above, including the publication of notices of suspension as required under section 645 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
3. Note staff will continue to work with Northern Beaches Police Area Command Licensing Unit in relation to the safe management of the area during the suspensions.

BACKGROUND

Manly Jazz is in its 49th year and has a long tradition of promoting a diversity of jazz music including school jazz bands that come from across Sydney, along with a mix of local and community artists and occasionally visiting international artists. They perform across multiple stages in Manly over a weekend dedicated to the celebration of jazz music.

The event strives to support and promote local businesses, increase visitation and visitor spend in Manly and further enhance Manly's reputation as a destination for great music and hospitality.

DISCUSSION

To continually improve the visitor experience in Manly and at the event, it is proposed to again include a licensed Jazz Garden activation within the program for 2026 to add a unique element to the event to attract new visitors and encourage people to stay longer in Manly.

Historically, Manly Jazz has hosted similar activations like the Jazz Garden in 2024 and 2025 and the pop-up wine garden which was first trialled in 2014 and continued annually until 2019, with no incidents reported by NSW Police or Council staff.

The temporary licensed activation would occupy a space of up to approximately 14 metres x 100 metres on The Corso, in front of the New Brighton Hotel (see Attachment 1).

The activation would sell alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and food, in line with Responsible Service of Alcohol requirements.

To achieve this, a resolution of Council is required to temporarily suspend the Alcohol Free Zone in this area to allow the sale and consumption of alcohol.

Under the provisions of section 645(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council:

may, at the request of any person or body or of its own motion, suspend the operation of an alcohol-free zone by publishing a notice of the suspension in a manner that the council is satisfied is likely to bring the notice to the attention of members of the public in the area as a whole or in a part of the area that includes the zone concerned.

The proposed licensed Jazz Garden activation would be operated by a third-party operator procured in accordance with Council policy.

CONSULTATION

The proposal for this year's event is endorsed by the Northern Beaches Police Area Command Licensing Unit.

Council will continue to work with Northern Beaches Police Area Command Licensing Unit to ensure the safe operation of the Jazz Garden during the event.

TIMING

Manly Jazz will take place from Friday 18 September to Sunday 20 September 2026. The proposed Jazz Garden would operate on Friday 18 September from 4pm - 8pm, Saturday 19 September from 11am - 8pm, and Sunday 20 September from 11am - 6.30pm. The activation would operate under the liquor licence of the third-party operator during these times only.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendations of this report pose no financial impact on Council. Manly Jazz 2026 is being funded by Council's existing operational budget, including the Manly Business Levy. The opportunity for the third-party operator to run the Jazz Garden provides a revenue stream for the event.

GOVERNANCE AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Council is working closely with Northern Beaches Police Area Command Licensing Unit to establish the parameters in which the third-party operator can run the Jazz Garden during Manly Jazz.

The operator would be required to submit a risk assessment and will be subject to the authority of Police and liquor licensing requirements to ensure the responsible service of alcohol.

It would also be a condition of the agreement to operate the Jazz Garden, that the operator must comply with directions from Police or Council to cease operations for any reason to ensure public safety. This may include a liquor licence breach or an alcohol-related incident.

There have been no alcohol-related incidents recorded by Police or Council resulting from the suspension of the Alcohol Free Zone for the purpose of the Jazz Garden at this location in previous years.

The event will be evaluated, and success will be measured, in alignment with the Northern Beaches Events Strategy.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The subject of this report has no adverse environmental implications for Council. The Jazz Garden will be compliant with Council’s waste management plan and no single use plastics policy.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendations in this report will have a positive social outcome for the community by:

- expanding cultural events and creative opportunities, to enable social interaction/cohesion and stimulate wellbeing, enhancing and extending opportunities for a sustainable tourist economy throughout the area
- facilitating active, safe, and welcoming centres for residents and visitors during the day and into the evening
- facilitating collaboration between businesses and government on projects.

LINK TO STRATEGY

This report relates to the Events Strategy 2026-2035 Outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Social connection: enhance inclusion and a sense of wellbeing
- Outcome 3: Economic growth: support local businesses and attract visitors
- Outcome 4: Place-based vibrancy: activate town centres and public spaces
- Outcome 5: Partnerships: collaborate with third party organisers to deliver events.

This report relates to the Community Strategic Plan Outcomes and Goals:

- Community and belonging - Goal 7 Our community has access to a diverse range of cultural activities and events.
- Community and belonging - Goal 9 Our community is inclusive and connected.
- Good governance and participation - Goal 20 Our Council is proactive, and efficiently and effectively responds to, and delivers on, the evolving needs of the community.

Reporting team	Community Engagement & Communications
TRIM file ref	2026/135469

Attachments

- ⇒1 Suspension of the Alcohol Fee Zone in Manly CBD Area - Site Map
- Manly Jazz 2026 (Included In Attachments Booklet)

10.0 COMMUNITY AND RECREATION DIVISION REPORTS

ITEM 10.1 COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE - CONFIRMED MINUTES OF 12 FEBRUARY 2026

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee meeting held on 12 February 2026 for noting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Community Safety Advisory Committee is a committee of Council, established to provide guidance to Council on community safety issues impacting the Northern Beaches.
- The meeting held on 12 February 2026 included presentations on Hate Crime and Countering Violent Extremism and an update on the development of the Community Safety Action Plan.
- Quarterly Police and Environmental Compliance reports were provided at the meeting.
- The minutes of the 12 February 2026 Community Safety Advisory Committee meeting were confirmed by the committee at the meeting on 14 May 2026.
- In accordance with Council's requirements, the confirmed minutes of the committee are reported to Council for noting with no actions sought from Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee meeting held on 12 February 2026.

BACKGROUND

This Community Safety Advisory Committee (Committee) meets 4 times per year to provide guidance to Council on crime prevention and community safety issues impacting the Northern Beaches. The Committee monitors the implementation of the Community Safety Plan and informs actions within the Plan.

The meeting held on 12 February 2026 included presentations on Hate Crime and Countering Violent Extremism and an update on the development of the Community Safety Action Plan. Quarterly Police and Environmental Compliance reports were also provided at the meeting.

The minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee meeting were confirmed by the Committee on 14 May 2026.

CONSULTATION

Council seeks the guidance of the committee on issues relating to the development of Council strategies and services aimed at enhancing and improving community safety.

TIMING

Draft minutes are confirmed at the following committee meeting, prior to being reported to Council.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Funding to support the committee is included in the adopted operational budget.

GOVERNANCE AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The committee is conducted according to Council's governance framework and adopted terms of reference.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The subject of this report does not present matters that will create adverse environmental impacts for Council.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The committee provides valuable advice relating to social and community-based outcomes. It includes involvement and engagement with a broad range of stakeholders.

LINK TO STRATEGY

This report relates to the Community Strategic Plan Outcome and Goal:

- Community and belonging - Goal 8 Our community feels safe and supported.

Reporting team	Community, Arts & Culture
TRIM file ref	2026/281442
Attachments	⇒ 1 Minutes - Community Safety Advisory Committee - 20260212- for May 2026 Council meeting (Included In Attachments Booklet)

11.0 ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACE DIVISION REPORTS

ITEM 11.1 OUTCOME OF PUBLIC EXHIBITION - PROPOSED ARTHUR RESERVE, DEE WHY COMMUNITY GARDEN

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to inform Council of the outcome of the public exhibition of a proposed community garden at Arthur Reserve, Dee Why (the Reserve) and seek support to proceed with the community garden.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A proposal was received from local residents to establish a community garden at Arthur Reserve, Dee Why, consistent with Council's Community Gardens Policy and Guideline and the Generic Parks Plan of Management – former Warringah.
- The proposed community garden would occupy approximately 300m² of the Reserve, maintaining buffers to existing pathways and ensuring no encroachment on the area leased by the Cromer–Dee Why Scout Group.
- Public exhibition was undertaken from 20 November to 19 December 2025, attracting 145 submissions, the majority of which were supportive or supportive with considerations relating to aesthetics, open space retention and pedestrian access.
- Submissions highlighted social, health, educational and environmental benefits, including improved access to food-growing space for residents in surrounding medium-density housing and learning opportunities for nearby schools and childcare facilities.
- In response to community feedback, minor amendments have been made to the proposal, including confirmation of public access arrangements, planned pedestrian improvements on Arthur Street and the requirement for the garden to be a no-dig design with raised beds.
- A Review of Environmental Factors has confirmed that the proposal would not result in significant environmental impacts, and the garden would be delivered and managed through a formal agreement between Council and the incorporated garden group.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note the content of this report.
2. Note that staff will exercise Council's functions under Division 5.1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* in respect of the proposed Community Garden at Arthur Reserve, Dee Why pursuant to their delegated authority.

BACKGROUND

An application was received from a group of local residents to establish a community garden at Arthur Reserve, Dee Why. The proposal was driven by community interest in growing food and plants, promoting sustainable lifestyles, encouraging physical activity, and providing opportunities for social interaction among like-minded neighbours.

Arthur Reserve is classified as community land under the *Local Government Act 1993* and comprises 2 lots (refer Attachment 1). Lot 14, approximately 1,074m², is leased by the Cromer–Dee Why Scout Group, while Lot 13, approximately 470m², has been identified as the location for the proposed community garden. The Reserve is situated within a residential area, bounded by residential properties to the north and west, Dee Why Children’s Centre to the east, and a Scout Hall to the south. Lot 13 contains established trees along the street frontage and an east–west access path, with no existing park infrastructure. The proposed community garden would occupy approximately 300m² of Lot 13, retaining a buffer between the garden area and the access path.

The proposal is consistent with the Generic Parks Plan of Management – former Warringah and the applicable RE1 Public Recreation zoning and has been assessed in accordance with Council’s Community Gardens Policy and Guideline, which support a community-led approach to the establishment of new community gardens. A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) identified potential impacts as minor or negligible, with appropriate mitigation measures proposed, and the proposal subsequently progressed to public exhibition to seek community feedback.

DISCUSSION

Public exhibition occurred between 20 November and 19 December 2025 and 145 submissions were received. The majority of the submissions were supportive of the proposal or supportive with consideration of aesthetics, continued availability of open space and ensuring no encroachment on the area leased by the Scouts. Key feedback and staff responses are outlined below and can be found in the Community Engagement Report (Attachment 2).

Some of the positive feedback included:

- social, physical, mental health, environmental and sustainability benefits
- accessibility of food growing space for residents in surrounding medium-density housing
- learning and educational benefits for children attending Dee Why Public School and Dee Why Children’s Centre.

In response to feedback, the following minor amendments have been made to the proposal:

- Further information was added regarding public access to the Reserve and proposed new footpaths on Arthur Street, Dee Why.
- To prevent the exposure of any potential unknown contaminants, the REF was updated to include that the proposed community garden is required to be a no-dig garden with planting to be in raised garden beds.

CONSULTATION

Public consultation on the proposed Arthur Reserve Community Garden and the opportunity to provide feedback was promoted via Council e-News, stakeholder emails, letterbox drop, an online Your Say project page and a community pop-up engagement event. Dee Why Public School, Dee Why Children’s Centre, Cromer-Dee Why Scout Group and Scouts NSW were notified of this proposal and invited to provide feedback.

Feedback was collected through an online form. The 145 submissions received during the public exhibition period have been reviewed and the key themes arising from this review and staff responses are summarised in Table 1 below and in the Community Engagement Report (Attachment 2).

Table 1: Public exhibition of the proposed Arthur Reserve Community Garden – Key themes and responses

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Staff response
Community benefits	<p>The majority of submissions commented on potential benefits that a community garden in this location could bring, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social benefits including strengthening the sense of community in the area • opportunity for shared learning across diverse backgrounds and generations • physical and mental health benefits • improved sustainable environmental practices. 	<p>The feedback received is consistent with peer-reviewed research outlining the social, health and environmental benefits of community gardens</p>
Location selection	<p>Submissions expressed support for the establishment of additional community gardens within Dee Why and other medium-to-high density areas of the LGA. Support was also noted for the proximity of the proposed garden to Dee Why Public School and Dee Why Children's Centre, and the educational opportunities this could provide.</p> <p>Some respondents raised concerns regarding the retention of space for play within the Reserve and ensuring the garden does not encroach on the area leased by the Cromer–Dee Why Scout Group.</p>	<p>Community garden sites are community-led and assessed in accordance with Council's Community Gardens Policy and Community Gardens Guideline. The site is located within 500 metres of Beverly Job Park and Dee Why Park, which provide substantial recreational opportunities, as well as other nearby local parks. The Reserve comprises 2 lots, with the community garden proposed on part of one lot only. The area leased by the Scouts would remain unaffected, and the garden area would be clearly delineated to prevent encroachment.</p>
Aesthetic concerns	<p>Respondents wanted assurance that curb appeal is maintained and that the garden does not negatively impact neighbouring properties.</p>	<p>Aesthetic requirements would be addressed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Council and the garden group, to be agreed prior to establishment. The MoU would align with the Community Gardens Guideline, which requires garden groups to proactively minimise impacts on surrounding residents.</p>
Pedestrian accessibility	<p>There was concern that the community garden would reduce pedestrian accessibility through the Reserve.</p>	<p>The draft garden layout sets the community garden back from the existing internal pathway, ensuring pedestrian access is maintained. In addition, Council has planned the construction of a new footpath and pedestrian crossing on Arthur Street during the 2025/26 financial year.</p>

Theme	Issues, change requests and other considerations raised	Staff response
Medium-high density developments	Some submissions noted the value of providing productive urban greenspace for residents of surrounding medium-density housing. Others expressed concern that the establishment of a community garden may encourage pressure for higher-density development in the area.	The benefits identified for residents of medium-high density housing are consistent with peer-reviewed research on community gardens. Development outcomes are guided by approved planning controls, with zoning in the surrounding walkable neighbourhood including RE1 Public Recreation, R2 Low Density Residential, R3 Medium Density Residential and MU1 Mixed Use, allowing for a range of development densities.
Funding	Concerns were raised that funding for the project could be better directed toward initiatives benefiting a broader section of the community.	Funding for the establishment, operation and ongoing maintenance of the community garden is the responsibility of the garden group. Once incorporated and upon receipt of Council owner's consent, the garden group would be eligible to apply for external grant funding.

TIMING

Should Council staff determine to proceed with the proposal under Division 5.1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, an agreement would be executed with the community garden group. The agreement would define, among other things, the roles and responsibilities of Council and the garden group for the development, ongoing maintenance and management of the garden.

Any works to establish the Community Garden at Arthur Street Reserve would not commence until relevant approvals have been obtained, the agreement is executed between Council and the Community Garden Group, and any pre-commencement conditions of the agreement are met.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The costs of Community Gardens are met by the incorporated entity that Council enters into an agreement with. Minor assistance, such as installation of a tap, may be provided by Council and has been anticipated in existing operational budgets.

GOVERNANCE AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The establishment of a new community garden at the Reserve would be managed through an agreement between Council and the garden group for the development, ongoing maintenance and management of the garden and the garden design.

The application for the new Community Garden has been assessed as complying with the Community Garden Policy and Guidelines.

The 6 community gardens currently supported by Council have become valued community assets and have not increased risk to Council or public safety.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed community garden will be assessed against the requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Should the proposal be approved, any necessary mitigation measures would be adopted as part of the ongoing management of the site.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendations in this report would have positive social outcomes for the community through strengthening community connections, supporting learning and knowledge and providing wellbeing to residents in medium density housing through offering accessible open space to be able to garden and connect with the community.

LINK TO STRATEGY

This report relates to the Community Strategic Plan Outcomes and Goals:

- Protection of the environment - Goal 3 Our community is well-supported in protecting and enhancing the environment, to ensure safe and sustainable use.
- Environmental sustainability - Goal 4 Our community is supported in the sustainable use of resources and working towards net zero and a local circular economy.
- Community and belonging - Goal 9 Our community is inclusive and connected.

Reporting team	Parks & Open Space
TRIM file ref	2025/781873
Attachments	<p>⇒1 Site Map - Proposed Arthur Reserve, Dee Why Community Garden (Included In Attachments Booklet)</p> <p>⇒2 Community Engagement Report - Proposed Arthur Reserve, Dee Why Community Garden (Included In Attachments Booklet)</p>

ITEM 11.2 2025/2026 ECO SCHOOLS GRANT PROGRAM - FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to allocate funding under Council's 2025/2026 Eco Schools Grant Program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The 2025/2026 Eco Schools Grant Program offers grants of up to \$500 per school across 5 priority areas, with \$10,000 total funding available.
- An internal review of the 2024/2025 Eco Schools Grant Program led to updates for 2025/2026, including smaller grants for more schools, a streamlined application process, and increased Council support to improve project outcomes.
- Applications were open from 1 March to 4 April 2026, with 10 eligible applications received, representing a significant increase compared to the previous year's program.
- All applications were assessed by the Eco Schools Grants Assessment Panel and deemed to have sufficient merit for full funding.
- It is recommended that \$4,828 (excluding GST) be allocated to 10 projects as detailed in Table 1 of Attachment 1.
- Funding not allocated through the grant program will remain within the Environment and Sustainability service budget to support Council's bush regeneration activities.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council, pursuant to section 356 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, approve the allocation of \$4,828 (excluding GST) funding under the 2025/2026 Eco Schools Grant Program as set out in Table 1 of Attachment 1 of this report.

BACKGROUND

Council introduced the Eco Schools Grant Program in 2017, committing \$10,000 annually to support local schools undertaking environmental and sustainability activities. The program has 5 priority areas including bush regeneration, carbon reduction, waste reduction, sustainability education, water reuse and reduction and provides grants to eligible schools.

As required in Council's resolution (150/25) regarding the 2024/2025 Eco Schools Grant Program, a review was undertaken. The review was intended to address both the recent decline in application numbers and feedback from schools experiencing challenges in delivering projects.

The review resulted in an updated 2025/2026 program that focused on the following improvements:

- offering smaller grants to more schools (up to \$500; previous grant program offered up to \$2,000 per school)
- streamlining the application process
- proactive Council support to help improve project delivery.

DISCUSSION

The 2025/2026 Eco Schools Grant Program opened for applications on 1 March 2026 and closed on 4 April 2026. The program was advertised and promoted through online media and direct email to schools in the Northern Beaches local government area.

Applications were sought for projects addressing the following assessment criteria:

1. Environmental impact – the measurable difference the initiative will make to the school's carbon footprint, or the impact on native flora and fauna or other environmental considerations.
2. Capacity to deliver – experience and/or resourcing allocated to implement the initiative.
3. Longevity of the initiative – how long the initiative will continue after the funding has been expended.
4. Other benefits derived including social, progress/leadership, educational and economic.

During the application period, 10 applications were received with a total of \$4,828 (excluding GST) being requested.

This is a significant increase in the number of applications received for the 2024/2025 program, 4 applications, 3 of which were successful in receiving funding.

Assessment Process

Council conducted eligibility checks on all applications received prior to progressing to assessment by the Eco Schools Grants Assessment Panel (the Panel).

The Panel's role was to recommend applications for funding by Council. The Panel members undertook individual assessments and submitted a score for each application against the criteria. The Panel met to review the assessments, resulting in a final overall score and recommendation.

The Panel recommends that all 10 eligible applicants receive the requested amounts. This includes 8 applicants receiving \$500 each (the maximum permitted under the grant), and 2 applicants receiving \$478 and \$350 respectively, reflecting the full amount requested by those schools.

The 10 projects recommended for full funding are as follows:

Applicant	Project	Recommended funding (excluding GST)
John Colet School	Seed Library	\$500
Pittwater High School	Protecting our Waterway	\$500
Davidson High School	Containers for Climate	\$478
Narrabeen Sports High School P&C	Narra-Bee Native Garden Regeneration	\$500
The Forest High School	TFHS Waste Reduction and Onsite FOGO Project	\$500
Balgowlah North Public School P&C	Native Beehive	\$350
Beacon Hill Public School	BHPS Native Garden for Sustainability and Wellbeing	\$500
Kinma School	Bush Care	\$500
Wheeler Heights Public School	Habitat Garden as a Learning Space	\$500
St John the Apostle Catholic Primary School	Water Use for Eco and Bush Tucker Garden	\$500

Additional details about the above grant projects are set out in Attachment 1.

CONSULTATION

The program was advertised and promoted through on-line media and direct email to schools on the Northern Beaches. Staff also provided appropriate assistance and guidance to applicants where requested.

TIMING

Funding is required to be allocated to successful local schools as soon as practicable to allow funds to be expended in the nominated period. The nominated period will close on 1 December 2026.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There is \$10,000 allocated within the existing 2025/26 approved budget with \$4,828 to be allocated to the recommended projects. Funding not allocated through the grant program will remain within the Environment and Sustainability service budget to support Council's bush regeneration activities.

GOVERNANCE AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

There are no associated risks with the Eco Schools Grant Program. Historically the grant projects have been very successful and beneficial for the successful school communities.

The Eco Schools Grant Program has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of Council's Grants and Partnerships (Financial Assistance) Policy.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed actions in this report will result in beneficial environmental outcomes.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no significant social considerations associated with this report.

LINK TO STRATEGY

This report relates to the Community Strategic Plan Outcomes and Goals:

- Protection of the environment - Goal 3 Our community is well-supported in protecting and enhancing the environment, to ensure safe and sustainable use.
- Environmental sustainability - Goal 4 Our community is supported in the sustainable use of resources and working towards net zero and a local circular economy.

Reporting team	Environment & Resilience
TRIM file ref	2026/231043
Attachments	⇒ 1 Eco Schools Grant Program 25/26 - Funding recommendations (Included In Attachments Booklet)

12.0 PLANNING AND PLACE DIVISION REPORTS

ITEM 12.1 MINOR AMENDMENT TO MANLY LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2013 UNDER SECTION 3.22 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979 - CLAVERING ROAD SEAFORTH

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement to progress a minor amendment to Manly Local Environmental Plan 2013 (Manly LEP) to correct a mapping error associated with a local heritage item (I269) – dry stone wall, Clavering Road, Seaforth.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Section 3.22 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) allows certain low risk and minor amendments to be made to environmental planning instruments without preparing a planning proposal and following the plan-making procedures under Part 3 of the Act.
- An amendment is proposed to the Heritage Map Sheet No. 1 of Manly LEP 2013 in relation to heritage item I269 (Clavering Road dry stone wall).
- The map amendment is minor in nature and meets the criteria under section 3.22 of the EP&A Act. The amendment is needed to correct a mapping error, where the heritage-listed Clavering Road dry stone wall is incorrectly shown on the eastern side of the road instead of its actual location on the western side of the road reserve.
- The map amendment will not have any significant impact on the environment or adjoining land, or materially change the heritage-listed item.
- Correcting the mapping error is necessary to ensure accurate property information is reflected in planning certificates issued under s10.7 of the EP&A Act and relied upon in development assessments, to reduce the risk of inadvertent impacts to the heritage item arising from incorrect mapping.
- The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure has been consulted in consideration of the amendment and support has been indicated for the use of section 3.22 of the EP&A Act as the appropriate mechanism to correct the mapping inconsistency.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse an amendment to Manly Local Environmental Plan 2013 under section 3.22 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to correct a mapping error of heritage item I269 on heritage map sheet number 1 of Manly Local Environmental Plan 2013, by forwarding Attachment 1 to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.
2. Delegate to the Chief Executive Officer to complete all subsequent necessary actions as determined by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure to progress the amendment to Manly Local Environmental Plan 2013.
3. Staff advise property owners at Clavering Road, Seaforth of Council's decision.

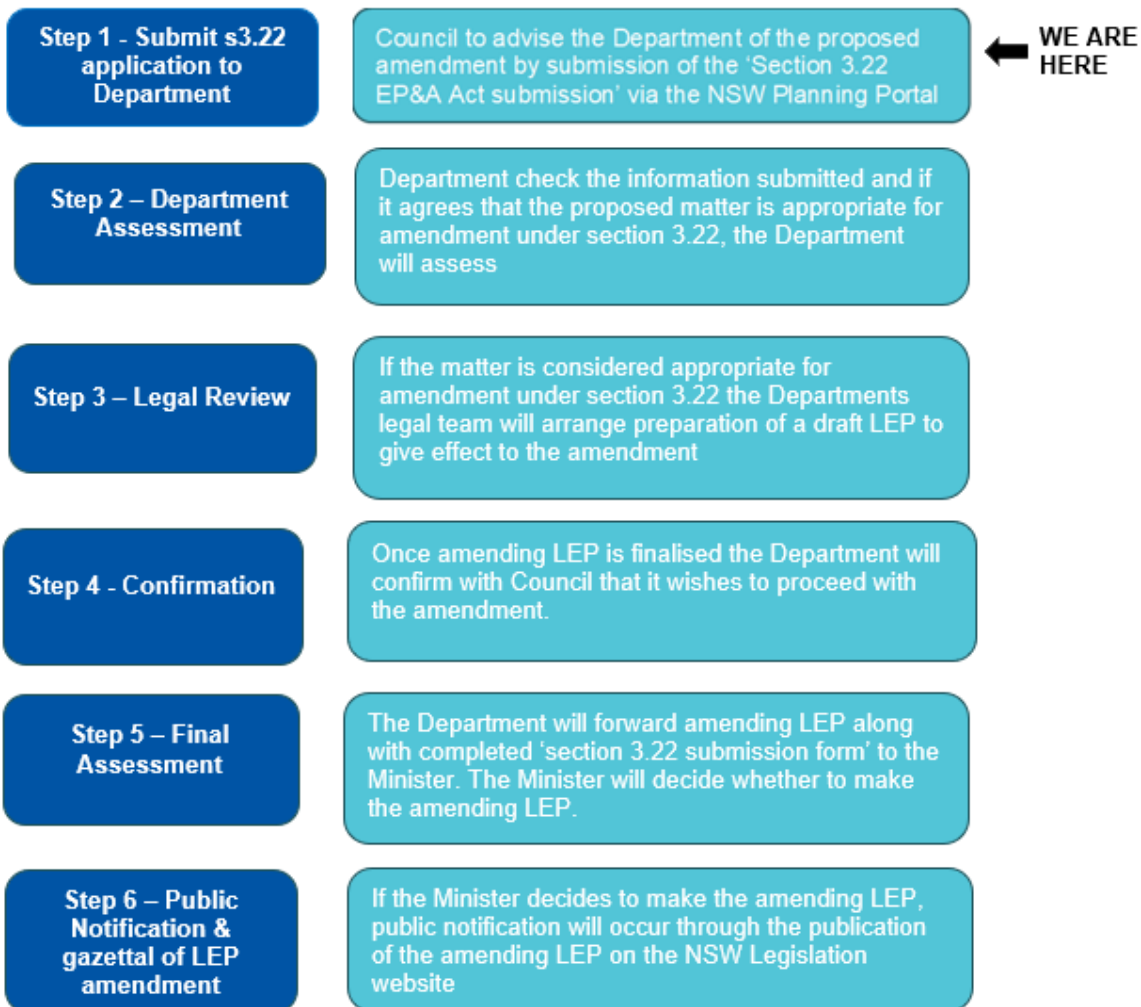
BACKGROUND

Expedited amendments to environmental planning instruments Section 3.22 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), allows certain types of minor amendments to be made to environmental planning instruments without following the usual plan-making procedures, such as public exhibition, under Part 3 of the EP&A Act.

Under s.3.22, an LEP may be amended to:

- a) correct an obvious error in the principal instrument consisting of a misdescription, the inconsistent numbering of provisions, a wrong cross-reference, a spelling error, a grammatical mistake, the insertion of obviously missing words, the removal of obviously unnecessary words or a formatting error
- b) address matters that are of a consequential, transitional or other minor nature
- c) deal with matters the Minister considers do not warrant compliance with the plan-making procedures because they will not have any significant adverse impact on the environment or adjoining land.

The key difference is that amendments made under section 3.22 are not required to be publicly exhibited under the Act or Council’s Community Participation Plan. Public notification occurs via the amendment being published on the NSW Legislation website.



s.3.22 plan making process

Figure 1

Local heritage item, I269 – dry stone wall, Clavering Road

The dry sandstone wall was constructed c.1922 on the western side of Clavering Road, Seaforth. The retaining wall is significant at the local level for its historical, aesthetic, technical, rarity and representational values. The sandstone wall is historically significant in demonstrating the early formation of roads and infrastructure in Seaforth over the early twentieth century.

The sandstone wall was identified in 2003 as a potential heritage item. The heritage significance assessment was subsequently completed, and the dry stone wall was formally listed as a heritage item under Schedule 5 of Manly Local Environmental Plan 2013. The Manly LEP 2013 Heritage map sheet HER 001 shows I269 is sited on the eastern side of Clavering Road, within the road reserve.



Figure 152: View of the wall in its northern/central portion, seen from below Clavering Road



Figure 153: Stone wall supporting Clavering Road, showing dense surrounding vegetation



Figure 154: Two courses of stonework below Clavering Road



Figure 155: Close view of stonework showing drystone construction

Figure 1 Images of Clavering Road Heritage Item - from NBRS Heritage Assessment Stone Walls, Northern Beaches LGA 2025

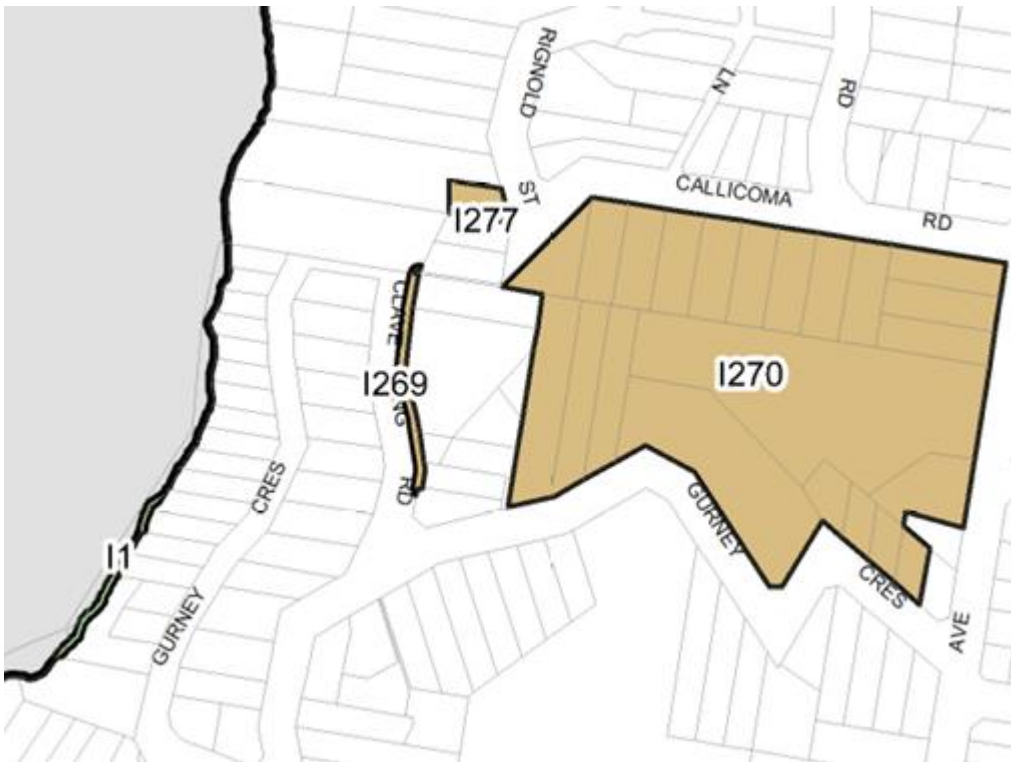


Figure 2 - Extract from Manly LEP 2013, Heritage Map sheet number 1, showing heritage item on eastern side of Clavinging Road.

DISCUSSION

In October 2025, an independent assessment of the cultural heritage significance of 10 stone walls within the Northern Beaches local government area (LGA) was finalised. The assessment applied the Heritage NSW criteria for assessing heritage significance, and Statements of Significance were prepared for each stone wall included in the study.

The Clavinging Road dry stone wall was one of the 10 stone walls assessed as part of the 'NBRS Heritage Assessments - Stone walls, Northern Beaches Local Government Area – Final report - October 2025' (NBRS report) (Attachment 2).

The description of the Clavinging Road stone wall, as outlined in the NBRS report describes this wall as, 'Clavinging Road, extending along the majority of the western side of the road'. Further, the report states the wall is 'supporting the road on its western side where steep terrain drops down towards Gurney Crescent and Middle Harbour. The opposite bank on the eastern (higher) side of Clavinging Road is largely supported by uncut rock face.'

Council officers have verified the findings of the NBRS report through a site inspection and review of the description of the dry stone wall in a 2018 heritage study prepared by the former Manly Council. It is apparent there is an error with the heritage mapping of the local heritage item in the Manly LEP. The Heritage Map sheet number 1 incorrectly shows the heritage item located on the eastern side of Clavinging Road, Seaforth. Although the heritage item is mapped incorrectly, it is still located within the Clavinging Road reserve and is not located on any private property.

The proposed amendment to Manly LEP would correct this mapping error between the Heritage Map sheet number 1 and the description and in situ location of the heritage item on the western side of Clavinging Road. The proposed amendment will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or adjoining land and is appropriate for amendment under section 3.22 of the EP&A Act. A copy of the existing and proposed heritage map sheets is at Attachment 3.

CONSULTATION

There are 7 properties on Clavinging Road. Two properties contain dwellings, while the remaining 5 properties are vacant land.

In recent years, staff have held pre-lodgment meetings and assessed development applications for several properties on Clavering Road. These applications were referred to Council's heritage team for advice as the properties were sited within the vicinity of the Clavering Road dry stone wall heritage item, which required applicants to prepare an independent heritage assessment report as part of their development proposal.

Through pre-lodgement engagement, the owners of 7 Clavering Road have been advised of the correct location of the wall. Property Nos. 11 and 13 Clavering Road are the subject of current applications for construction of dwelling houses. Protection of the wall is being considered in the evaluation of the applications.

Correcting the mapping error is expected to result in only minimal impacts for adjoining property owners and would not introduce any substantive additional heritage assessment beyond the existing practice.

Council officers have discussed the mapping error with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, which has confirmed that a minor amendment under section 3.22 of the EP&A Act is the appropriate planning pathway. While the description of the wall in Schedule 5 of Manly LEP 2013 is correct, this mapping error needs to be rectified to avoid inadvertent breaches of the conservation requirements under clause 5.10 of the LEP.

TIMING

Correcting the mapping error expeditiously is recommended to ensure accurate property information is reflected in planning certificates issued under s10.7 of the EP&A Act and relied upon in development assessments, to reduce the risk of inadvertent impacts to the heritage item arising from incorrect mapping.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendations of this report impose no financial impact on Council.

GOVERNANCE AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed map amendment to Manly LEP is needed to reduce the risk of inadvertent impacts to the heritage item arising from incorrect mapping and to ensure accurate property information is reflected in planning certificates issued under s10.7 of the EP&A Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed actions in this report support Manly Local Environmental Plan and will result in a beneficial environmental outcome by preserving and protecting heritage items.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendations in this report will have positive social outcomes through the provision of accurate planning and property information outlined in the Manly LEP.

LINK TO STRATEGY

This report relates to the Community Strategic Plan Outcomes and Goals:

- Protection of the environment - Goal 3 Our community is well-supported in protecting and enhancing the environment, to ensure safe and sustainable use.
- Environmental sustainability - Goal 5 Our built environment is developed in line with best practice sustainability principles.

Reporting team	Strategic & Place Planning
TRIM file ref	2026/207030
Attachments	⇒1 s3.22 Submission to Department of Planning (Included In Attachments Booklet) ⇒2 NBRS Heritage Report (Included In Attachments Booklet) ⇒3 Existing/Proposed maps of Manly LEP (Included In Attachments Booklet)

13.0 TRANSPORT AND ASSETS DIVISION REPORTS

ITEM 13.1 PROPOSED SALE OF COUNCIL PROPERTY - 1 PITTWATER ROAD, MANLY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the sale of a surplus parcel of Operational Land located at 1 Pittwater Road, Manly.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) report, which supported Council's application for a Special Rate Variation, included a commitment by Council to deliver \$10 million in savings through the divestment of surplus and underutilised assets.
- Council owns the property at 1 Pittwater Road, Manly (Lot 1 DP 933364), which is classified as Operational Land and contains a single-storey local heritage-listed building that is currently vacant.
- Price appraisals have been sought from local real estate agents (Confidential Attachments 2 and 3) indicating the likely sale price and it is intended to engage a real estate agent to the property on the open market by way of expression of interest.
- Sale proceeds will be placed into Council's restricted Property Reserve and may only be used for community infrastructure, environmental acquisitions, or commercial development projects.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Authorise the sale of 1 Pittwater Road, Manly (Lot 1 DP 933364).
2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a. set an appropriate reserve price based on market appraisals
 - b. appoint a suitable agent to market and sell the property by the most appropriate method (e.g. public auction, expression of interest, tender or private treaty)
 - c. take any necessary action to give effect to this resolution including negotiation of the sale and execution of the contract for sale.
3. Note that Attachments 1, 2 and 3 are confidential in accordance with section 11(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), as they relate to matters specified in section 10A(2) of the Act relating to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council proposes to conduct business.

BACKGROUND

As part of Council's Productivity Journey and Improvement Plan 2024, endorsed in its IPART Special Variation to Rates submission, Council committed to achieving \$10 million in property rationalisation savings over 5 years. While the decision to sell any Council-owned property rests solely with the elected Council, the proposed divestment of 1 Pittwater Road, Manly is one of the properties identified as a potential contributor to this target.

In October 2025, a Property Workshop was held with Councillors to discuss properties suitable for disposal and this property was discussed at that meeting.

DISCUSSION

History

1 Pittwater Road is located on the corner of Pittwater Road and Raglan Street, Manly. It was originally constructed in 1955 and used for many years as a baby health centre. Following this, the building was vacant and later used for office accommodation for Northern Beaches Council staff.

It was most recently occupied by Council's Youth and Family Counselling Service; however, this use ceased on 31 December 2025 and the premises remains vacant. The building is single storey with 3 enclosed offices, an open office / reception area, kitchen and amenities. The building is in reasonable albeit largely original condition, however, the external windows have been replaced, and the original baby pram store at the front of the building has been fitted with a roller shutter. These changes do not substantially alter the fabric of the building.

Planning controls

The site is zoned E1 Local Centre under the Manly LEP 2013 and is both listed as an Item of Environmental Heritage and located in a Heritage Conservation Zone. The local heritage listing relates to its original use as a Baby Health Centre and construction in the International Modernist style.

The E1 zoning permits a range of retail and commercial uses. In addition, the LEP provides flexibility for development consent to be granted to facilitate the conservation and adaptive reuse of heritage items, which may include residential or alternative uses, subject to planning approval.

Best and highest use

A review of the site's development potential was undertaken in 2024 to inform its strategic position in the market. A copy of the HillPDA report is included as Confidential Attachment 1 to this report.

While the site presents a range of development opportunities, outcomes will be influenced by planning controls, including its heritage status and location within a Heritage Conservation Area.

The site is located within the Manly Town Centre and may offer opportunities for adaptive reuse, sensitive redevelopment, or integration with adjoining landholdings, subject to planning approval. Its prominent corner location further supports a range of potential uses, depending on purchaser objectives and design response.

Market feedback indicates that potential purchasers may consider a variety of uses, including commercial, retail, or residential (subject to consent), depending on their objectives and approach to the site's planning context.

Accordingly, it is proposed that the property be offered for sale in its current condition ('as is'), allowing the market to determine value based on its assessment of the site's potential.

The site's location within the Manly Town Centre places it within an area of evolving planning policy, including recent NSW Government housing reforms. The applicability of such provisions would be subject to detailed assessment at the time of any future development application.

While leasing could provide an income stream, divestment is considered to offer a more optimal outcome, providing an immediate capital return, eliminating ongoing holding and maintenance costs, and supporting Council's Productivity Improvement Journey targets.

Confidential Attachments 2 and 3 to this report detail 2 recent appraisals from local real estate agents indicating the likely sale price and leasing income that could be generated from this property.

CONSULTATION

The sale of Operational Land does not trigger statutory public consultation requirements under the *Local Government Act 1993*; however, Council acknowledges community interest in property decisions and is presenting this matter in a non-confidential Council report, with commercial-in-confidence feasibility and appraisal advice only withheld to protect Council's negotiating position.

TIMING

Following a Council resolution to sell the property, an agent would be appointed to commence marketing the property for sale with completion anticipated within 6 months.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Proceeds from the sale are required to contribute to Council's commitment under the Productivity Journey and Improvement Plan 2024, which includes a Property Rationalisation Plan identifying \$10 million in revenue over 5 years through the sale of surplus and underutilised properties.

Additionally, the sale will help meet IPART's recommendation that Council seek additional revenue through the sale of underutilised assets.

In accordance with Council's Property Management Framework, all proceeds from the sale of Council land will be placed into a restricted financial reserve established to reduce Council's reliance on rates and to fund future community needs. Funds in this reserve may only be used for community infrastructure, environmental acquisitions, or commercial development projects. Decisions regarding the allocation of proceeds will be made by Council through a future Delivery Program.

Confidential appraisals of the expected sale price are provided in Confidential Attachments 2 and 3.

GOVERNANCE AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed sale aligns with Council's Property Rationalisation Plan, which targets \$10 million in revenue over 5 years from divestment of underutilised properties.

While the option of leasing the site provides ongoing income, this is negated by ongoing maintenance, management, and vacancy risks. Proceeds from a sale offers greater certainty and supports reinvestment into the renewal and delivery of community facilities and assets.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The subject of this report has no adverse environmental implications for Council.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendations in this report maintain social outcomes for the community. Proceeds from the proposed sale will be reinvested in line with Council's Property Management Framework,

supporting environmental acquisitions, community infrastructure and commercial developments that benefit the broader community and reduce reliance on rates.

LINK TO STRATEGY

This report relates to the Community Strategic Plan Outcomes and Goals:

- Good governance and participation - Goal 19: Our Council is transparent and trusted to make decisions that reflect the values of the community.
- Good governance and participation - Goal 20: Our Council is proactive, and efficiently and effectively responds to, and delivers on, the evolving needs of the community.

Reporting team	Property, Buildings & Beach Services
TRIM file ref	2025/739762
Attachments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 1 Pittwater Road, Manly - Highest and best use commentary/desktop feasibility analysis - HillPDA Consulting (Included In Attachments Booklet) (Confidential) 2 1 Pittwater Road, Manly - Sale & Lease Appraisal - Upstate Commercial (Included In Attachments Booklet) (Confidential) 3 1 Pittwater Road, Manly - Sale & Lease Appraisal - Belle Property (Included In Attachments Booklet) (Confidential)

14.0 MATTERS PROPOSED TO TAKE PLACE IN CLOSED SESSION

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. In accordance with the requirements of section 10A of the *Local Government Act 1993* as addressed below, Council resolve to close the meeting to the public to consider and discuss:
 - A. Item 14.1 RFT 2026/01237 - Freshwater Amenities on the basis that it involves the receipt and discussion of commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed, prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it [10A(2)(d(i)) *Local Government Act 1993*].

This report discusses/provides advice concerning commercial tenders. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of the information about the matter outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in Council decision-making because the disclosure of this information would result in the release of commercial in confidence information.
 2. The resolutions passed by Council in closed session be made public after the conclusion of the closed session and such resolutions be recorded in the minutes of the Council meeting.
-

15.0 NOTICES OF MOTION

ITEM 15.1 NOTICE OF MOTION NO 13/2026 - MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO RESOLUTION REGARDING NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL'S CONFIDENCE IN VOLUNTEER SURF LIFESAVERS AND SURF LIFE SAVING NORTHERN BEACHES

NOTE: This item was listed on the agenda but deferred at the 21 April 2026 and 19 May 2026 Council meeting.

COUNCILLOR DE LUCA OAM SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING MOTION:

MOTION

That Council note:

1. At the Northern Beaches Council meeting on 16 December 2025, in order to protect the workplace health and safety of the Northern Beaches selfless volunteer surf life savers and to prevent psychosocial injuries due to comments made at the 25 November 2025 resumed Council meeting by Councillor Joeline Hackman about volunteer surf life savers, Councillor Vincent De Luca OAM moved:

That Council:

1. Call on Councillor Joeline Hackman to issue an unconditional and unreserved written apology, to be tabled at the next ordinary meeting of Council and included in the minutes of that meeting, for her disparaging and misleading comments made in the Council Chamber on 25 November 2025 that "the volunteer surf lifesavers are actually quite dangerous on the jet skis and Surfing NSW are concerned about that"
2. Request the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write a formal letter of apology to Surf Life Saving Northern Beaches and to each surf life saving club within the Northern Beaches local government area, expressly:
 - a. reaffirming Council's strong confidence and support for volunteer surf lifesavers and surf life saving clubs
 - b. thanking them for the vital, selfless work they perform in protecting residents and visitors on our beaches.
2. It has been revealed:
 - a. that Surfing NSW, in writing, denied that it ever raised any concerns as quoted by Councillor Hackman - to date she has not tabled, nor circulated any formal apology to Surfing NSW for misrepresenting Surfing NSW.
 - b. Councillor Hackman has not issued any unconditional and unreserved written apology to Sydney Northern Beaches Surf Life Saving or its affiliated clubs regarding her remarks that "the volunteer surf lifesavers are actually quite dangerous on the jet skis and Surfing NSW are concerned about that" nor has she formally tabled such an apology at a Council meeting
 - c. Council's Mayor, on behalf of Council, has not written to Surf Life Saving Northern Beaches and to each Surf Life Saving Club within the Northern Beaches LGA as requested in clause (2) above.

3. Instead of the Your Northern Beaches registered political party's Councillors adopting the Motion of Councillor De Luca, the Motion was amended by Cr Beauguard of the Your Northern Beaches registered political party, which amongst matters:
 - a. note that motions making adverse comments about Councillors or staff may expose Council to WH&S claims for psychosocial injuries.
 - b. request a meeting with the Minister for Local Government seeking legislative amendments to prevent motions of this nature from being tabled
 - c. advise the Chief Executive Officer that in Council's opinion, any motion that criticises a Councillor by name or inference, is a breach of the Code of Meeting Practice and consequently should not be published in a business paper.

4. That at the NSW Parliament's Budget Estimate Committee Inquiry on 28 February 2025, Minister for Local Government, The Hon Ron Hoening stated:

'I'm going to free up councillors to enable them to be able to freely participate in a robust democratic system in council ... I'm going to apply similar standards of language that apply in the standing orders in the Legislative Assembly'

Standing Order 73 of the Legislative Assembly - Reflection on Members by substantive motion only provides that:

'Imputations of improper motives and personal reflections on Members of either House are disorderly other than by substantive motion.'

5. In response to Cr Beauguard's amended motion the Minister for Local Government, The Hon Ron Hoenig MP has:
 - a. rejected the request to meet and rejected Councillor Beauguard's assertions
 - b. stated:

'While I acknowledge the need for councils to comply with their obligations under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* to provide safe workplaces, including at meetings, this needs to be counterbalanced by a recognition that councils are democratic institutions and that councillors, as elected representatives, should be free to engage in open and robust debate on matters before the council.

Earlier this year, at my request, the Office of Local Government (OLG) issued a guideline on free speech in local government. This is to ensure that councils do not operate in a way that unduly constrains councillors from being able to speak freely or hinders them from being able to engage with the community on local issues and participate in public debate on them.'

TRIM file ref	2026/286688
Attachments	Nil

ITEM 15.2 NOTICE OF MOTION NO 6/2026 - IMPROVING FACILITIES AT BEVERLY JOB PARK

NOTE: This item was listed on the agenda but deferred at the 21 April 2026 and 19 May 2026 Council meeting.

COUNCILLOR GILTINAN OAM JP SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING MOTION:

MOTION

That Council investigate and provide a report on the feasibility of establishing a dog waiting area adjacent to the children's playground at Beverly Job Park, Narraweena, including consideration of safety, amenity, and operational impacts.

BACKGROUND FROM COUNCILLOR GILTINAN OAM JP

Beverly Job Park, Narraweena is a large and well-utilised community park which provides a range of important facilities, including sporting fields, tennis courts, a children's playground, a basketball court, and a large off-leash dog park.

Many residents visit the park with both children and dogs at the same time. In practice, dog owners often secure their dogs to the playground fencing while supervising children. While this is done responsibly, it can result in distress for both dogs and their owners and may create unintended safety and amenity issues around the playground area.

This notice of motion requests that Council officers investigate the feasibility of how to accommodate the needs of dog owners, including the potential co-location of a suitable dog waiting area near the playground to safely leave dogs. The advice back to Councillors should also provide advice on any broader planning considerations or future improvements proposed for Beverly Job Park.

TRIM file ref	2026/286698
Attachments	Nil

ITEM 15.3 NOTICE OF MOTION NO 14/2026 - RESOLVING STORMWATER DISPUTES

NOTE: This item was listed on the agenda but deferred at the 21 April 2026 and 19 May 2026 Council meeting.

COUNCILLOR GLANVILLE SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING MOTION:

MOTION

That a report be presented to Council within three months on options for piloting an alternative disputes resolution service for stormwater disputes between neighbours and the resource implications of any options.

BACKGROUND FROM COUNCILLOR GLANVILLE

Council and Councillors regularly receive representations from community members seeking assistance to resolve stormwater issues with neighbouring properties. Until recently, Council could try to refer parties to Community Justice Centres for minor matters, but this service has been discontinued by the State Government.

Council is regularly called upon by the aggrieved resident to take enforcement action, as not uncommonly the situation is brought about or exacerbated by unauthorised works undertaken by an uphill property, in a retaining wall or similar which changes the previous overland flow of stormwater. Where works are authorised or did not require approval, the resident may be aggrieved with Council for approving or allowing those works.

From the point of view of the aggrieved resident, they may believe unauthorised works have been carried out and they are suffering a detriment on their property and thus have an expectation that Council will take enforcement action to rectify the situation. The cost of civil enforcement is a financial barrier to residents seeking private resolution via the Courts, and in turn, drives residents to seek assistance from Council instead.

However, the nature of the works may not be of a substantial scale, and the impacts may not justify enforcement action by Council. Alternatively, it may be determined the works are permissible without consent. This can nonetheless take up significant staff time with investigations, correspondence with the neighbours, and their lawyers and/or engineers. Council compliance officers may be essentially put in the position of attempting to informally mediate, taking them away from core compliance activities.

The purpose of this motion is to request a report outlining options for an alternative dispute resolution approach to seek to:

- Reduce disputes of this nature from taking compliance officers' time allowing them to focus on more significant matters.
- Provide a cost-effective means for residents to resolve disputes between neighbours.
- Encourage a collaborate approach to resolving issues between neighbours as an alternative to enforcement action by Council.

It would be appropriate that the report on options for the establishment of a mediation service, or similar, include consideration of a trial period to monitor the success of a pilot program as an effective means of resolving resident disputes and reducing resource impacts on Council's compliance services. A pilot program may also provide evidence to advocate for State or Federal

Government grants and funding for a service of this nature. Council could seek partnerships with other councils or external organisations, such as universities, to design and carry out a pilot.

TRIM file ref	2026/286701
Attachments	Nil

ITEM 15.4 NOTICE OF MOTION NO 18/2026 - CLIMATE COMPENSATION AND PROTECTING RATEPAYERS

NOTE: *This item was listed on the agenda but deferred at the 19 May 2026 Council meeting.*

COUNCILLORS HRNJAK, KORZY, GLANVILLE AND HARVEY SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING MOTION:

MOTION

That Council:

1. Support the City of Sydney's [Motion to the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly - National Climate Adaptation Funding and Accountability for Australian Cities](#) at the 2026 National General Assembly.
2. Call on the Australian Government and Parliament to:
 - a. establish a Climate Compensation Fund to support communities, households and local governments with climate adaptation, resilience and disaster recovery costs
 - b. introduce a Climate Pollution Levy on coal, gas and oil export corporations to fund the Climate Compensation Fund
 - c. ensure the Climate Compensation Fund includes a dedicated funding stream for local governments, aligned with the financial risks identified in the 2025 National Climate Risk Assessment
 - d. establish a Parliamentary Inquiry into the adequacy of the 2025 National Adaptation Plan, including the absence of additional funding for local governments to deliver mandated adaptation responses.
3. Call on the Federal Government to provide sustained, legislated funding that enables Northern Beaches Council to plan and deliver climate solutions and a just transition with certainty.
4. Advocate for revenue raised through such mechanisms to allow Council to prioritise:
 - a. strengthening local infrastructure resilience
 - b. supporting disaster-impacted communities
 - c. reducing financial pressure on ratepayers.
5. Write to the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy and local Federal Members of Parliament outlining Council's position.

BACKGROUND FROM COUNCILLORS HRNJAK, KORZY, GLANVILLE AND HARVEY

The Northern Beaches is experiencing increasing climate impacts including flooding, bushfires, heatwaves, storms and coastal erosion, placing pressure on local infrastructure, services and community wellbeing.

Households, businesses, community organisations and primary producers are facing rising costs associated with climate impacts, including:

- damage to homes, infrastructure and the natural environment
- increasing insurance premiums and energy costs
- income loss, business disruption and housing displacement
- impacts on cultural heritage and community resilience.

Council budgets are under growing pressure due to costs associated with disaster response, infrastructure repair and resilience upgrades.

Local governments have limited revenue-raising capacity and shifting escalating climate-related costs onto ratepayers is not sustainable.

The 'polluter pays' principle holds that those responsible for pollution should contribute to managing its impacts rather than those most affected by it.

TRIM file ref	2026/286714
Attachments	Nil

ITEM 15.5 NOTICE OF MOTION NO 21/2026 - COMMUNITY SAFETY - JAMES MEEHAN RESERVE AND THE DEE WHY LOCALITY

COUNCILLOR DE LUCA OAM SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING MOTION:

MOTION

That Council:

1. Note with sadness and serious concern the assault of a 47-year-old man adjacent to James Meehan Reserve, Dee Why (adjacent to Richmond Avenue, Dee Why).
2. Note that residents have stated in the media they feel unsafe and that lighting and CCTV should be installed.
3. Request Council's General Manager to urgently investigate the benefits and expense of installing lighting and CCTV along the path adjacent to and in James Meehan Reserve, in Walter Gors Reserve and other known areas in Dee Why of hot spot safety risks and report the findings of that investigation to Council.

BACKGROUND FROM COUNCILLOR DE LUCA OAM

Shortly after 11pm last Friday, 29 May 2026, NSW Police and NSW Ambulance responded to a Triple Zero (000) call reporting a man was found bashed at James Meehan Reserve near the corner of Clyde Road, Dee Why and Richmond Avenue.

The victim has stated that he had been set upon and beaten and personal items had been taken from him, including his wallet, mobile phone and shoes.

He further stated the group were not known to him and had been armed with knives.

Residents told the media and I the day after the attack that they have been calling for lighting and CCTV monitoring for years as the area has become unsafe due to local youth gangs and other criminal activities.

TRIM file ref 2026/313385

Attachments Nil

ITEM 15.6 NOTICE OF MOTION NO 22/2026 - MANAGING IMPACTS FROM DUMPED LIMEBIKES

COUNCILLOR DE LUCA OAM SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING MOTION:

MOTION

That Council:

1. Make representations to the Minister for Transport:
 - a. concerning the public safety and amenity impacts of LimeBikes obstructing footpaths, cycleways and other community spaces within the Northern Beaches local government area
 - b. advocating for finalisation of the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment (Micromobility Vehicles and Smartcards) Bill 2025 and supporting Regulation
 - c. seeking appropriate fees for the use of public land by operators and recovery of Council costs associated with the management of micromobility vehicles.
2. Make representations to the Minister for Local Government advocating to strengthen powers for councils under the *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021* to manage and impound micromobility vehicles such as LimeBikes.
3. Commence compliance action within its regulatory powers to seek to manage the public and environmental impacts of LimeBikes obstructing footpaths, cycleways and other community spaces within the Northern Beaches Local Government Area.

BACKGROUND FROM COUNCILLOR DE LUCA OAM

Lime launched LimeBikes in Manly in April of this year and has now extended distribution to neighbouring suburbs including Balgowlah, Dee Why and Brookvale. It is acknowledged the arrival of the bikes provides a new option for short trips for residents and visitors. However, the provision of bikes should not come at the detriment of the amenity of our suburbs or the safety of other users of our public spaces.

Council was provided assurances by representatives from Lime that the fleet would be managed carefully to minimise disruption to our residents. However, this is clearly not the case as I have received representations from a number of residents concerned about bikes dumped in our suburbs, obstructing our footpaths, roads and cycleways.

The State Government's Road Transport and Other Legislation Amendment (Micromobility Vehicles and Smartcards) Bill 2025 outlines a process for the operation of micromobility sharing vehicles. The commencement of this statutory framework should be expediated to assist the appropriate management of bikes.

Council has powers under the *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021* (PSUP) to collect bikes in specific circumstances such as where the bikes are blocking a footpath, road or entry. However, the process is not efficient as a minimum notice of 3 hours is required to be given to the operator. Opportunity exists to strengthen the Act to enable councils to remove unsafe items immediately where there is an imminent risk to public safety or the environmental.

Accordingly, it is appropriate that Council commence compliance action within its regulatory powers to seek to address the impact of LimeBikes causing a safety issue for vehicles and/or pedestrians and to advocate for the finalisation of changes to the statutory framework to assist councils in this process.

TRIM file ref	2026/316120
Attachments	Nil

16.0 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**ITEM 16.1 QUESTION WITH NOTICE NO 18/2026 - PROPOSED INCREASE IN HIRING FEES FOR POOLS****COUNCILLOR DE LUCA OAM SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

I refer to correspondence received by Council, particularly from Learn to Swim Free at Collaroy Rock pool regarding the proposed increase in Hire Fees for Rockpools by Charities including the Water Skills for Life Program, which is required to pay a fee to Council for the use of Collaroy Rock Pool.

1. What is the rationale behind the increase?
2. Has Council notified and consulted with Warringah Amateur Swimming Association and all Amateur Swimming Clubs on the Northern Beaches?
3. Noting that several amateur swimming clubs and charities are fighting for survival and have little funds, will Council waive fees when it's apparent certain amateur swimming clubs and charities can't afford such fees and may have to dissolve or stop undertaking charitable Events?

TRIM file ref	2026/314557
Attachments	Nil

17.0 RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

**ITEM 17.1 RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITH NOTICE NO 6/2026 - DRAFT
MIDDLE HARBOUR FLOOD STUDY**

COUNCILLOR DE LUCA OAM SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What was the methodology, criteria, and data sources used to justify the updated flood classifications on properties in Belrose, Davidson, Frenchs Forest and Killarney Heights?
2. What hydrological modelling, historical data, or risk assumptions applied were taken into relevant consideration?
3. Will Council provide on its website all relevant technical documents, including modelling outputs, mapping layers, consultant reports, and any internal assessments that informed the decision?
4. Could clarification be provided on whether property-specific or elevation-specific assessments were conducted, particularly for sites such as those that sit on high ground and do not exhibit characteristics typically associated with flood exposure.
5. Are the classifications based on broad, generalised modelling or on precise, location-specific analysis. If the former, can Council review the designation to ensure it accurately reflects the actual risk profile of specific properties?

RESPONSE:

The Draft Middle Harbour Flood Study (the Draft Study) was prepared using best-practice methods and reliable datasets and both large-scale catchment modelling and detailed local analysis were undertaken to update flood classifications for Belrose, Davidson, Frenchs Forest, and Killarney Heights.

In terms of data, the project involved a review and integration of key datasets including terrain data (LiDAR), aerial imagery, stormwater pits and pipe data, rainfall data from Australian Rainfall and Runoff Guidelines, in addition to historical rainfall data. Section 2 of the Draft Study provides a more detailed outline of the data used.

Hydrologic modelling was undertaken using WBNM software. Hydraulic modelling was undertaken using TUFLOW 2D hydraulic modelling software. The modelling considered multiple design events (e.g. from more frequent storms through to rare/extreme events) and produced mapping of flood extent, depth/level, velocity and hazard categories. Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Draft Study provide additional information on this technology, its application and assumptions.

The Draft Study including all supporting technical information and mapping has been publicly available on Council's Your Say webpage since the exhibition period began in early February 2026.

Most of the flooding identified relates to overland flow, rather than the river or lagoon flooding typically seen in low-lying areas. Council recognises that some residents have concerns about how their properties have been classified, including properties on higher ground. The flood classifications are based on well-established industry practices, and the selection of 1-2m grid sizes across the catchment is considered to provide an appropriate degree of resolution.

All submissions are currently being reviewed, and where needed, site inspections are being carried out by the consultant. Any necessary updates will be made and documented in the Community Engagement Report and the report to Council.

TRIM file ref	2026/251015
Attachments	Nil

**ITEM 17.2 RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITH NOTICE NO 7/2026 -
REDUNDANCIES**

COUNCILLOR DE LUCA OAM SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

In this financial year:

1. How many Executive Managers, if any, were made redundant and what was the total expended on such redundancies?
2. How many Managers, if any, were made redundant and what was the total expended on such redundancies?
3. How many Coordinators if any, were made redundant and what was the total expended on such redundancies?
4. How many Team Leaders, if any, were made redundant and what was the total expended on such redundancies?
5. How many non-managerial staff, if any, were made redundant and what was the total expended on such redundancies?

RESPONSE:

The number of redundancies, and total payout, is provided below at an aggregated level, as disclosing more granular detail could enable personal information under the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* to be identified.

Over the past 12 months, 9 redundancy payments were made. Five of these were paid in the current financial year, 2025/26, including 3 related to manager positions (\$467k) and 2 related to non-supervisory roles (\$216k).

Workforce adjustments, including targeted redundancies alongside responding to natural attrition and process improvements, demonstrate Council's approach to continuously reviewing and refining its organisational design. This ensures an optimal structure to deliver efficient community services and infrastructure.

The Delivery Program outlines initiatives undertaken towards the Improvement Plan, including workforce management initiatives that will deliver \$112k in savings in 2025/26 and a further \$316k in 2026/27. Please refer to Item 9.1 'Outcome of Public Exhibition – Draft Delivery Program 2026-2030, Operational Plan 2026/27 and Long-Term Financial Plan 2023-2036' within this agenda for further information.

TRIM file ref	2026/253031
Attachments	Nil

**ITEM 17.3 RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITH NOTICE NO 8/2026 - EXPENDITURE
ON MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS,
BRIEFINGS AND PUBLIC FORUM**

COUNCILLOR DE LUCA OAM SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

In the last financial year what is the total expenditure on meals and refreshments at Council meetings, briefings and public forums.

RESPONSE:

The cost of meals and refreshments provided in the 2024/25 financial year was \$21k.

TRIM file ref	2026/253063
Attachments	Nil

ITEM 17.4 RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITH NOTICE NO 9/2026 - MANLY ART GALLERY

COUNCILLOR DE LUCA OAM SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

In the last financial year:

1. How many staff were employed at the gallery and was the total expenditure for salaries and oncosts?
2. What was the total expenditure on the gallery?
3. Was there a profit or loss at the gallery and what was it?
4. What have been the total expenditure losses at the gallery over the last 5 financial years?
5. What measures, if any, has Council's management introduced to at least achieve cost neutrality at the gallery?

RESPONSE:

In the 2024/25 financial year 4.4 full-time equivalent positions and a small casual pool managed the Manly Art Gallery & Museum facility, exhibitions and associated programs. Employee costs totalled \$554k (including around \$10k for casuals).

Manly Art Gallery & Museum (MAGM)

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income	95	140	168	166	226
Expenses*	(772)	(734)	(729)	(861)	(903)
Net cost	(677)	(594)	(561)	(696)	(677)

* Expenses exclude depreciation and overheads. 2021/22 and 2022/23 includes donations collected towards a Midget Farrelly memorial sculpture, which was constructed in 2023/24.

Council has not resolved to alter the existing service level over the last 5 years.

In the 2024/25 financial year, an online donations platform and in-gallery tap donation devices were launched at Manly Art Gallery & Museum to support the service, increasing annual donations. The design shop was further developed to increase earned income (from around \$5k per year to \$20k net revenue in 2024/25). A dedicated giving group was also established and sponsorship and MAG&M Society support was expanded to strengthen exhibition, program, and public engagement outcomes, resulting in donations increasing from around \$2k per year to \$55k in 2024/25.

TRIM file ref	2026/253140
Attachments	Nil

**ITEM 17.5 RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITH NOTICE NO 10/2026 - NORTH
CURL CURL CREATIVE SPACE**

COUNCILLOR DE LUCA OAM SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

In the last financial year:

1. How many staff were employed at the North Curl Curl Creative Space and what was the total expenditure for salaries and oncosts?
2. What was the total expenditure on the Creative Space?
3. Was there a profit or loss at the Creative Space and what was it?
4. What have been the total expenditure losses at the Creative Space over the last 5 financial years?
5. What measures, if any, has Council's management introduced to at least achieve cost neutrality at the Creative Space?

RESPONSE:

Council's creative spaces are not staffed facilities. Community hire of these spaces is managed centrally through Council's Community Arts and Culture service.

Curl Curl Creative Space	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income	14	12	19	17	25
Expenses*	(15)	(10)	(33)	(15)	(13)
Net surplus / (cost)	(1)	2	(14)	2	12

* Expenses exclude depreciation and overheads and will fluctuate due to facilities maintenance and replacement of equipment. The Curl Curl Creative Space water meter also services the public amenities at the back of the building and is used for irrigation of the adjacent garden.

Council has not resolved to alter the existing service level over the last 5 years.

Curl Curl Creative Space offers affordable exhibition and artist studio space for the community. Fees and charges are reviewed annually and set in accordance with Council's adopted pricing methodology for this service. Spaces are allocated through an expression of interest process, supported by promotional activities to maximise income generation and community use.

TRIM file ref	2026/253191
Attachments	Nil

ITEM 17.6 RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITH NOTICE NO 11/2026 - MONA VALE CREATIVE SPACE - GALLERY

COUNCILLOR DE LUCA OAM SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

In the last financial year:

1. How many staff were employed at the Mona Vale Creative Space and what was the total expenditure for salaries and oncosts?
2. What was the total expenditure on the Mona Vale Creative Space?
3. Was there a profit or loss at the Creative Space and what was it?
4. What have been the total expenditure losses at the Creative Space over the last 5 financial years?
5. What measures, if any, has Council's management introduced to at least achieve cost neutrality at the Creative Space?

RESPONSE:

Council's creative spaces are not staffed facilities. Community hire of these spaces is managed centrally through Council's Community Arts and Culture service.

Mona Vale Creative Space - opened May 2021

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income	8	10	15	18
Expenses*	(7)	(7)	(8)	(8)
Net surplus / (cost)	1	3	7	10

* Expenses exclude depreciation and overheads.

Council has not resolved to alter the existing service level since Mona Vale Creative Space opened in 2021.

Mona Vale Creative Space offers affordable exhibition and artist studio space for the community. Fees and charges are reviewed annually and set in accordance with Council's adopted pricing methodology for this service. Spaces are allocated through an expression of interest process, supported by targeted promotional activities to maximise income generation and community use. Council has increased the number and capacity of programs delivered through the facility.

TRIM file ref	2026/253310
Attachments	Nil

**ITEM 17.7 RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITH NOTICE NO 12/2026 -
EXPENDITURE ON ALCOHOL FOR COUNCILLORS**

COUNCILLOR DE LUCA OAM SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

In this financial year:

1. What was the total expenditure on alcohol for Councillors after Council meetings, public forums and briefings?
2. Noting that Council staff have been used to put out such alcohol and glasses during each Council meeting, is this compliant with relevant Council and Office of Local Government policies?

RESPONSE:

\$137 has been spent this financial year. Staff act in accordance with relevant policies.

TRIM file ref 2026/253369

Attachments Nil

**ITEM 17.8 RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITH NOTICE NO 13/2026 -
EXPENDITURE ON VEHICLES FOR PERSONAL USE**

COUNCILLOR DE LUCA OAM SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

In the last financial year:

1. How many vehicles, whereby staff can use such vehicles for personal use were purchased?
2. What was the total amount of funds expended to purchase vehicles in 1 above?
3. How many vehicles has Council paid for in total which allow personal use?
4. What is the gross expenditure by Council on vehicles that allowed personal use?

RESPONSE:

58 vehicles were acquired during the 2024/25 financial year at a cost of \$1.2 million (comprising \$2.4 million in purchase costs offset by \$1.2 million in proceeds from the disposal of replaced vehicles).

216 vehicles are used for operational purposes at a cost of \$2.5 million. Access to a personal use arrangement is subject to a fee.

TRIM file ref	2026/253403
Attachments	Nil

ITEM 17.9 RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITH NOTICE NO 14/2026 - SALARIES AND ONCOSTS OF THE GENERAL MANAGER AND DIRECTORS

COUNCILLOR DE LUCA OAM SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

In the last financial year:

1. What was the salary and oncosts for the general manager (as titled in the *Local Government Act 1993*)?
2. How many directors were employed and what was the total salaries and oncosts for these positions?
3. Are the positions of Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and in house Counsel deemed the same level as directors?
4. What were the total salaries and oncosts for the Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and in house Counsel?
5. Of all the above positions how many had executive assistants and what is the total of salaries and oncosts for executive assistants?
6. Of all the above positions, how many had Council vehicles and what was Council’s gross expenditure on such vehicles?

RESPONSE:

The remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Senior Officers (the 4 directors and the Chief Operating Officer role) is reported in the Annual Report each year. The remuneration packages (which include salary, superannuation, access to a vehicle for a fee and fringe benefits tax) were \$577,199 for the CEO and \$2,182,286 in total for the 5 senior officers in the 2024/25 year.

All other staff were employed under the Local Government (State) Award in the 2024/25 financial year, including the Chief Financial Officer and General Counsel positions, which are level 3 management positions, and the Executive Assistants supporting the CEO and the 5 Senior Officers. The salaries of individual staff under the Local Government Award are personal information under the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*.

In the 2024/25 year the CEO, 5 Senior Officers, Chief Financial Officer and General Counsel each had access to a Council vehicle for a fee, at a total cost of \$176,256 for the 2024/25 year.

TRIM file ref	2026/253451
Attachments	Nil

ITEM 17.10 RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITH NOTICE NO 15/2026 - MANAGERIAL POSITIONS AND COSTS

COUNCILLOR DE LUCA OAM SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

In the last financial year:

1. What new Executive Manager positions, if any, were created and what are the respective salaries and oncosts for each or total salaries?
2. How many Executive Managers are currently employed at Council and what is the total for salaries and oncosts?
3. What new Manager positions, if any, were created and what are the respective salaries and oncosts for each or total salaries?
4. How many Managers are currently employed at Council and what is the total for salaries and oncosts?
5. What new Team Leader positions, if any, were created and what are the respective salaries and oncosts for each or total salaries?
6. How many Team Leaders are currently employed at Council and what is the total for salaries and oncosts?
7. What new Coordinator positions, if any, were created and what are the respective salaries and oncosts for each or total salaries?
8. How many Coordinators are currently employed at Council and what is the total for salaries and oncosts?
- a. Of all the above positions how many have Council vehicles and what was the gross total cost to Council of those vehicles?
9. Of all the above positions, how many have executive assistants and what was the total salaries and oncosts for these executive assistants?

RESPONSE:

No new Executive Manager roles were created in the 2024/25 financial year. There are 22 Level 3 management positions at a cost of \$6.4m, compared with 23 positions in the 2023/24 financial year. The following table illustrates the changes in recent years.

Management level	2026/27		2025/26		2024/25		2023/24	
	Salary and Super \$'000	FTE #	Salary and Super \$'000	FTE #	Salary and Super \$'000	FTE #	Salary and Super \$'000	FTE #
Executive Managers	\$6,839	22.0	\$6,355	21.9	\$6,607	22.9	\$6,379	23.0
Managers	\$16,517	77.8	\$16,785	82.8	\$15,970	81.7	\$16,399	88.7
Coordinators and Team Leaders	\$21,191	147.2	Not readily available					

Executive assistant support is provided to 11 of these positions, along with access to 111 vehicles (for a fee) which are used for operational purposes at a cost of \$1.36 million.

Outside of vacation care, meals on wheels, counselling, events and Hop, Skip and Jump services, Council has not resolved to reduce service levels across business areas.

Workforce adjustments, including targeted redundancies alongside responding to natural attrition and process improvements, demonstrate Council's approach to continuously reviewing and refining its organisational design. This ensures an optimal structure to deliver efficient community services and infrastructure.

The Delivery Program outlines initiatives undertaken towards the Improvement Plan, including workforce management initiatives that will deliver \$112k in savings in 2025/26 and a further \$316k in 2026/27. Please refer to Item 9.1 'Outcome of Public Exhibition – Draft Delivery Program 2026-2030, Operational Plan 2026/27 and Long-Term Financial Plan 2023-2036' within this agenda for further information.

TRIM file ref	2026/253516
Attachments	Nil

ITEM 17.11 RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITH NOTICE NO 16/2026 - EXPENDITURE PER BUSINESS UNIT

COUNCILLOR DE LUCA OAM SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

For the last financial year

1. Can each business unit please be listed with details of how many staff (full time/part time) are in each unit, the total salaries and oncosts for each unit and how many redundancies there were in each respective business unit?
2. How many consultants have been used by each respective business unit and respective costs for each?
3. How many workers compensation claims were made by Council staff? And from each respective unit?

RESPONSE:

2024/25 financial year	Employee costs	FTE* positions in structure	Consultant costs	Number of consultants
	\$'000	#	\$'000	#
Children's services	15,750	123.2	-	-
Community, arts and culture	8,016	58.2	-	-
Corporate support services	28,785	209.1	-	-
Customer service	4,471	40.0	-	-
Development assessment	5,896	47.6	303	36
Economic development, events and engagement	7,167	52.3	-	-
Environment and sustainability	9,771	84.4	-	-
Environmental compliance	11,679	99.6	-	-
Governance and assurance services	3,757	23.3	-	-
Kimbriki Resource Recovery Centre	5,170	n/a	-	-
Library services	7,727	79.7	-	-
Parks, sports and recreation	22,797	184.9	1	1
Property and commercial businesses	6,094	55.9	2	1
Strategic land use planning	5,277	34.4	-	-
Transport, traffic and active travel	13,930	126.7	-	-
Waste and cleansing	10,618	82.2	-	-
TOTAL	166,906	1,301.6	305	38

*FTE – represents full-time equivalent positions (includes full-time and part-time positions and excludes casual positions)

Information on workers compensation claims and the number of redundancies and total payout is provided below at an aggregated level, as disclosing more granular detail could enable inferences about individual circumstances and the identification of personal information under the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*.

In the 2024/25 financial year, 81 workers compensation cases were received. The nature of injuries remains consistent with the outdoor and community service work performed by Council. 20% of the cases required only initial medical treatment with no lost time, and approximately half of the injured workers returned to their pre-injury role within one week. As a self-insured employer,

Council has greater control over early intervention and return-to-work programs, and is able to directly support claims duration and experience outcomes.

In the 2024/25 financial year 6 redundancy payments were made. Three related to executive managers and manager positions (\$505k) and others related to a people leadership role and non-supervisory roles (\$132k).

Workforce adjustments, including targeted redundancies alongside natural attrition and ongoing process improvements, reflect Council's commitment to continually reviewing and refining its organisational design. This approach supports an optimal structure for the efficient delivery of community services and infrastructure.

TRIM file ref	2026/253607
Attachments	Nil

ITEM 17.12 RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITH NOTICE NO 17/2026 - GLEN STREET THEATRE

COUNCILLOR DE LUCA OAM SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

In the last financial year:

1. How many staff were employed at the Glen Street Theatre and what was the total expenditure for salaries and oncosts?
2. What was the total expenditure on the Glen Street Theatre?
3. Was there a profit or loss at the Glen Street Theatre and what was it?
4. What have been the total expenditure losses at the Glen Street Theatre over the last 5 financial years?
5. What measures, if any, has Council's management introduced to at least achieve cost neutrality at the Glen Street Theatre?
6. Apart from Councillors, what was the total amount of free tickets given and who received these free tickets and why?

RESPONSE:

In the 2024/25 financial year 11.8 full-time equivalent positions and a casual pool manage Glen Street Theatre. Employee costs totalled \$1.6 million (incl around \$0.4m for casuals).

Glen Street Theatre

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income	908	1,377	2,093	2,461	2,847
Expenses*	(1,854)	(1,853)	(2,245)	(2,796)	(3,326)
Net surplus / (cost)	(946)	(476)	(152)	(335)	(479)

* Expenses exclude depreciation and overheads.

Benchmarking data from PAC Australia, the national peak body for performing arts centres, indicates the industry average funding subsidy from local government for performing arts venues is 39.84%. The operational subsidy (funding) provided by Northern Beaches Council for the 2024/25 represents local government funding of 14.4%, which is significantly below the national benchmark.

Council has not resolved to alter the existing service level over the last 5 years. Glen Street Theatre's fees and charges are reviewed annually against industry benchmarks to ensure cost minimisation and commercial competitiveness.

A total of 559 complimentary tickets were issued in the 2024/25 year for events where Council has a financial interest, in line with the Glen Street Theatre Complimentary Ticket Policy and artist agreements which include a requirement for a specified number of tickets per event to be allocated to the touring company for their use.

TRIM file ref	2026/253667
Attachments	Nil

18.0 REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN CLOSED SESSION

In accordance with Part 15 of the Code of Meeting Practice, resolutions passed during a meeting, or a part of a meeting, that is closed to the public must be made public by the chairperson as soon as practicable. The resolution must be recorded in the publicly available minutes of the meeting.
